

# THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Parish to Vote on the Purchase of the American Cancer Society Building



### Special Parish Meeting Called for this Sunday

THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS CALLED a special meeting to be held this Sunday, August 31. The meeting's sole agenda item will be to vote to approve or reject a fully-executed \$340,000 offer to purchase the building immediately adjacent to Holy Trinity (123 S. Sparks St.), which the American Cancer Society has owned for the past twenty years. It was listed for sale in early August.

This property has considerable strategic significance to the parish not only because its new owner can greatly affect the amount of parking available to us (up to eight more spaces if bought by the parish; as many as eight fewer if bought by someone else), but also because of the substantial value that would be added,

*(continued, see SPECIAL ASSEMBLY, page 2)*

### The Orthodox New Year

by Fr. Michael Harper

IT CAN BE FRUSTRATING to move suddenly from the end, back to the beginning of something. But this is what Orthodox believers do as we move from August 31—the last day of the old year, to September 1, the first day of the new year.

It is part of the goodness of God that He, who has no beginning and no ending, the Eternal Trinity, should take such care to give us a year that begins and ends, and then begins all over again. In our human and finite state we need fresh starts, and this is one of them. From the peaks of Pascha, Ascension, Pentecost, and Transfiguration, we move back to beginnings, the Nativity of the Mother of God, and

*(continued, see THE NEW YEAR, page 4)*

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## Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
September 7	POTLUCK— <i>Main: A-M, Sides: N-Z</i>	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	M. Fedkin and G. Cattell	Team B
September 14	D. Patel and B. Roberts*	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team A
September 21	L. Rush and J. Miranda	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	S. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team B
September 28	A. Cramer and B. & N. Troyan	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team A
October 5	POTLUCK— <i>Main: N-Z, Sides: A-M</i>	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	Team B
October 12	E. George and M. Stevens	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	G. Cattell and R. Patel	Team A

\* Denotes Fast\*

Team A: A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, S. Olynyk, D. Stickle, J. Torbic, and J. Swisher.  
Team B: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, B. Olynyk, S. Patel, and L. Torbic.

Captains: D. Torbic, Ja. Stickle, and K. Kucheyaryy

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK  
**Gearing Up for Fall**

August, too, has flown by just like the rest of the summer. Clergy guests this month have been Deacon Theophan Warren and wife Miriam from St. Tikhon's here for the latest Swisher baptism on August 15 and Fr. John Steffaro who supplied for me on August 24 while I served at the Chapel.

On August 24, our clergy held a dessert party for parish newcomers. A total of 29 individuals enjoyed a good time with one another at the Oleynik's. Those desserts were tasty and the fellowship was great. Many thanks to Deacon Mark and Mka. Kelly for their gracious hospitality as our hosts that evening.

This month, I'm looking forward to teaching a new biweekly adult book study on alternating Thursdays beginning September 18 at 7 p.m. We will be examining Fr. Lawrence Farley's *The Epistle to the Hebrews, High Priest in Heaven*. Copies are available in the church Bookstore. I will also be working on a new four-part weekly catechetical series that will launch on Wednesday, October 15. Spread the word!



On a personal note: Mka. Linda and I went to DC to see my Aunt Alta, aged 92, and her son Ron. The Lifetime Wish Foundation provided her an all-expense-paid trip from Texas to visit the Pentagon where she was posted to the cryptography section during WWII ('43-'45). She was quite an eyewitness to history but could never speak about much of it. On her personal tour of the building, she posed at the podium in the Pentagon Briefing Room. We were so happy for her and the short family reunion it afforded us.

— Fr. John ■

■ NEWS AND NOTES

**FOCUS N.A. helps bring calm, understanding to Ferguson, Missouri**

FERGUSON, MO. [via [focusnorthamerica.org](http://focusnorthamerica.org)] — The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve (FOCUS) has been featured on multiple TV stations in Ferguson, MO, where its St. Louis Center and Director, Eric Shanburn, have been working. Video of the coverage is available at [focusnorthamerica.org](http://focusnorthamerica.org).



