

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH



Last month, Fr. John and Dn. Alexander inspect what will become a student lounge in a new ministry center for the parish and campus.

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK **Trinity House Moves Closer to Reality**

SEPTEMBER HAS FLOWN BY. As was noted in last month's *Trisagion*, the parish voted overwhelmingly to purchase the American Cancer Society building next door (123 S. Sparks St.) for \$340,000, successfully meeting one of the three main criteria for the parish to secure the property.

The other two criteria have also been met: At its September meeting, Council authorized inspections of the property and delegated authority to Chuck Beechan and me to arrange for financing. The inspection revealed a sound building with mainly cosmetic issues to be dealt with after closing. Furthermore, Council endorsed a new vision for the building and renamed the structure, "Trinity House Parish and Campus Ministry Center."

(continued, see TRINITY HOUSE, page 2)

Knowledge Equals Knowing God

by Dn. Mark Oleynik

MY DAUGHTER MENTIONED to me that she was hoping to take a test (the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, or PSAT for short) in a few weeks in preparation for taking the "real" college admissions test (the SAT) in a couple of years. My wife and I agreed it was perhaps a good idea for her to take a test to get a feel for the testing procedures, types of questions, etc.

Remembering that I had taken this test many years ago when I was in high school, I have wondered what kind of score would I earn if I had to take the test now (I don't remember what score I got so need to ask). But our discussion also got me to thinking: is there a "real" measure of what a person knows—not how *much* a person knows but rather what does a person know. These are two different questions.

There have been some great men and women in this world—people of great distinction, people of vision, people with great intellect—who do not find true happiness in this world, no real satisfaction. Some of the world's greatest philosophers have lived an unhappy life. There are also a great many people who, outside of their professions, concern themselves about very little else. They read the daily newspaper headlines, check Twitter, watch some TV for news and sports but that is as far as their reading goes. But

(continued, see TRUE KNOWLEDGE, last pages)

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
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. Cartell and R. Patel	Team A
October 19	A. Swisher and C. Swisher	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	H. Torbic and S. Stevens	Team B
October 26	L. Georgiou and H. Torbic	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and M. Stevens	Team A
November 2	POTLUCK— <i>Main: A-M, Sides: N-Z</i>	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team B
November 9	TBD	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	S. Stevens and G. Cartell	Team A

* Denotes Fast

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

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

Trinity House (from page 1)

The proposed floor plan of the new ministry center and existing spaces are as follows:

- *The **Lower Level** will be used primarily for Sunday School and activity space for younger children. The parish will also make use of the ample storage space that is already in place.*
- *The **Main Level** will include a reception area, administrative offices, and a conference room for use by ministry groups and the Parish Council.*
- *The **Upper Level** will become the home of a new campus ministry center, featuring a lounge and study area, along with an office for Deacon Alex. In addition, a guest suite will be furnished for visiting clergy and alumni. On Sundays, middle and high school classes will meet here as well.*
- *In our existing building, the **Parish Hall** will be rearranged to accommodate more tables with seating for fellowship;*
- *My office will become a classroom for the pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Sunday School class. When class is not in session, it will serve as a **Nursery** for young children and their mothers.*
- *The current administrative office will be reconfigured to include the **Bookstore** and additional storage, if necessary.*

Darren Torbic is putting his civil engineering profession to work by designing new options for increased parking and additional green space behind both the church and Trinity House, as well.

For the Record

BAPTISMS

- **Nataliya Woskob**, child of Victor and Gina Woskob, and **Chase Woskob**, child of Ashlee and Sara Woskob, were baptized September 13.

Also from Father's Desk...

- *The new **Women's Ministry Book Study** on the life of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth began at the Rectory, 562 Lancashire Lane. It meets on alternating Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. All ladies welcome!*
- ***Speaking of the ladies**, don't forget these upcoming socials for women in the parish: **Ladies' Night Out** at Hoss's this Monday, October 6 at 6 p.m. Also, the **Annual Fall Coffee and Tea** is scheduled for Saturday, November 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Oleyniks, 125 Wildernest, Port Matilda. More info. is available at women@holytrinity-oca.org.*
- *The parish **Adult Study Group** began its fall study using Fr. Lawrence Farley's book: The Epistle to the Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven. It meets in the Parish Hall on alternating Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.*
- ***Thank you** for your kind words and prayers on the occasion of the death my Aunt Alta (Wilhelm). It was wonderful to share with you a bit about my visit with her in Washington, DC in the August Trisagion.*

One of the benefits of the financing we secured for the new building is that Fulton Bank is giving us an opportunity to consolidate the existing mortgage with the new one with an interest rate of 4.05% for the first five years, amortized for 25 years. Banking with Fulton will be convenient for the Chapel as well (they have branches throughout Synder County). Closing is expected on or around November 15.

