

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

What God Hath Joined Together...



Photo Credit: A.E. Landes Photography (eelandesphotography.com)

Despite Summer's Slower Pace, Building Projects Fully Underway

by Fr. John Reeves

It seems that summer is only getting started by July 4. The weather is finally, at long last predictably warmer. Then something strange occurs. The rest of the season simply vanishes from sight very quickly. Once July is over, school and university will beckon again and the overall rhythm of town will be back to “normal” too soon. May all who travel this month have safe journeys. While many of us are away—on vacation, at Council, etc.—construction on our parish’s building projects will proceed.

(continued, see FROM THE RECTOR’S DESK, next page)

As we were going to press, news came that the Supreme Court had narrowly ruled in favor of so called “same-sex marriage.” I say “so called” because no court can redefine what God has instituted, namely that marriage is a sacrament, a mystery, a life-long union of husband and wife representing the mystical union between Christ and His Church. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man put asunder (*Matt. 19:6; Mark 10:9*).

I commend to your reading the statement on marriage and sexuality that was issued by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in 2013. The assembly is made up of all the active Orthodox bishops in this country, of every jurisdiction. (This text appears on page 3.) We will also include links to specific declarations made by our hierarch, Archbishop Melchisedek, and those made by the Holy Synod of Orthodox Church of America at holytrinity-oca.org. — Fr. John

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
July 5	E. Files and D. Patel	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	H. Torbic and R. Patel	Team A
July 12	L. Georgiou and L. Rush	A. Swisher and D. Swisher	M. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team B
July 19	A. Swisher and C. Swisher	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	R. Patel and S. Stevens	Team A
July 26	SUMMER POTLUCK	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	M. Fedkin and B. Haupt	Team B
August 2	E. George and K. Oleynik*	M. Thompson and J. Houser	M. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team A
August 9	P. Doiy and C. Strauss*	A. Swisher and D. Swisher	S. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team B

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

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK
Summer Construction Projects Proceed *(from page 1)*

A few years back, a parishioner remarked that the parish had hoped to start a new church sometime in the future. We just didn't know that it would be over 50 miles away in Snyder County. But God is gracious.

On Sunday, June 28, the next step was taken to establish our mission there by breaking ground and blessing the foundation stone for the **Chapel of the Holy Spirit** in Beavertown. A large contingent from State College attended.

With all the requisite permits now in hand, construction will begin in earnest on July 6. Since this is a 180-day project, it just might be possible to be in the building by Christmas. That is something to pray for. And what a Christmas present that will make, not for ourselves but for Christ and for all whom He will call to salvation in that place.

Many thanks, as well, to all those who contributed to the Chapel Building Fund Appeal during the month

Also from Father's Desk...

➤ **Vacation Bible School Shout Out:** *Many thanks to Deacon Mark, Matushka Kelly, and all the VBS gang who helped direct, teach, and feed the kiddoes at this year's "Armor of God" Vacation Bible School. (In all there were ten middle/high school helpers and eight adult teachers)*

Some of my fondest memories as a child were those spent at VBS from the mid '50s and into the early '60s. I hope that proves to be the same for our children at Holy Trinity as well.

➤ **Your Prayers** are especially requested for **Juris** and **Marie Draguns** who were injured in a freak car accident en route to church a few Sundays back. They are recuperating in the Anthony Wing of Foxdale Village.

of June. A total of \$2,305 was donated and greatly appreciated by the Chapel faithful.

In mid-June our other building project got off the ground when remodeling began on **Trinity House** next door. Everything is on schedule to complete by the end of summer. A grand opening is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 22 to coincide with move-in day. ■

Choir to Host Clinic for All Singers

Dr. Nicholas Reeves is planning to conduct a choir clinic and workshop on July 24-25 at Holy Trinity, with separate sessions for male and female voices, a combined rehearsal, and then joint singing of the services on Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26. Lunch will be served on Saturday for participants. Dr. Reeves will focus on technique, blending, pitch, singing from text, as well as 2-, 3-, 4- part harmony (among other things). He will also be available to do private coaching sessions, if desired. For more information and to RSVP for the clinic, please email Bob Roberts at choir@holytrinity-oca.org.

