

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Chapel Approved for Building Financing

Special Parish Meeting
Called for Sunday, May 18



CRANBERRY TWP. — At its spring 2014 meeting here at the Chancery, the Diocesan Council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing a loan for the construction of a church building in Beavertown. According to the financing plan terms, the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh will offer the Chapel of the Holy Spirit \$160,000 amortized over a 20-year term.

If approved by the May 18 special parish assembly called by the Parish Council, the financing agreement calls for a zero or negligible annual percentage rate during the first five years, calculated such that the Archdiocese breaks even on the loan servicing (but not to exceed 3%), making the Chapel's monthly payments in the \$600-800 range. After that time, a 2% and 4% surcharge will be added to the APR for years 5-10 and 10-20, respectively. The diocese can require full repayment only after the tenth or fifteenth year, provided the council and diocesan bishop

(continued, see SPECIAL ASSEMBLY, page 3)

Was Lent Worth It?

by Dn. Mark Oleynik

NOW WHAT? It's the week after Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, and after working all day I find myself sitting at my desk and day-dreaming. Although full of joy I find myself thinking about the "good old days" of Lent. Yes, back in those days there was so much to do and so much to prepare. There was focus and intensity. The schedule was liturgically full. Certainly, the days and evenings in the coming weeks will be filled with things to do (no problem with that in my family) but it just won't be the same "good" busy that became so familiar and comforting in the past seven weeks. And then I wonder, was the struggle and sacrifice really worth it?

There are two ways in which the question may be

(continued, see WAS IT WORTH IT?, last page)

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Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Tellers	Servers**
May 4	J. Cadman and M. Leathers	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	H. Torbic and S. Stevens	Team A
May 11	L. Rush and D. Van Duin	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and R. Patel	Team B
May 18	Russian Ladies	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team A
May 25	K. Oleynik and D. Patel	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	S. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team B
June 1	E. George and M. Stevens	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	M. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team A
June 8	B. & N. Troyan and B. Roberts	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	All Servers

* Denotes Fast

**Team A: M. Doty, A. Miranda, N. Peltkan, S. Oleynik, D. Stickers, Jo. Stickers, J. Torbic, and J. Swisher
Team B: J. Cadman, P. Doty, N. McFarland, B. Oleynik, S. Patel, L. Torbic, and Je. Stickers.

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK A Best-Ever Pascha!

We had simply a joyous Pascha, with attendance records being set more than once: Palm Sunday (181), Holy Friday Vespers (148), and Pascha (226, a high for a coinciding Western Easter)—it was truly the Feast of Feasts. Significant as well was the Lenten offering for Syrian refugee relief, which totaled nearly \$2,400. IOCC was able to match every dollar given for the massive humanitarian effort there with nine more, effectively making our donations worth \$24,000! ■



Also From Father's Desk...

- **Special Parish Assembly.** Do take the time to read the Chapel building financing proposal (see the lead article in this issue) and plan to attend this important voter's meeting on May 18. It is one special way for each and every member to help build up the Church.

And remember, we'll need a quorum of two-thirds parish membership in order to conduct business. Balloting will begin immediately at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy at both locations.

- **By the way, 62 folks** attended Mission Vespers, hosted by the Chapel in the Beaver Springs Fire Hall on March 30. Hats off to the Chapel for the fine job they did in preparation.

- **Green Vestments.** For years we've "struggled" through our temple feast of Pentecost with mismatched vestments: old gold on the altar boys and a varied array of colors for the clergy, but few in the traditional green.

However, this Pentecost will be different. We eagerly anticipate the arrival of a new set of green vestments for clergy and altar servers, just in time for Archbishop Melchisedek's official visit. (See the next page.)

The total price is about \$2,000 for 12 altar boy stichars, two deacon sets, and a priest set. This is a great deal! Special offering envelopes are available in the narthex for you to contribute to offset the cost, if you wish.

- **Choir Internship.** We've really enjoyed Zach Mandell's choir internship this fall and spring. The choir sang beautifully throughout Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, including the children on Palm Sunday. Many favorable comments have been received about the choir's progress under his energetic hand.

