

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reflections on OCF's Mission to New Jersey

by John Petrolias

Penn State Freshman (College of Communications)

I have only been in college for a semester and a half, but I can honestly say this past weekend will be one of the best I will experience in my four years at Penn State. Orthodox Christian Fellowship has been a solid experience for me already, but this weekend significantly added to the bond shared by our group's members.

We arrived Friday night at one of our group member's beach house, which quite honestly is one of the nicest places I've ever stayed at over a weekend. I'll spare the details, but the place is ideal for a weekend getaway with a group like ours. Big thanks to the Carpenter family for hosting us (and putting up with our camaraderie at 1 a.m.)!

Contracts Signed; Construction to Begin

The Parish Council at its March meeting unanimously voted to accept two major building contracts.

The first one is for the remodeling of 123 S. Sparks, which is to become the Trinity House Parish and Campus Ministry Center. Veronesi Building & Remodeling Inc. was awarded the \$82,000 project



Photo Credit: Judy Carpenter (top) and Evan Bitner (bottom left and right)



We began our mission work Saturday morning as we drove by the famous New Jersey "swamps" to serve at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission: a shelter and outlet for lower-income people and families to obtain food, clothes and whatever they need to survive. Places like this are a powerful reminder to me about how grateful I should be for the privileges I have.

(continued, see OCF MISSION TRIP, last page)

and is currently developing architectural drawings and applying for permits. Renovations include the Fr. Alexander Atty Campus Ministry Center on the top floor; a new ADA-complaint kitchen and restroom that will accompany a conference room and administrative offices on the main floor; and Sunday School classrooms on an opened-up ground floor.

(continued, see SUMMER PROJECTS, next page)

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
April 5	K. Olynyk and A. Petrick	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	Team A
April 12	PASCHA	<i>All Available Greeters</i>	G. Cartell and R. Patel	<i>All Servers</i>
April 19	J. Miranda and A. Stickle	M. Thompson and J. Houser	H. Torbic and S. Stevens	Team A
April 26	Troyan Family and L. Radomsky	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and M. Stevens	Team B
May 3	POTLUCK	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team A
May 10	MEN'S FELLOWSHIP	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	S. Stevens and G. Cartell	Team B

* Denotes Fast
 Team A: A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, S. Olynyk, D. Stickle, J. Torbic, and J. Swisher. Captains: D. Torbic, Ja. Stickle, and K. Kucheyaryy
 Team B: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, B. Olynyk, S. Patel, and L. Torbic.

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

In Memoriam: Fr. Thomas Hopko

As I write this column, my thoughts are still about Fr. Thomas Hopko's recent death. Deacons Alex and Mark, Thomas Kuang, Megan Leathers, the Rush family, and I paid our respects to the Hopko family by attending either Fr. Thomas's Panikhida the evening before his burial or at the funeral itself, which was held on March 23 near Ellwood City at Holy Transfiguration Monastery. It was a time of joyful sorrow, as we like to say: a foretaste of Pascha, an anticipation of the Kingdom of Heaven, with eight bishops and more than 60 priests and deacons joining a total of 350 mourners in prayer.

We had each come to know Fr. Tom in various ways: as a seminary student or a friend of his family, as a retreatant or podcast listener, as a reader of his many works, or as a collaborator in various Church projects and objectives. Each of us had benefited from knowing him, listening to him, and being absolutely captivated by his delivery, as he expounded on one topic of Church life or another.

I always cherished the respect that he gave me in the field of church growth and development, inviting me to lecture to seniors at St. Vladimir's Seminary each year, from the time I moved here in 1996 until his retirement in 2002. More recently, during the

OCA's "time of troubles," Fr. Tom provided me pastoral guidance, reassurance, and perspective when I deeply needed it.

Fr. Hopko's passing signals the end of an era for American Orthodoxy, ushered in by such luminaries as Frs. Georges Florovsky, Alexander Schmemmann, and John Meyendorff. American-born, he truly embraced the hope for Orthodoxy in America as those preceding him had championed in their own ways. He carried that torch until his death. His contribution to world Orthodoxy in our time cannot be overstated. It is the end of an era but not the end of a vision.

Our sincerest condolences go to all the Hopko family, especially Matushka Anne, as well as grandsons Dan Thetford and Zach Mandell, both of whom led our OCF campus ministry during their respective years at Penn State.