“Eric and his team of Orthodox volunteers have spent time in Ferguson promoting discussion and understanding between the police and protesters,” said Larissa Hatch of FOCUS. “On August 23, FOCUS hosted a community cookout that brought local shop owners—many of whom were victims of looting—protesters and authorities together. In the past few nights, protests have been peaceful and there have been no arrests. Police and protestors alike have expressed their gratitude to FOCUS and Orthodox Christians for their role in reducing tensions.” FOCUS hosted the meal to act as a turning point, sending a message of peace at a time of unrest.

“An important part of our work at FOCUS is promoting understanding. FOCUS in St. Louis has always been deeply active in building community and relationships through our many programs that create jobs, provide housing and help homeless and disadvantaged children stay in school,” Larissa said.

FOCUS North America is a national movement of Orthodox Christians, united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions to poverty in communities across America. FOCUS has operations and youth volunteer experiences in more than 20 cities in the U.S., including Pittsburgh. ■

**For the Record**

**BAPTISM**

➤ **Jeremiah Thomas Swisher**, son of Corene and Brandon Swisher, baptized August 15, sponsored by Dn. Theophan and Mka. Miriam Warren.

**FAREWELLS**

➤ **Zachariah Mandell**, 2014 Choir Intern and OCF President Emeritus, left August 3 for Buffalo, NY.  
 ➤ **Oleg and Olga Shklyae**v, with children Savva and Mikhail, left August 13 for Athens, OH.

**CORRECTION**

➤ The print version of the August 2014 Trisagion incorrectly identified the newly illumined child of Brian and Nina Troyan. His first name is **Michael**.

**Special Assembly** (from page 1)

or unrealized (if the parish chooses to pass on the building), through plottage. Plottage especially comes into play should the parish wish to sell the property it owns in order to relocate sometime in the future.

A quorum of 50 percent plus one is needed to undertake business; a two-thirds majority of those attending is required to make a purchase. Should quorum not be met, the meeting will be adjourned to reconvene on September 7, with the number present and voting sufficient for quorum. Parishioners in good standing that were registered with the parish as members in the 2014 Archdiocesan census may and should attend and vote. Balloting will occur at both Holy Trinity and the Chapel immediately following Liturgy. ■

**Orthodox Christian Mission Center Marks 25 Years in Ghana**

ACCRA, GHANA [via [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org)] — Last month marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Cathedral here, which also coincides with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first OCMC mission team to serve here. (The 1989 team helped with the construction of the cathedral.) The Archdiocese of Ghana was established eight years later in 1997. Its jurisdiction includes the countries of Ghana, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, and Mali.

The Church in Ghana continues to grow, but also faces challenges, with 28 communities and only 18 clergy. To learn how you can help the ongoing mission in Ghana, contact [ajlekos@ocmc.org](mailto:ajlekos@ocmc.org).

**Archdiocesan Catechetical Program to Begin this Month**

The Archdiocese will hold an 11-week unit entitled “Patristics: Study of the Church Fathers,” which is open to all who are interested. Under the direction of Fr. Paul Ziatyk, classes will meet Tuesdays beginning September 16 at the Archdiocesan Center. The cost is \$125 per person. Call (724) 776-5555 for details.

**HTOC's Website Recognized**

[Holytrinity-oca.org](http://Holytrinity-oca.org) was recently recognized in the *Parish Pulse*, an e-Newsletter dedicated to church growth and vitality, for its use of white space, easy access to directions and service times, and clear paths for new users. What do you think? Help us improve it by sending your feedback to [info@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:info@holytrinity-oca.org).



## ■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

# On the Offenders and the Offended

Sometimes those that live in society offend each other. This happens either from the craftiness of the ensnarer, the devil, who hates love among us and incites us to offend our neighbor, or from the weakness of our nature, or from inattention, or often from habit. In that case, reconciliation is absolutely necessary, and so will brotherly love be preserved.