Look in your mailboxes this month for more on Trinity House. Inside will be information about how you can partner with the parish in order to raise a total of \$150,000 over the next three years to lower the mortgage principal and invest in our future.

All my best for a good month. — Fr. John ■

Often we are more concerned about other people's business and faults than our own. However, our duty is to know *ourselves* and our relation to Christ. Ask yourself the questions, "What am I living for? Is my life to be spent for myself, or is there a higher purpose for my being here?" If we go to God in prayer and ask Him for wisdom from on high, we can rest assured that He will reveal Himself to us more fully, and we will be able to know more about our mission in life. The more we know and experience Him, the more eager we are to know.

Life and happiness do not consist in what we have, what we possess, but in what we are, what we do. It is not enough to have knowledge of God but to, "be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." This teaches us to practice what we believe and know. Our knowledge is vain and fruitless if it is not reduced to practice. Know in order to do.

No matter how much we know about our faith, if we are not doers of God's will at the same time we are not living in harmony with the principles of Christ. It is not enough for a citizen merely to know the laws of his country, he must also live up to them; he must conduct himself according to those laws. The same holds true with every Christian in relation to God's will. The mere fact that Paul became a Christian, with great faith in Christ, did not make him an outstanding personality in Scripture and in the work of God's Kingdom. But it was the unceasing efforts

that he put forth to do the will of God that was the keynote of his life. Paul was a learned man, he was capable of holding high position in secular work, but he was willing to renounce self and to give to that which God had in store for him.

To do the will of God means to renounce self, to renounce submit oneself to Christ. So many of us would like to be like Christ but we find it too difficult to renounce our own will and to be obedient to the will of God. It is quite easy for us to be Christ-like on Sunday but during the rest of the week we follow our own inclinations. Does that mean we forego everything that has been given to us? Not necessarily, but it does mean we must be like Christ in all of our daily walks of life. It means that what we do, determines our Christianity. The little word "do" is key to our life. Doing—not for oneself, but—for the glorification of God.

The fundamental principle of all this "doing" is love. Christ has given us the greatest possible pledge of love in the Cross. He has died for us, and thus, He asks us to live for Him and to love sacrificially. Our love of God will afford us joy and will bring us new experiences of His love. Life will mean more to us.

A person's life is not defined by what he possesses or in how much he knows—it is about what and Whom he knows. Know God and experience His grace and love, and, in turn, you will know yourself. ■

The Four Things Every Christian Must Do

First of all, a Christian cannot help praying. To be a Christian is to regard God as a loving Father; it is natural to talk and listen to one's parents.

Second, a Christian cannot help praising God and giving praise to Him. To be a Christian is to affirm God as Creator of the universe; and

when a Christian looks at the beauty and glory of what God has made, praise and thanksgiving pour from the lips.

Third, a Christian cannot help being generous. To be a Christian is to acknowledge that everything belongs to God and the human beings are merely stewards of what they possess; so they naturally want to share their possessions with those in need.

Fourth, a Christian cannot help reading the Scripture and also studying the insights of other Christians.

To be a Christian is to rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the Spirit speaks to us through the Scriptures and through the insights of our spiritual brothers and sisters.

— St. John Chrysostom

True Knowledge is Knowing God (cont. from pg. 1)

that is as far as their reading goes. But as to something higher or spiritual they remain unconcerned. They are merely concerned about the things of this world. So we see life consists not in how much we know, but in what we know.

