

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Thanking God in the Midst of Want

by Fr. John Reeves

As the national Thanksgiving Day approaches, we do well to remember the spiritual roots of this as a holy day. In fact, some schools now seem to omit any religious significance to the event at all. Yet, the Pilgrim Fathers came to America as pilgrims, religious refugees, seeking not only the freedom to worship in a new land but believing that they had a God-ordained mission to fulfill.

After a fateful voyage, a bitter winter and the death or defection of over half their numbers, the Pilgrims gathered to give thanks to God. They thanked him that they had survived the harshness of the past year. Rather than become embittered over their experiences, they anchored themselves firmly in God's providence for the future.

Today, we tend to think of giving thanks for plenty, for abundance. But for the Pilgrims, they were giving thanks for what they had in spite of obvious scarcity and privation. Maybe we can learn from them to give thanks to God not merely when we feel particularly blessed but when to all appearances it might seem the opposite.

The Apostle tells us to give thanks to God in all things, not merely when things are good (*I Thess. 5:18*). Thanking God in the midst of want, that's something to consider this year, and always. And that's something the Pilgrims knew so well. ■

(related, see FORWARD, IN FAITH, page 3)

Parish Annual Meeting Information

*Holy Trinity will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 9 following the Divine Liturgy. Any agenda items must be submitted in writing to the Parish Council for review by Wednesday, November 5. **Nothing will be considered from the floor.***

Nominations are open for the Council positions of President, Vice President (new position), and Grounds Chair.

Parishioners in good standing who were registered with the parish as members at the end of the previous calendar year and who have fulfilled their Lenten obligations of Confession and Communion may and should attend.

Agenda

- i. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King..."
- ii. Establishment of Quorum
- iii. Minutes of the 2013 Meeting
- iv. Priest's Report
- v. Treasurer's Report
- vi. Review and Approval of the 2015 Budget (see page 2)
- vii. Election of Officers
- viii. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..."

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
119 S. Sparks Street
State College, PA 16801
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Schedules

| | COFFEE HOUR | GREETERS | TELLERS | SERVERS |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| November 2 | POTLUCK | M. Thompson and M. Fedkin | R. Patel and B. Haupt | Team B |
| November 9 | J. Miranda and B. Schrauf | M. Leathers and D. Swisher | S. Stevens and G. Cartell | Team A |
| November 16 | J. Cadman and M. Thompson* | B. Roberts and E. Miranda | M. Stevens and H. Torbic | Team B |
| November 23 | E. Files and K. Oleynik* | L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky | B. Haupt and M. Fedkin | Team A |
| November 30 | M. & G. Anthony and P. Doty* | M. Thompson and M. Fedkin | G. Cartell and R. Patel | Team B |
| December 7 | TBD* | M. Leathers and D. Swisher | H. Torbic and S. Stevens | 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