Many who have offended their neighbor are careless about it and so go to church and pray. But from this it is evident how dangerous a condition they are in: that whoever sins against man also sins against God, and whoever offends a man also offends God Himself because God forbade us to sin against a man and offend him. And so a man, in sinning against his neighbor and offending him, sins and offends God Who commanded him not to do that.

Love toward neighbor is bound up with love of God. When love toward neighbor is destroyed, then, so, too, is love toward God. Whoever does not love his

neighbor does not even love God Himself. Hence it follows that he who would be reconciled to God and have peace with God must first be reconciled with his neighbor and so approach God and pray and ask mercy of Him. Therefore, it is evident that the prayer of those that have offended their neighbor, and yet approach God in prayer without reconciliation, is vain and empty.

And this is what the Lord says, *“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.”* (Matt. 5:23-26). ■

SOURCE: *“Journey to Heaven: Counsels on the Particular Duties of Every Christian”* by St. Tikhon of Zidonsk.

recall every year the glorious deaths of the saints. But the whole of this is held in a solid framework—the Orthodox Calendar. Through the God-inspired wisdom of our fathers and mothers, we have a beautifully constructed lectionary, which flows through the year, like the streams of an effortless river...

It is significant that the last great feast of the old year is that of the Dormition of Mary, the Mother of God. Her human passing was to heaven's glory. And the first great feast of the new year is her Nativity. It is not that Mary is more important than Christ, around which most of the Calendar revolves... But she is honored in this way because she is our supreme example [living] a life of complete obedience to God. ■

SOURCE: *Orthodox Research Institute. Fr. Michael Harper (+2010) was a prominent convert to Orthodoxy from the Church of England.*

## The Orthodox New Year

(from page 1)

then in December of the Son of God Himself. We start this wonderful cycle all over again. But the Holy Spirit, as we trust Him, will renew this New Year to us, and give us a whole new understanding of it. “Behold I will do a new thing”, God says through the prophet Isaiah (43:19). The new wine will come to us in new wineskins.

The God who has put eternity in our hearts, knows our human frailty. He knows that marriages need their anniversaries, and all of us, especially children, need their birthdays from year to year. We in the Orthodox Church also hold a special place for the anniversaries of those who have died in Christ. We

## Family Picnic to be Held Sept. 21

On Sunday, September 21 at 5 p.m. in Circleville Park there will be an “All Parents” picnic potluck for fellowship and discussion about the upcoming Church School year. The whole family is invited!

## Women’s Book Study Set to Start

Matushka Linda will lead a book study on the Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 9 and continuing bi-weekly through Nov. 18. The study will be held at the Rectory from 10-11:30 a.m. The book, *Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia New Martyr of the Communist Yoke*, can be purchased through the Bookstore. Call 861-8020 or email [women@holyltrinity-oca.org](mailto:women@holyltrinity-oca.org) for information.

## September Bookstore Feature

The latest recording released by St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, *Full of Grace: Great Vespers for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos*, features 12 arrangements by our very own Dr. Nick Reeves. *Full of Grace* presents the complete vespertine texts about the “Falling Asleep” of the Mother of God (August 15). Many of the stichera have been re-set for this project using traditional chant melodies, which allows for a more organic blending of English text with music. The CD is available for purchase at the Bookstore.

## Young Adults to Kick Off Fall

The Young Adult group will meet at the Leathers’ residence (4817 W. Whitehall Rd.) for cider and desserts around an open fire beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 25. Come one, come all!

## Monthly Potlucks Begin Sept. 7

The Coffee Hour ministry is trying out monthly “First Sunday” potlucks beginning this month. To participate, those with last names beginning in A-M should provide a main course; last names starting with N-Z should bring a side or dessert (drinks will be provided by the parish). In October, the groups will switch. See Jean Miranda with questions.