Life does not consist in what we possess. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." Life in many ways consists in knowing Jesus as our Savior and in knowing ourselves and our true mission in life. We cannot and will never know God in the fullest sense, but He has revealed Himself to us in such a way that everyone can have some grasp of Him and of His Son, Jesus Christ. And God has given to every individual the ability to look into His own soul and see how God works in him. To know Jesus and to know what He has done for us and what He means to us: these are vital items in one's life. Do you want to know God and what kind of a God He is? Do you want to know what is His attitude is toward you; whether He is your friend and desires your happiness? If you are anxious about these things, then you want to know Jesus. Paul said, "Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (*Phil. 3:8*)

How may we know Christ better? A good start is the daily reading of Scripture and increased alertness in the House where He is proclaimed. Knowledge precedes faith. No man can hardly believe in anything that he does not know. Think about it, if you never heard of a thing in all your life, how could you believe it? People who do not read their Bibles and never come to a church where Christ is preached cannot truly know Him. Again, it is Paul who asks, "How can they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard?"

If we would know more about Jesus there would be a higher standard of living because we would live on a

Sunday School Scoops

S'MORE PICNIC ANYONE?

There were over sixty attendees at the Sunday School picnic last month. There were football and volleyball games along with sand art on the courts. The food was terrific, the fellowship even better, and the evening ended with a giant helping of s'mores made over the fire. (Not to mention a beautiful rainbow!

PARENTS SESSION

We will have our first session on Sunday, October 26 following the Divine Liturgy (we will end at about 12:30 p.m.) These sessions are intended to discuss and share experiences of raising Orthodox Christian in today's world. (Childcare will be provided during the session.) All parents are encouraged to attend.

higher spiritual plane. If we knew more about Jesus and His principles of living we would fight more bravely against sin. If the world knew more about Jesus there would not be so many destructive forces which tend to undermine Christianity, degrade morality and destroy human lives. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water" (*John 4:10*). Not only an intellectual knowledge, but to know Him in our hearts, to know Him in such a way as to experience Him, gives us a new life, new encouragements, refuge for disappointments and afflictions, and a burning desire to know more of Him and to be more like Him.

We should know ourselves and our purpose in life. It is the duty of every Christian to know himself, his sinful condition, his needs and his purpose of living. The sin of which we all are more or less guilty of is that we know others better than ourselves.

Tides to Host Seminar on Grief

Tides will provide a one-day seminar on Friday, October 10 for professionals and members of the community interested in learning more about how grief displays itself at various developmental ages. The training will also focus on how adults can be most supportive of grieving children and teens. The day will conclude with a panel presentation and "Q&A" session consisting of Tides volunteers and families. Registration is \$35, which includes a light lunch. Visit tidesprogram.org for details.

Young Adult Opportunities

All Orthodox young adults in Central Pennsylvania are invited to participate in an upcoming gathering at Agia Sophia Coffeehouse, 225 Market St., Harrisburg, on October 12 at 6:30 p.m. For those willing able to travel even farther, there will be an Orthodox Young Professionals Conference in Austin, Texas, taking place October 24-26. Closer to home, young adults will meet for dinner at The Corner Room for \$6.95 all-you-can-eat pasta on Monday, November 3 at 6 p.m. Learn more at youngadults@holyltrinity-oca.org.

Peaceful Demonstration for Life

Life Chain Sunday will be held Sunday, October 5, in State College, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Attendees are asked to gather at 1:45 p.m. at 900 West College Ave. to receive the proper signage. All are encouraged to attend and show reverence for all innocent life.

Archdiocesan Leaders Day

The Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania will conduct a workshop for clergy and lay leaders in Canonsburg on Saturday, October 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information or to register, call (724) 266-5009.


Listen to "Radio Saint Nicholas"

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in DuBois has launched an internet station entitled RSN—Radio Saint Nicholas. Two programs have been produced so far at <http://rsnpodcast.wix.com/radio-saint-nicholas>.

Headlines from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

Dn. David Smith, Administrator

Thirsty for more?
If you are looking for a Christian community firmly rooted in values, doctrine, and worship, look no more...
A new, yet ancient, Church is breaking ground.

www.holyspirit-oca.org  CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT facebook.com/chsoca

SELINSGROVE STREET FAIR A BIG SUCCESS

The big event for the Chapel in September was its annual community outreach at the Selinsgrove Market Street Fair. For the sixth time in as many years, chapel faithful handed out 1,400 free bottles of water (labeled as above) and 1,200 pens with contact information on them. The most telling comment was that from someone who appreciated the gesture: "You are doing the most important work here today, giving out free water." What a wonderful reputation for a new mission church!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

The next outreach event will be Family Night at the Middlecreek Area Community Center in Beaver Springs on Sunday, October 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a night of sports, games, food, and fellowship with the Chapel.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TO BEGIN

Beginning Sunday, October 5, Christian Education for adults and children will commence after Coffee Hour, each week. Deacon David will be teaching on First and Second Thessalonians. Mka. Brenda will teach Sunday School to the children at the same time.