Proposed 2015 Budget

| CATEGORY | 2014 YTD ¹ | 2014 BUDGET | 2015 BUDGET | TRINITY HOUSE EXPENSES | GRAND TOTAL | TOTAL % CHG. |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| HOLY TRINITY INCOME | | | | | | |
| Stewardship Offerings | \$164,705 | \$207,372 | \$209,823 | 21,461 | \$231,284 | 12% |
| Deacon Support Appeal | 4,405 | 5,000 | 6,000 | — | 6,000 | 20% |
| Parking | 1,255 | 3,500 | 4,500 | — | 4,500 | 29% |
| Candles and Flowers | 2,962 | 2,600 | 2,600 | — | 2,600 | — |
| OCF Funding Appeal | 780 | 2,500 | 1,500 | — | 1,500 | -40% |
| Mission Appeal | 60 | 1,000 | 500 | — | 500 | -50% |
| Interest Income | 166 | 302 | 100 | — | 100 | -67% |
| Choir Internship Appeal ² | 560 | 1,000 | — | — | — | -100% |
| Discretionary Fund ³ | 1,000 | 500 | — | — | — | -100% |
| Total Income | \$175,893 | \$223,774 | \$225,023 | \$21,461 | \$246,484 | 10% |
| HOLY TRINITY EXPENSES | | | | | | |
| Personnel ² | \$113,543 | \$137,085 | \$141,920 | \$2,450 | \$144,370 | 5% |
| Mortgage | 14,430 | 17,316 | 17,316 | 11,257 | 28,573 | 65% |
| Archdiocese | 18,471 | 22,116 | 21,530 | — | 21,530 | -3% |
| Utilities | 5,221 | 6,035 | 6,035 | 4,311 | 10,346 | 71% |
| Outreach and Fellowship | 7,197 | 7,750 | 7,750 | — | 7,750 | — |
| Physical Plant | 5,987 | 4,800 | 4,800 | 2,200 | 7,000 | 46% |
| Office Administration | 7,232 | 5,100 | 5,100 | — | 5,100 | — |
| Liturgical ² | 9,066 | 7,675 | 4,675 | — | 4,675 | -39% |
| Christian Education | 2,659 | 4,100 | 4,100 | — | 4,100 | — |
| Insurance | 1,778 | 1,777 | 1,777 | 1,243 | 3,020 | 70% |
| Coffee Hour | 2,108 | 2,000 | 2,000 | — | 2,000 | — |
| Discretionary Fund ³ | 2,534 | 1,000 | 1,000 | — | 1,000 | — |
| All-American Council | 833 | 1,000 | 1,000 | — | 1,000 | — |
| Refurnishings | — | 750 | 750 | — | 750 | — |
| Legal/Professional Fees | 265 | 270 | 270 | — | 270 | — |
| <i>(Transfer to Property Fund)</i> | 4,167 | 5,000 | 5,000 | — | 5,000 | — |
| Total Expenses | 195,491 | \$223,774 | \$225,023 | \$21,461 | \$246,484 | 10% |
| CATEGORY | 2014 YTD ¹ | 2014 BUDGET | 2015 BUDGET | % CHG. | | |
| CHAPEL INCOME | | | | | | |
| Total Income | \$31,108 | \$33,732 | \$20,239 | -40% | | |
| CHAPEL EXPENSES | | | | | | |
| Personnel | \$13,423 | \$17,200 | \$7,700 | -55% | | |
| Property | 10,211 | 690 | 4,400 | 538% | | |
| Outreach and Fellowship | 2,974 | 1,525 | 1,625 | 7% | | |
| Liturgical | 973 | 575 | 575 | — | | |
| Furnishings | 127 | 500 | 500 | — | | |
| Office Administration | — | 150 | 295 | 97% | | |
| Christian Education | 387 | 150 | 200 | 33% | | |
| Utilities | — | 100 | 200 | 100% | | |
| Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments ⁴ | — | — | — | — | | |
| <i>(Transfer to Savings)</i> | 3,013 | 12,842 | 4,744 | -63% | | |
| Total Expenses | \$28,095 | \$33,732 | \$20,239 | -40% | | |

Footnotes

- 1 through Oct. 31, 2014.
- 2 The \$3,000 per year stipend for the Choir Director has been moved from "Liturgical" to "Personnel" for 2015.
- 3 The rector's discretionary fund will become an off-budget subaccount in 2015. Holy Trinity will contribute \$1,000 per year to it.
- 4 Holy Trinity subsidizes Archdiocesan/OCA assessments for parishioners who regularly attend the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

RSVP for Middle School Retreat

Parents of area middle school students (grades 5-8) are strongly encouraged to register through our parish for the 2014 St. Herman of Alaska Retreat, which will take place Friday, December 12 through Sunday, December 14 at Antiochian Village. Holy Trinity's Sunday School will once again sponsor tuition and transportation. The weekend schedule includes games, fellowship, worship, and great food. Registration and release forms are available online at holyltrinity-oca.org and due Sunday, November 23. If you have any questions, please contact Dn. Mark at dnmark@holyltrinity-oca.org.