Women's Summer Picnic!

On Thursday, July 16 from 6-8 p.m., there will be a picnic for all the ladies of the parish at the home of Leslyn Radomsky (1336 Ridge Master Drive in State College). Bring a main or side dish; drinks and desserts will be provided. For more information, call Mka. Linda at (814) 777-6870.

Altar Servers Baseball Outing

Current and prospective altar servers (boys 8 and up) are invited to a free night at the ballpark on July 28 as the Spikes take on Vermont. We'll meet at the gate at 6:45 p.m. and enter Lubrano Park together. Play ball!

Kids Put on the Armor of God to Win Against Sin

Last month, two dozen children aged 4-14 enjoyed an exciting week of Vacation Bible School (VBS). Through daily discussions, songs, and activities, they learned how to combat and defend against spiritual warfare as described in St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews. By week's end, they realized that, with the help of their families, they have tools given to them by Christ to handle the everyday battles we all face.



View more photos from Vacation Bible School at holytrinity-oca.org!

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Parents: Don't Do These Things!

by Joel J. Miller

If you're looking for a gauge to measure how un-Christlike you are, try raising kids. At least that works pretty well for me. In *The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis speaks of "the bad manners of parents to children." Ahem. Guilty...

Exasperating our Kids

When preaching through Paul's marriage advice, pastors often make the comment that Paul has to instruct husbands to love and wives to respect because if they're prone to going off the rails, it'll be in those directions: men lacking kindness and wives losing respect.

Apply the same thinking to Paul's instruction to fathers. Twice he says, "Fathers, do not provoke your children." In his letter to the Colossians he adds, "lest they become discouraged" (3:21), and he warns the Ephesians about provoking children "to anger" (6:4). When I go wrong with my boys, that's exactly the direction I head: I drive them to discouragement and frustration... As dads, [we're] prone to exasperating [our] kids. Don't.

I have been reading Elder Porphyrios' advice about parenting in the book *Wounded by Love*. It slays me. "[P]arents need to devote themselves to the love of God," he says. "They need to become saints in relation to their children through their mildness, patience, and love. They need to make a new start every day, with a fresh outlook, renewed enthusiasm and love for their children."

Do I really do that—or do I build a file on my children, one that tallies sins more than it forgives them? Children's behavior, says the elder, "is not improved by reprimands, disciplining, or strictness. If the parents do not pursue a life of holiness and if they don't engage in spiritual struggle, they make

Sunday School Fun Day!

The Sunday School will spend a day at DelGrosso's in Tipton (about 25 minutes from State College) on Monday, July 13. There are variety of rides and a water park. See www.delgrossos.com for details.

All student admission tickets to the park will be paid for from our Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale conducted earlier this year. We will also be using the 2-for-1 coupons collected in the past month. Thank you!

All students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian that is to be responsible for their child(ren) at all times. Our group will meet at the entrance at noon and enter the park together. See you there.

great mistakes and transmit the faults they have within them."

A parent must employ "disciplinary measures," admits Porphyrios but adds, "Above all, you need to pray." And it's in reading words like these that I realize how much grace I truly need.

The Answer is Grace

There's a prayer in the Orthodox Church for parents. "O Righteous Judge," it says, "who punishes children for the sins of their parents, punish not my children for my sins, but sprinkle them with the dew of Thy grace..."

I can correct my son all day, but if it's coming from a hard heart, I will only close his. I will, as the apostle warned, drive him to discouragement—or worse. To pray the prayer above is to ask God for mercy in their lives, to relieve the ill effects of my own sins, and instead to "sprinkle them with the dew of [God's] grace." As we say in the litany, "Grant this, O Lord." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is featured on blog.ancientfaith.com and is reprinted here with the author's permission.

■ ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

Assembly of Bishops Marriage Statement

Article I

[We] express our deep concern over recent actions on the part of our respective governments and certain societal trends concerning the status of marriage in our countries, in particular the legalization of same-sex unions.