GROUNDBREAKING DELAYED

Citing an abundance of red tape in the permitting process, the builder reports that groundbreaking on the new chapel has been pushed back to early spring.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Thanks to the work of Andre Wagner, you can now interact with the Chapel at facebook.com/chsoca.

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
28 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	29	30	October 1 Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	2 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Game Night, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center Adult Study Group: <i>The Epistle to Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven</i> , 7pm	3	4 Choir Rehearsal, 4:30pm Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
5 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Trisagion, 11:45am Parish Potluck, 12pm (<i>surnames N-Z, bring entrees; A-M, sides/dessert</i>) Life Chain Sunday, 1:45pm-3pm @ 900 W. College Ave.	6 St. Innocent of Alaska Women's Night Out, 6pm-8pm @ Hoss's Steak and Sea House (1450 N. Atherton St.)	7 Women's Book Study, 10am @ 562 Lancashire, Park Forest (Rectory) Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am	8 Great Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	9 St. Tikhon, Enlightener of North America Penn State OCF: "Stump the Priest" Night, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	10 Penn State OCF: Fall Cabin Retreat departs, 5pm (<i>returns Saturday, 4pm</i>)	11 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
12 Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Archdiocesan Youth/Family Bonfire, 4pm @ 8461 Peters Rd., Cranberry Twp. (Archdiocesan Ctr.)	13	14 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave. Penn State OCF Executive Committee Meeting, 6pm @ HUB (Ground Fl.)	15 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	16 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center Adult Study Group: <i>The Epistle to Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven</i> , 7pm	17 Penn State OCF: THON Canning Trip departs, 5pm (<i>returns Sunday, 4pm</i>)	18 Holy Apostle St. Luke Archdiocesan Leaders Day @ Canonsburg, PA Men's Breakfast, 9am Choir Rehearsal, 4:30pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
19 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Orthodox Youth Association (OYA) and Jr. OYA Combined Monthly Activity, 6pm	20	21 Women's Book Study, 10am @ 562 Lancashire, Park Forest (Rectory) Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am	22 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	23 Holy Apostle St. James Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Ctr. Young Adult Social, 7pm @ 4817 W. Whitehall Rd., 16865 (Leathers' Home)	24 St. John the Theologian	25 Memorial Saturday—St. Demetrius Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
26 Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-Gusher of Thessalonica Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parents' Meeting, 12pm-12:30pm	27	28	29 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	30 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center Adult Study Group: <i>The Epistle to Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven</i> , 7pm	31 St. John Kochurov	November 1 Archdiocesan Assembly @ Belle Vernon, PA Women's Coffee & Tea, 10am @ 125 Wildercrest (Mka. Kelly's Home) Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
November 2 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parish Potluck, 12pm (<i>surnames A-M, bring entrees; N-Z, sides/dessert</i>)	3 Young Adult Social, 6pm @ The Corner Room (100 W. College Ave.)	4 Women's Book Study, 10am @ 562 Lancashire, Park Forest (Rectory) Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am	5 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	6 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	7 Penn State OCF: THON Canning Trip departs, 5pm (<i>returns Sunday, 4pm</i>)	8 Archangel Gabriel Hours/Divine Lit., 8:40am (Hours, 8:40am) Archdiocesan Clergy/Lay Retreat @ Carnegie, PA Choir Rehearsal, 4:30pm

Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 4 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Sunday 19 Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Bible Study on First Thessalonians/ Sunday School, 12:30pm
Sunday 5 Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Bible Study on First Thessalonians/ Sunday School, 12:30pm	Tuesday 21 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)
Tuesday 7 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)	Sunday 26 St. Demetrius Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Bible Study on First Thessalonians/ Sunday School, 12:30pm
Sunday 12 Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Bible Study on First Thessalonians/ Sunday School, 12:30pm Family Fun Night, 5-7pm @ Middlecreek Area Community Center	Tuesday 28 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)
Tuesday 14 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)	Saturday Nov. 1 Archdiocesan Assembly @ Belle Vernon, PA (No Vespers)
Saturday 18 Holy Apostle St. Luke (No Vespers)	Sunday Nov. 2 Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Bible Study on First Thessalonians/ Sunday School, 12:30pm

October 2014