Zach (pictured with the Choir below, second from left) has been accepted to graduate school at the University of New York-Buffalo, in Classics, no less. But he will be able to remain with us through the summer, so we won't have to say "goodbye" to him just yet.



- **The new icon** of St. Thomas and St. Constantine is donated in memory of **Thomas Spanos** (+2012). Memory Eternal! Αιώνια ἡ μνήμη!

The framing around each of the wall icons should be completed in the next week or so, adding a finished look to them all.

Sometimes our hearts grow sad at the condition of affairs in the world. Sometimes we grow heavy-hearted thinking we have made only a little impression in the world. All our efforts seem like bailing the ocean with a cup, and we come to believe that evil might indeed triumph over good, or that there will forever be a perpetual recurrence of what we now see—a ceaseless conflict between right and wrong. This casts a serious doubt on the meaning of life for us, for the heart of man longs for the victory of truth, the complete conquest of evil.

What, then, is it that saves us from doubt and pessimism and despair? What is the ground for our faith and our courage? This is the same thing that Paul gave to the Corinthians, who feared that their best labors in the Lord might prove in vain. Paul did not speak about the evolution of human society or the disappearance of old systems of evil and iniquities in the past. No, he told them to look through the struggles and behold Christ their King, victorious, reigning until every enemy is put under His feet, when He shall deliver the kingdom over to God. Then the sun will rise but never set. Then none shall say, "I am sick." Then no aggressor shall oppress and persecute the weak. Then there shall be no more night, and no more curses, and no more separating death, and no more tears and justice and peace and mercy shall flow down like a river, and God shall be all and in all.

No one ever spoke, or lived, or fought, or died for truth in vain. Not the labor of a single hour, not a single blow struck for the right, not a single choice of good as against evil, not one deed of mercy, not one sigh of anguish or pity shall be in vain if done in the Name of Christ.

Is it worth it? The answer is easy: Yes! Be of good courage and lift up your hearts. Be faithful in the work and place appointed to you. Be steadfast, unmovable, against all the tides and storms of evil. Your life counts forever because you labor in the Lord. ■

On Pascha from Alaska

To better help our younger generation keep the spirit of the Resurrection alive in them, convey to them not only knowledge but also the spirit which is behind this knowledge. When we become adults we can become so serious, so sad, so solemn, that we are virtually emptied of that joy. Yet Christ has said, "whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it" In other words, be capable of that joy of which an "adult" is no longer capable, and enter into communion with nature and with other people.

*Let us keep in mind that Pascha is the real beginning of our spiritual foundation, because Pascha truly opens our understanding of time. The world was dark, and Someone brought in light and warmth. The world was sad because it had become a cemetery, and the special Someone's death destroyed death so that death is no more and life prevails: We call Him **Christ**. Rejoice! This is the way He addressed His disciples, "Rejoice! Peace be with you!"*

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

— Fr. Michael Nikolai,
ST. SERAPHIM OF SAROV CHURCH (DILLINGHAM, AK)



First Resurrection Service

Holy Saturday, called the day of "First Resurrection" because Christ raises Adam from a despoiled Hades, marked Fr. Jason Isaac's first Paschal service in his new white vestments. Fr. Jason was ordained on March 30 in Marshall, site of the 2012 HTOC Men's Mission Trip.

Was It Worth It? *(cont. from page 1)*

addressed. It can be asked from the standpoint of pleasure. The one who asks it in this manner has seen the summer of pleasure suddenly turn to winter. Disappointed and amazed, he feels that life has deceived him. In this way, the question is hardly worth asking because the answer is easy: No.

“Was Lent worth it?,” also can be asked from the standpoint of duty. In this sense, it is asked from a perspective of living and working for the highest things in life, from resisting evil, embracing the good, worshipping God and trying to do good for others. Asked in this manner, the question is very important and well worth asking.