## ■ CHAPEL HEADLINES

### Building Now On Pace for Late Fall Groundbreaking

*Fine Touch Builders, the family owned and operated business that won the contract for the Chapel’s new church, has applied for all the necessary permits and will provide the begin date of construction once they are all approved. The goal is for ground to be broken this fall with enough time to get the site under roof before snowfall.*



### Youth Spend a Beautiful Summer Day on the Putting Green

*Twenty-three kids and adults had a great time playing miniature golf and enjoying Italian Ices last month. This was the first event of the Chapel’s new ministry for youth.*

### Dn. David Spends a Week in Residence at Antiochian Village

*During the last week of August, Dn. David Smith attended a week in residence at the House of Studies at Antiochian Village, part of his ongoing preparation for possible future ordination to the priesthood. Mka. Brenda accompanied him for a week of rest and reflection.*

### Join the Chapel at the Selinsgrove Market Street Festival this Month

*Chapel faithful are getting ready for another Street Festival in Selinsgrove this Saturday, September 27. You are invited to join them in setting up or tearing down, or simply drop by their hospitality booth and spend a little time with them in their missionary outreach. See you there.*

# 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
August 31 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Sunday School Student Registration, 11:45am-1pm @ Parish Hall Special Parish Meeting, 12pm	September 1 Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) Labor Day BBQ and Molieben, 5pm @ Spring Creek Park, Houseville (Rides depart Pasquerilla at 4:30pm.)	2 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am	3 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	4 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	5	6 Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 5:15pm Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
7 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Molieben for the Beginning of Church School, 11:45am Parish Potluck, 12pm (surnames A-M, bring entrees; N-Z, sides/dessert) Great Vespers/Litiya, 7pm	8 <b>NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am)	9 Women's Book Study on Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia, 10am @ 562 Lancashire Ln. (Rectory) Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.	10 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	11 Penn State OCF: "Stump the Priest" Night, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	12 OCF Mid-Atlantic Regional Retreat: Miraculous Myrrh-Streaming Icon in Taylor, Pa. departs, 5pm (returns Saturday, 6pm)	13 Altar Society Meeting, 10am Choir Rehearsal, 4:30pm Great Vespers/Litiya for the Elevation, 6pm Confessions
14 <b>ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS</b> Festal Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	15	16 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am	17 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	18 Penn State OCF: Mt. Nittany Hike, 5pm (Rides depart from Pasquerilla Lobby) Adult Study Group: The Epistle to Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven, 7pm	19	20 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
21 <b>Sunday After the Elevation</b> Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parents' Potluck Picnic, 5pm @ Circleville Park, Pavilion 4	22	23 <b>Conception of St. John the Forerunner</b> Women's Book Study, 10am @ 562 Lancashire, Park Forest (Rectory)	24 <b>New Martyrs of Alaska</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	25 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center Young Adult Social, 7pm @ 4817 W. Whitehall Rd., 16865 (Leathers' Home)	26 <b>St. John the Theologian</b>	27 Choir Rehearsal, 4:30pm Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 5:15pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
28 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	29	30	October 1 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	2 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center Adult Study Group: The Epistle to Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven, 7pm	3	4 Choir Rehearsal, 4:30pm Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
October 5 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parish Potluck, 12pm (surnames N-Z, bring entrees; A-M, sides/dessert)	6 <b>St. Innocent of Alaska</b>	7 Women's Book Study, 10am @ 562 Lancashire, Park Forest (Rectory) Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am	8 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	9 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	10 Penn State OCF: Fall Cabin Retreat departs, 5pm	11 Penn State OCF: Fall Cabin Retreat returns, 4pm Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

# Chapel Calendar

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

Tuesday 2 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)	Tuesday 16 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)
Saturday 6 Vespers, 6pm	Saturday 20 Vespers, 6pm
<b>Sunday 7</b> Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Great Vespers/Litiya, 7pm @ Holy Trinity	<b>Sunday 21</b> Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
Monday 8 <b>NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> Hours/Divine Liturgy, 7:40am @ Holy Trinity	Tuesday 23 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)
Tuesday 9 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)	Saturday 27 <b>Selinsgrove Market Street Festival Outreach, all day</b>
Saturday 13 Great Vespers/Litiya, 6pm @ Holy Trinity	<b>Sunday 28</b> Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
<b>Sunday 14</b> <b>ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS</b> Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am	Tuesday 30 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)
	Saturday Oct. 4 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

# September 2014