Memory Eternal, Fr. Tom! Memory Eternal. ■

— Fr. John



Photo Credit: Amber Schley/Iraqi

For the Record

CHRISMATION

➤ **Faye (Monica) Oberheim** was received into the Orthodox Faith by Chrismation at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on March 29. She is the first convert at the Chapel since 2009. **Many years!**

CATECHUMENS

➤ **John and Susan Pettengill, Evan Ashmore, and Amber Schall** were enrolled as catechumens at Holy Trinity on March 15. **Many years!**

NEW FAMILY

➤ **Stacie Trent** and her three children, **Sophia, John and Olga** officially joined the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on March 31. **Welcome!**

DEATH

➤ We extend our deepest sympathy to **Vladimir Semak** and his family at the death of his wife **Kelly Peters** on March 3. **May her memory be eternal.**

YOUR GENEROSITY

➤ This year's "SOUP-er Sunday" luncheon raised **\$676** for Bridge of Hope Centre County. **Thank you!**

Summer Projects *(cont. from cover page)*

Work will be completed this summer with a grand opening anticipated in the Fall.

The Parish Council also authorized Fine Touch Builders of Winfred, PA to build a temple for the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at a cost of \$118,000, not including paving and landscaping. This is roughly half the cost of the initial plan. The revised design allows for transepts and an apse to be added in the future as the community grows. Expect a groundbreaking there by late spring or early summer. ■



Bright Monday Women's Brunch

The Holy Trinity Women's Ministry invites all ladies of the parish—young and old—to potluck brunch following the 9 a.m. Bright Monday (April 13) Divine Liturgy. Bring your favorite breakfast casserole or breakfast dish; juice and coffee will be provided. For more information, contact Mka. Linda at (814) 861-8020 or women@holyltrinity-oca.org.

Decorate with the Altar Society

Joanne Takarchek, leader of the Altar Society, invites all the women of the parish to help with decorating the church this month. There will be two opportunities to participate and get to know fellow members: after the Lazarus Saturday liturgy (April 4, 9 a.m.) and after Royal Hours on Holy Friday (April 10, 10 a.m.).

Study Group to Return this Fall

The Adult Study Group, which concludes its examination of St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews on Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m., has announced dates for Fall 2015. Meeting every Tuesday at 7 p.m., the 14-week series will begin September 8 and conclude December 8 (there will be no class on Election Day, November 3). The study is open to all adults. Have a suggestion for a book of Scripture, Church Father, or contemporary Orthodox author you would like to explore? Email your ideas to fjohn@holyltrinity-oca.org.

■ NEWS & NOTES

Pro-Life Town Hall Luncheon to be Held on April 16

Everyone is invited to a special Pro-Life Town Hall Luncheon featuring Michael Ciccocioppo and Micaiah Bilger of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. They will share the latest on important pro-life issues such as the Affordable Care Act, abortion in Pennsylvania, the push for assisted suicide, and more. Sponsored by the Centre County Citizens Concerned for Human Life, the luncheon will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16 at Letterman's (formerly Damon's Grill), 1031 E. College Ave., in State College. For details, contact Susan Rogacs at (814) 237-3213 or CCHLcentreco@comcast.net.

Follow in the Footsteps of St. Herman on a Mission Team

Throughout the month of July, OCMC mission teams will be serving in Alaska, home of St. Herman the Wonderworker and evangelizer of Alaska, and conduct youth conferences for the Kuskokwim and Yukon Deaneries. One team will serve July 6-13, 2015 and will visit Kasigluk and Akula Heights, two villages considered to be one community. A second team will serve from July 22 to July 30th in Pilot Station. Visit www.ocmc.org to learn more about all of the 2015 OCMC teams and apply!

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

Are We Religious or Are We Faithful?

by Fr. Vasile Tudora

Rector, St. John the Baptist Church (Eules, Texas)

As we move towards Pascha with rapid steps and we get ready to embark in the great spirituality of Holy Week, maybe is a good time now to stop for a minute and reflect on the transforming power that all the efforts of Great Lent: the fasting, the extended prayers, the almsgiving, should have on all of us who strive to achieve them.”

The soul moving hymns of this amazing period need to change us in ways that will make us more accepting of the people around us, at church and everywhere else, more attentive towards the need of others, more willing to step up when our community needs us. We should be transformed as to become willing to joyfully share more of our time, talent and treasure with our Church, for the greater purpose of salvation, not just as individuals, but as a holy community of brothers and sisters in Christ.

If this is not happening, if we are not transformed by what we do, if we don't become more humble, more accepting, more involved and more loving, then we should probably consider not necessarily what we are doing but why we are doing it. It could mean that we might be following the Orthodox Church as an ordinary outward religion and not as an actual way of life. It may be that we have not yet internalized the purpose and intent of our Faith. It might be time to reexamine ourselves with great care and honesty and consider the help of a Spiritual Father to receive tailored help to diagnose and heal what is keeping us from being transformed from an outwardly religious person into a true faithful person.