To this question, St. Paul has a great answer. The answer comes at the end of one of the most beautiful passages of the Bible, where Paul climbs to the stars of inspiration, unfolding the glorious destiny of redeemed mankind. We are familiar with St. John Chrysostom quoting Paul in his Paschal sermon, “O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory?” But just two verses later, Paul has a far greater conclusion than that: “Because of what I have told you about life to come and the triumph of good over evil, therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Cor. 15)

With that statement Paul provides two reasons of great assurance for the purpose of our struggle—our personal immortality in Christ, and the ultimate victory of the Kingdom of Christ.

First, because Christ is risen, and because we rise with Him, and live forever, life is not a vain or an empty thing. Death was the final and most dangerous enemy, but since death is conquered and we now live forever, life is baptized with sacred and glorious meaning and value.

Sunday School Scoops

School's Out

Our Sunday School instructional year ends on May 18. Many thanks to the parents and students for the faithfulness throughout the year. Most especially, the deepest appreciation to each of our teachers for their dedication to our children each week in sharing their love for our Lord and His Church.

Love that Chocolate!

Everyone who supported our Sunday School by purchasing Gertrude Hawk candies delights twice: Once, in knowing our children will benefit from the funds, and then, by partaking of the goodies themselves. (We raised almost \$700! Thank you.)

Vacation Bible School

Don't forget our annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) is June 16-20 in the evening (5:30-8 p.m.).

You can feel the power of Paul's argument if you try to imagine him giving the troubled Corinthians *worldly* advice. Suppose he had said this: “My friends, you will die and disappear forever, all of you; but remember the human race goes on, the generations of men come and go like the leaves on the tree every season; the tree remains, and so the human race remains: The stream of humanity flows forever on.”

Imagine the troubled and grieving Christians of that day in Corinth, or anyone today, getting strength or satisfaction or hope out of such assertions. St. Paul challenges this notion, arguing that if death is the end of all, then we might as well forget all about virtue, truth and honor (for these virtues have meaning only in the light of immortality) and take for ourselves the motto, “Eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” Instead of that, Paul says Christ is risen and has become the first fruits of them that slept: We shall live as He lives, with the glorious body of the resurrection, assured of the final triumph of right and truth, and the ultimate victory of good over evil.

Many Celebrations in the Works

The multiday celebration of Pentecost, patronal feast of both the Chapel and Holy Trinity, will be observed through several services and events next month. His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek will join us the weekend of June 7-9 for a cross planting and reception at the Chapel's future location in Beavertown on that Saturday; and then for a hierarchical liturgy, vespers, and the annual parish picnic in State College the next day. More information and a complete schedule will be featured in the June issue of *The Trisagion*.

Summer Playgroup Returns

Moms, dads, caregivers and kids: Beginning May 15, join us weekly for *Thursdays in the Park*, an outreach of Holy Trinity's Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (ROCK) ministry. The playgroup runs from 10 a.m. to noon; locations vary. For information or directions, contact Dee Patel at rock@holytrinity-oca.org.

Annual Altar Server Retreat

All boys eight years of age and up are invited to attend Holy Trinity's annual altar servers' retreat on Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will learn about the importance of their ministry, rehearse entrances, be trained in fire safety, and enjoy lunch together. RSVP to Deacons Alex or Mark by May 18.

Readers to Receive Vocal Training

Fr. John and Zach Mandell will lead a vocal training session for all current and prospective liturgical cantors, male and female, on Saturday, May 17 at 4 p.m. If you have been, or are interested in, reading at any of the divine services, please see a member of the clergy or email choir@holytrinity-oca.org.

Congratulations, Graduates

Please join us in celebrating the accomplishments and praying for the success of our graduating college seniors this month: John Carpenter, Zach Mandell, Rachael Krizmanich, and Natalie Roberts.