Help Matthew 25 Help Others

Matthew 25's Thanksgiving food drive is now in full swing, and next month, the ever-popular St. Nicholas Tree will make its annual appearance. Each year, more families are helped through your generous donations, which are distributed by our partner organization Strawberry Fields. Learn how you can get involved in these important drives through the bulletin, Web site, and announcements the Divine Liturgy.

Headlines from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

Dn. David Smith, Administrator

NEW FAMILIES PARTICIPATE IN OUTREACH

On October 12, the Chapel hosted another Family Night at the Middlecreek Area Community Center in Beaver Springs. Four visiting families from the surrounding community participated, three of which had never before attended an event!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SERIES BEGINS

On the same day, a Bible study on First and Second Thessalonians was inaugurated following Coffee Hour and was received eagerly by those attending. Concurrently, a Sunday School hour is being offered in an effort to reach out to the youth of the Chapel.

NEWS & NOTES

Registration Open for Real Break, College Conference

BROOKLINE, MA [*ocf.net*] — The national Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) announced last month that it will hold its annual College Conference at Antiochian Village on December 27-30 and will sponsor 11 "Real Break" opportunities in 2015. The three trips that will take place during Penn State's Spring Break (March 8-15) are Slovakia, Alaska, and New Orleans. For additional information and/or to register, visit ocf.net.

Consider Joining a Short-Term Mission Team in 2015

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL [*via ocmc.org*] — Be a living witness and teach the faith in Indonesia, Moldova, or Kenya; assist building efforts in Guatemala or Kenya; spread the Gospel in Albania; work with youth in Alaska, Moldova, or Albania; offer healthcare in Uganda or Guatemala; or offer your talents on another OCMC team. Applications and details regarding these 2015 mission opportunities are available online at ocmc.org.

NEW LOCATION TO ENABLE MORE TO VISIT

We are presently searching for an alternative place to worship in preparation for breaking ground, Lord willing, in mid-March. It is hoped that this would open the doors to those souls who, although having expressed an interest, have been reluctant to come inside a private house to experience worship. Pray that many more in Snyder County might be encouraged to "come and see." Check the website, holyspirit-oca.org, for the most up-to-date meeting locations and times.

DEACON'S SERVICES SUSTAIN OUR MISSION

With the blessing of His Eminence, Deacon's Liturgies are served whenever a priest is unavailable. In these instances, a pre-sanctified Lamb from a previous Liturgy is used. Although this is groundbreaking for us, one can't help but wonder how much we are experiencing some of the missionary life of the early Church!

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

Saturday Night Fever

by Fr. Geoffrey Korz

Let us lay aside all earthly cares.

— from the Hymn of the Great Entrance

Three decades ago, a film came out that codified the way in which [we] looked at Saturday nights.

Since the 1960s, the concept of a quiet and prayerful Saturday night, preparing for the Lord's Day, has been on the decline. Perhaps this is due to the disappearance in the Protestant West of the concept of keeping vigil before a Church Feast—or to be more to the point, even observing Church Feasts. Perhaps it is due to the Roman Catholic concept of multiple services—the sort of drive-through 30 minute Masses that allow a pick-your-own approach in the spiritual life of faithful people.

This is of course nothing like having to actually be together to spoil the rampant individualism we so often pursue with vigor. Spending Saturday evening—or more specifically, one part of Saturday evening—at a Vespers or Vigil Service, prepares Orthodox Christians for the central Holy Mystery of our lives: Holy

Communion. It therefore makes sense that we should lay aside our own plans, our own entertainment and self-indulgence, to prepare to partake of the Holy Mystery that makes us one: one with Christ, and one with each other.

It may be fair to place the blame for the decline in the observance of Saturday Vespers by Orthodox Christians on the bad habits of the heterodox, or the fast pace of our materialistic western world. But like all things in the spiritual life, the biggest part of the blame can only be placed on us as Orthodox Christians—each of us—who in the struggle to lay aside all earthly cares, more often than not decide that the earthly cares are the very thing we prefer to the Body and Blood of Christ, ahead of communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Let us prayerfully resolve to take up this essential part of our life, for the transformation of our souls, and the renewing of our lives. Let us, with God's help, resolve to make this preparation integral to our week, every week, and take up willingly the cross of laying aside our Saturday night earthly cares, whatever they may be. ■

Was Jesus Self-Sufficient?