The Church, as the Fathers describe it, is a hospital for all of us, who, inheriting a fallen nature, are suffering from various spiritual diseases that keep us from being who God wants us to become. The

Church provides the place, the means and the doctors to help us heal, overcoming the shortcomings of our fallenness. The fasting, prayer, almsgiving and everything else that the Church brings to our attention are not a purpose in themselves but healing and transforming tools to achieve the likeness of God, the only doctor of our souls and bodies.

May all these efforts that in these holy days we are all trying to achieve, according to our strength, be rewarded by the glorious sight of the un-waning Light of the Resurrection of Christ. May that Light shine in the deepest corners of our souls transforming us also into light and bringing us all in Communion with Christ, the Sun of righteousness. ■

Keep Vigil at Christ's Tomb

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary watched as Christ suffered and was buried. These women were keeping vigil. In ancient times "vigil" meant to spend time on guard duty, or "keeping watch." In the Church, it means time spent in attentive preparation "waiting on God."

Our parish has the beautiful tradition to keep watch over the Lord's tomb from the conclusion of Great Vespers on Holy Friday until Nocturns on Saturday evening, only stopping for the appointed services. Those that have participated can attest to the unique peace of reading the Scriptures in the dark and quietness of the church. This brief period of solitude is a wonderful "time out" from our often too hectic schedules, as we wait with expectation for our Lord's Resurrection from the dead.

*This year our **high school students** will keep vigil during the early morning hours of Saturday, April 11 from 12am-2pm. Participants will have adult supervision and be given a ride home. For more information, email me at dnmark@holytrinity-oca.org.*

—Dn. Mark Oleynik

■ ORTHODOX CAMPUS MINISTRY

Our Mission Trip to New Jersey *(cont. from cover page)*

Yet even though we got a few funny looks from some of the people there, the rest of the people there were very happy to see us. One gentleman noticed my Penn State hat and asked us, "You guys from Penn State? They got a *gooooooooooooo* basketball team..." I'm not sure he's actually seen PSU play basketball, but we nodded in agreement nonetheless.

Our job for the day was to organize donated food from a closed supermarket and dispose of anything opened or expired. Stationed in a chilly, run-down truck-repair warehouse with classic rock music on the loudspeaker, we went through crates of food from pasta sauce and olive oil to stale muffin tops (which were immediately discarded) and off-branded cereal ("Bumpers," "Panda Puffs," etc.) Honestly, the job seemed to fly by. As the workers brought in countless boxes of unsorted food, we never complained and did the job rather quickly, even laughing at minor mishaps like flour bag explosions and discovering a box full of instant noodles ravaged by rat droppings. We knew that in the end, someone, somewhere, needed the stuff that we were sorting, and we were happy to help get it to them.

This is one of the greatest parts of the Lenten season for Orthodox Christians. On top of prayer and fasting in preparation for the Resurrection, we are called to serve God and our fellow man by volunteering our time any way we can. Knowing that we made a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in a city that's going through a rough stretch was extremely rewarding. We left Atlantic City with a renewed feeling of humanity and positive spirit. That was special.

That feeling was supplemented by another job we did at the Mission. We were [later] given a mini tractor-trailer full of the same food and supplies we were sorting in the warehouse... Cereal boxes,

snacks, office supplies and countless other things were piled 2-feed high and strewn from the door all the way to the truck itself. But regardless, we cleared out and sorted as much of it as we could before we had to leave that afternoon.

It turned out that our job clearing out the truck was supposed to be the job of an employee at the mission. By himself, it would have taken that one employee an entire day to clear out and sort that truck, but it took us a couple hours. That employee would have spent all of today (Monday) clearing out the truck, but instead, he told us he would be spending the day with his family, whom he "hadn't seen in three weeks" because of his work at the mission. That in itself made our work very enjoyable.

The rest of our trip was donated to fellowship, which included playing baseball catch on the spacious beach, watching *endless* hours of March Madness, Manco & Manco's pizza on the boardwalk, several card games and Divine Liturgy at an OCA church in May's Landing, New Jersey. ■

Students to Help Establish Harrisburg OCF Chapter

Mirroring Holy Trinity's mission to "Build Up the Church Beyond Our Parish," our OCF will donate \$100 to help students at Penn State Harrisburg start their own chapter. The seed money will come from a special collection at OCF's annual Bright Thursday dinner out in State College and will be used by the new group to buy food for events to attract new students. Fr. Steven Vernak of Christ the Saviour will be the group's advisor.

Our OCF hopes this effort will become a model to start chapters at other Commonwealth locations, growing the fellowship at large, and especially helping their fellow students that must make a sometimes difficult transition to University Park in order to complete their studies.