Building a “Bridge of Hope”

Last month, students presented their “Soup-er Sunday” proceeds (a check in the amount of \$802) to Regina Diller, Executive Director at Bridge of Hope. That sum represents one month's worth support for a struggling single mom in the program. In addition to this monetary assistance, volunteers from Holy Trinity also provide mentorship. Thank you! ■

Special Assembly *(cont. from page 1)*

concur. The Archdiocese will have a lien on the already-purchased lot and any structure built upon it. The Chapel will make a down payment of \$40,000 from reserves and fundraising to be determined, to meet the estimated project cost of \$200,000.

The sole item on the assembly's agenda will be to authorize this loan to the parish corporation. A supermajority of two-thirds of the parish's members is required for quorum. Should the quorum not be met, the meeting will be postponed until the following Sunday, at which the members that attend shall constitute a quorum. Parishioners in good standing that were registered with the parish as members last year and who have fulfilled their Lenten 2014 obligations of Confession and Communion may attend and vote. Balloting will occur at both Holy Trinity and the Chapel immediately following Liturgy.

Should you have any questions, please contact Frs. John or Basil, or Council President Chuck Beechan. Or, attend the next regular meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. ■

Holy Trinity Calendar

All events take place at 119 South Sparks Street in State College unless where noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Thomas Sunday Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Church School Egg Hunt, 12:30pm @ <i>Holmes-Foster Park</i> CHS Family Fun Night, 5-7pm @ <i>MACC, Beaver Springs</i>	28	29 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am	30 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	May 1 Penn State OCF: End-of-Semester Game Night, 7pm @ <i>122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</i>	2	3 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
4 Holy Myrrhbearing Women Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	5	6	7 St. Alexis Toth Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	8 St. John the Theologian	9	10 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
11 Sunday of the Paralytic Ss. Cyril and Methodius Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Bridge of Hope Mother's Day Walk/ 5K Fun Run, 2pm @ <i>Pennsylvania Military Museum, Boalsburg</i>	12	13 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am Homeless Shelter Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave., State College</i> Great Vespers, 7pm	14 Midfeast of Pentecost Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	15 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (ROCK): "Thursdays in the Park," 10am @ <i>Bernel Road/ Airport Park, Patton Twp.</i>	16	17 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Reader Workshop— Vocal Training, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm
18 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parish Special Assembly, 12pm Orthodox Youth Association Lunch/ Summer Trip Planning, 12:30pm Jr. Orthodox Youth Association, 6pm	19	20 <i>Primary Election Day (Parish Offices Closed)</i>	21 Ss. Constantine and Helen Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	22 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (ROCK): "Thursdays in the Park," 10am @ <i>Circleville Park, State College</i>	23	24 Baptism of Solomiya Golovko, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
25 Sunday of the Blind Man Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	26 <i>Memorial Day (Parish Offices Closed)</i>	27	28 Leavetaking of Pascha Great Vespers/Litya for Ascension, 7pm	29 THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) ROCK "Thursdays in the Park" 10am @ <i>Tudek Park, State College</i>	30	31 Annual Altar Server Retreat and Lunch, 10am-1pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
June 1 Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	2	3 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am	4 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	5 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (ROCK): "Thursdays in the Park," 10am @ <i>Orchard Park, State College</i>	6 Vespers, 7pm	7 Memorial Saturday (Holy Forefathers) Divine Liturgy, Cross Planting, and Reception 9am-2pm @ <i>CHS</i> Great Vespers/Outdoor

Chapel Calendar

All events take place at 350 Old Orchard Drive in Beavertown unless where noted.

Saturday 3 Reader Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)	Tuesday 20 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ <i>845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)</i>
Sunday 4 Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am	Sunday 25 Sunday of the Blind Man Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
Tuesday 6 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ <i>845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)</i>	Tuesday 27 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ <i>845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)</i>
Sunday 11 Sunday of the Paralytic Ss. Cyril and Methodius Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am	Saturday 31 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
Tuesday 13 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ <i>845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)</i>	Sunday June 1 Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
Saturday 17 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions)	Tuesday June 3 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ <i>845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)</i>
Sunday 18 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Special Assembly, 11:45am	Saturday June 7 Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy, 9am Cross Planting @ <i>Building Site (N. Kern St. & W. Mulberry Aly.)</i> , following Reception, following

May 2014