Of all the people who ever lived, Jesus of Nazareth had the most right to claim self-sufficiency. He didn't have to need anyone or anything. The Son of Man, the very Word of God made flesh, had life within Himself. The Apostle John declared, "In him was life," (John 1:4).

Yet we find Jesus saying and living out just the opposite of self-sufficiency. He was unafraid to need. He acknowledged without apology that He depended utterly on the Father for everything—

from His actions to His very words. The times He spent in private prayer with His Father were not dutiful but life-sustaining. Surely He is appalled at our stubborn refusal to desperately need the Father. Self-sufficiency is not merely an affront to God, but utter foolishness, the equivalent of deliberately choosing death over life.

Jesus also put Himself in a place where, as a man, He needed others as well. He needed His mother, Mary, to care for His physical needs as an infant and child. He accepted the ministry (financial and physical) of the women

who followed Him and His disciples. He was unembarrassed to need the companionship of friends, particularly His disciples, creating opportunities to be with them and asking them to pray for Him, especially as He faced His greatest agony in Gethsemane. He risked loving a man He knew would betray Him, and He refused to isolate Himself from even the most critical of His questioners. Confident that His Father would never let Him down, Jesus gladly leaned His full weight on the Father's sufficiency, not His own.

— Nancy Groom

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Forward, in Faith, for Trinity House

By now, you've received information about the three phases of our "Forward, Together, in Faith" Capital Funds Drive for Trinity House Parish and Campus Ministry Center:

- **Phase One:** *to raise \$50,000 cash this month to enable us to secure a smaller mortgage.*
- **Phase Two:** *to pledge another \$100,000 to pay down the mortgage substantially over the next three years.*
- **Phase Three:** *to sponsor each of the main rooms in Trinity House for particular refurbishment and furnishing. Two rooms remain to be sponsored: a new ADA-compliant restroom for the first floor (\$10,000); and a redesigned kitchen (\$5,000). (These projects may be underwritten in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one.)*

Your generosity helps us continue to build up the Church beyond our parish. Thank you.

We plan to close by mid-month. A parish walk-through will be scheduled the Sunday following. Blessings! ■ — Fr. John

Also from Father's Desk...

- **Thanks to all** who were able to contribute to the medical relief appeal. \$1,660.60 was raised and sent to Fr Igor Savva, brother-in-law of Tania Smotrova, an administrator of Holy Martyrs Sophia, Faith, Hope and Love Hospital Church in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine.
- **Remember, the Annual Meeting** is on Sunday, November 9. The agenda is on page 1 and the budget is on page 2 for your review.



How Do We Pay the Bills?

Consider how you can find a way to contribute \$1 per day to afford this wonderful opportunity.

| GIVING FREQUENCY | ADDITIONAL COMMITMENT (n=75 Giving Units) |
|------------------|---|
| Annual Donation | \$293.34 |
| Monthly | \$24.45 |
| Weekly | \$5.65 |
| Daily | \$0.81 |

The estimated annual expense associated with Trinity House is approximately \$22,000 (see page 2). There is no doubt this is a big number! However, as with many projects, though the big picture looks daunting, stepping back and breaking the project down into smaller pieces lessens the stress.

If we divide \$22,000 among all 75 of the parish's "giving units" (a giving unit is an individual or family that regularly and identifiably gives to the Church) the annual share (over and above your current tithe) becomes about \$300 more per year—still a big number. If however, we continue to divide this task into smaller bits, our additional commitment is less than \$25 per month, \$6 per week, or 81 cents per day.