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
29 St. Mary of Egypt Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) All Parents' Meeting, 12pm Deanery Vespers, 4pm @ <i>Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Philipsburg</i>	30	31 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am Women's Book Study: <i>Becoming a Woman of Excellence</i> , 7pm	April 1 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	2 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ <i>Frizzell Room A, Pasquerilla Center</i> Adult Study Group: <i>The Epistle to Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven</i> , 7pm	3 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	4 Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy, 9am Altar Soc. Decor'ing, 11am Youth Pascha Wksp., 4pm Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers/Lituya, 6pm Confessions
5 PALM SUNDAY Festal Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Myrrhophores Practice, 12:15pm Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday, 7pm (no confessions now through Apr. 18)	6 HOLY MONDAY Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday, 7pm	7 HOLY TUESDAY Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday, 7pm	8 HOLY WEDNESDAY Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Matins of Holy Thursday/Holy Unction, 7pm	9 HOLY THURSDAY Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am Matins of Holy Friday (Twelve Passion Gospels), 7pm	10 HOLY FRIDAY Royal Hours, 10am (Unnailing) Vespers of Holy Friday, 4pm Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations), 7pm	11 HOLY SATURDAY Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am Baptisms and Chrismations, 1pm Nocturns, 11:30pm
12 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA Matins/Hours/Divine Liturgy, 12am Blessing of Baskets/ Festal Meal, 2:30am Agape Vespers, 4pm Agape Meal, 5pm	13 Bright Monday Paschal Liturgy, 9am (Paschal Hours, 8:50am) Women's Ministry Brunch, 10:30am Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm	14 Bright Tuesday Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.</i> Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm	15 Bright Wednesday Paschal Liturgy, 8am (Paschal Hours, 7:50am) Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm	16 Bright Thursday Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship: "Dinner on the Town," 6:30pm @ <i>TBD</i>	17 Bright Friday Paschal Liturgy, 8am (Paschal Hours, 7:50am) Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm Annual Men's BBQ, 7pm @ <i>562 Lancashire Ln., Park Forest (Rectory)</i>	18 Bright Saturday Parish Council Exec. Cmte. Meeting, 4:30pm Great Vespers, 6pm
19 Thomas Sunday Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Church School Egg Hunt, 12:30pm @ <i>Holmes-Foster Park</i> CHS Family Fun Night, 5pm-7pm @ <i>MACC, Beaver Springs</i>	20 Young Adult Potluck, 6pm @ <i>4817 W. Whitehall Rd., Pennsylvania Furnace (Leathers' Home)</i>	21 Day of Rejoicing	22 Great Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	23 St. George/Trophybearer Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ <i>124 Pasquerilla Center</i> Adult Study Group, 7pm	24	25 St. Mark the Evangelist Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
26 Holy Myrrhbearing Women Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	27	28	29 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	30 R.O.C.K. "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ <i>TBD</i> OCF End-of-Semester Game Night, 6pm @ <i>124 Pasquerilla Center</i>	May 1	2 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
3 Sunday of the Paralytic Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Parish Potluck, 11:45am Parents' Meeting, 12pm	4	5 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am Vespers, 7pm	6 Midfeast of Pentecost Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Great Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	7 St. Alexis Toth Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (ROCK) "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ <i>TBD</i>	8 Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian	9 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

Chapel Calendar

All events take place at the Middlecreek Area Community Center (MACC), 67 Elm St. in Beaver Springs., unless where noted.

<p align="center">Sunday 5</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY (Matins/Divine Liturgy, 9am @ <i>Holy Trinity*</i>)</p>	<p align="center">Sunday 26</p> <p>Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Bible Study, 12:30pm @ <i>350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown (Smith Home)</i></p>
<p align="center">Saturday 11</p> <p>HOLY SATURDAY (Vespers/Divine Liturgy, 10am @ <i>Holy Trinity*</i>) (Nocturns, 11:30pm @ <i>Holy Trinity*</i>)</p>	<p align="center">Tuesday 24</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ <i>845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs (Lyter Home)</i></p>
<p align="center">Sunday 12</p> <p>GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA (Paschal Matins/Hours/Divine Liturgy, 12am @ <i>Holy Trinity*</i>)</p>	<p align="center">Saturday May 2</p> <p>Vespers, 6pm</p>
<p align="center">Saturday 18</p> <p>Vespers, 6pm</p>	<p align="center">Sunday 3</p> <p>Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Bible Study, 12:30pm @ <i>350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown (Smith Home)</i></p>
<p align="center">Sunday 19</p> <p>Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am</p>	<p align="center">Tuesday 4</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ <i>845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs (Lyter Home)</i></p>
<p align="center">Tuesday 21</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ <i>845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs (Lyter Home)</i></p>	<p>* Free transportation to Holy Trinity is available. Anyone in need of transportation for either Palm Sunday or Pascha, please contact Deacon David at (570) 541-8895, (570) 658-7403, or dndavid@holyspirit-oca.org.</p>

April 2015