So, for significantly less than a bottle of water or a cup of coffee per day—we can enjoy the many benefits of Trinity House! ■ — Dr. Robert F. Roberts

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 |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| November 2 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Memorial for Sbdn. Peter Takarchek and Lucy Rusinko, 11:45am Parish Potluck, 12pm (no restrictions by last name or food type) | 3 Young Adult Social, 6pm @ The Corner Room (100 W. College Ave.) | 4 <i>Election Day</i> (Parish Offices Closed) Women's Book Study, 10am @ 562 Lancashire, Park Forest (Rectory) | 5 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm | 6 Penn State OCF: "Stump the Priest" Night, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center | 7 Penn State OCF: THON Canning Trip, 5pm (thru. Sunday, 3pm) @ Moorestown, NJ Great Vespers, 7pm | 8 Archangel Michael Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Archdiocesan Clergy/Lay Retreat @ Carnegie, PA Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers/Conf., 6pm |
| 9 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parish Annual Meeting, 12pm Sunday School Fun Day, 2pm-4pm @ Ramada Inn Pool, (1450 S. Atherton. St, State College) | 10 | 11 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave. Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am | 12 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions | 13 St. John Chrysostom Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center Adult Study Group: <i>The Epistle to Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven</i> , 7pm | 14 Apostle Philip | 15 <i>Nativity Fast Begins:</i> <i>Omit meat & dairy (all days)</i> <i>and fish (Wed./Fri., Dec. 20-24)</i> Men's Breakfast, 9am Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 5pm Great Vespers/Conf., 6pm |
| 16 Apostle and Evangelist Matthew Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Orthodox Youth Association (OYA/Jr.OYA) Monthly Activities, 6pm | 17 | 18 Women's Book Study, 10am @ 562 Lancashire, Park Forest (Rectory) | 19 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions | 20 Penn State OCF: "Stay to Pray" Dinner at Holy Trinity, 6pm Great Vespers/Litiya, 7pm | 21 ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) | 22 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions |
| 23 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am | 24 | 25 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am | 26 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions | 27 National Day of Thanksgiving | 28 | 29 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions |
| 30 Apostle Andrew the First-Called Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am | December 1 | 2 | 3 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions | 4 St. Alexander Hotovitzky Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center Adult Study Group: <i>The Epistle to Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven</i> , 7pm | 5 OCF/THON Canning Trip, 5pm (thru. Sunday, 3pm) @ Red Lion, PA Great Vespers, 5:30pm Church School Dinner and Christmas Caroling Night, 6:30pm-9pm | 6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions) |
| December 7 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parish Potluck, 12pm (tentative) | 8 | 9 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave. Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am | 10 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm | 11 Penn State OCF: End-of- Semester Game Night, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center Adult Study Group: <i>The Epistle to Hebrews: High</i> | 12 Annual St. Herman Middle School Retreat, 5pm (thru Sunday, 3pm) @ Antiochian Village | 13 St. Herman of Alaska Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions |

Chapel of the Holy Spirit Calendar

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday 1 Archdiocesan Assembly @ Belle Vernon, PA (No Vespers) | Sunday 16 Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew Hours/Divine Liturgy, 9:40am @ TBD |
| Sunday 2 Hours/Divine Liturgy, 9:40am @ 350 Old Orchard Rd., Beavertown Bible Study on First Thessalonians/ Sunday School, 12:30pm @ TBD | Tuesday 18 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence) |
| Tuesday 4 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence) | Sunday 23 Hours/Divine Liturgy, 9:40am @ TBD Bible Study on First Thessalonians/ Sunday School, 12:30pm @ TBD |
| Sunday 9 (Matins/Divine Liturgy, 9am @ Holy Trinity) Parish Annual Meeting, 12pm @ Holy Trinity | Tuesday 25 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence) |
| Tuesday 11 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence) | Sunday 30 Hours/Divine Liturgy, 9:40am @ TBD Bible Study on 1 Thess. / Sunday School, 12:30pm @ TBD |
| Saturday 15 Vespers, 6pm @ TBD | Tuesday Dec. 2 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence) |

November 2014