Article II

The Orthodox Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality, firmly grounded in Holy Scripture, two millennia of Church Tradition, and Canon Law, holds that the sacrament of marriage consists in the union of a man and a woman, and that authentic marriage reflects the sacred unity that exists between Christ and His Bride, the Church.

Article III

Persons with homosexual orientation are to be cared for with the same mercy and love that is bestowed on all of humanity by our Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover, the Church is a spiritual hospital, where we all are called to find the healing of our fallen humanity through Jesus Christ, who assumed human nature in order to restore it. All of us struggle with various passions, and it is only within the Church that we find the means of overcoming these passions with the assistance of God's grace. Acting upon any sexual attraction outside of sacramental marriage, whether the attraction is heterosexual or homosexual, alienates us from God.

Article IV

We exhort the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church to bear witness to the timeless teachings of Christ by striving for purity and holiness in their own lives, by instructing their families and communities in the precepts of the Holy Gospel, and by placing their trust in our Lord, who "has overcome the world." (*John 16:33*)

Article V

Finally, we encourage our faithful to approach their parish priest or spiritual father with any questions or concerns about this statement and its practical repercussions in their daily lives. ■

Four Quick Reasons Why Cohabitation is a Bad Idea

1. No blessings from God. *The Bible considers [cohabitation] the opposite of a legitimate marriage. A legitimate marriage consists of a union between a man and woman who have made a covenant and commitment. [Cohabitation] involves neither. Marriage was a union created by God and is a union God blesses.*

2. Your relationship will probably end. *An article on examiner.com states that 80% of [cohabiting] relationships end before marriage or in divorce after marriage. So, it is 80/20 against you getting married or staying married to that person. One reason is because there is not a commitment... A relationship without commitment will not last, and marriage is the biggest commitment you can make in life.*

3. Your children will be negatively affected. *To the parents who have children, your kids are three times as likely to be expelled from school or get pregnant, five times more likely to live in poverty, and 22 times more likely to be incarcerated—all because you choose to live with someone you're not married to.*

4. It makes you lazy. *Once dating ends, the relationship changes. Living together removes the "being your best" part of your relationship. Kind of like most job interviews—you wore the suit to the interview, but once hired, you show up in khakis and a polo. And if you're living with a woman and getting some of the "benefits" of marriage—sex, having someone to help around the house, sharing the bills—you can also get lazy about taking the next step in your relationship.*

— allprodad.com

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 Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Chapel of the Holy Spirit Groundbreaking Ceremony and Light Lunch, 12:15pm @ 145 N. Kern St., Beavertown Great Vespers, 7pm	29 HOLY APOSTLES SS. PETER AND PAUL Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am)	30	July 1 (No Vespers)	2 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (R.O.C.K.) "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ Spring Creek Park, Houseville	3	4 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
5 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	6	7 Parish Council Meeting, 6pm	8 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	9 Raising Orthodox Christ- ian Kids "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ Tusseyview Park, State College	10	11 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
12 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	13 Sunday School Fun Day, 12pm-7pm @ DelGrosso Amusement Park, Tipton	14 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am-1pm Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.	15 St. Vladimir, Great Prince Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Combined Orthodox Youth Assoc. (OYA) and Jr. OYA (gr. 5-12) Mini Golf Night, 6:15pm-9pm	16 R.O.C.K. "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ Holmes-Foster Park Women's Picnic, 6pm-8pm @ 1336 Ridge Master Dr., State College (Leslyn Radomsky's Home)	17	18 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
19 Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	20 Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah 18 TH ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL: "HOW TO EXPAND THE MISSION" (thru. 7/24) @ Atlanta, GA	21	22 (No Vespers)	23 Raising Orthodox Christ- ian Kids "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ Haymarket Park, Ferguson Township	24 Choir Clinic with Dr. Nicholas Reeves— Session I, 7pm-9pm	25 Choir Clinic—Session II, 10am-12pm Choir Clinic—Lunch, 12pm-1pm Choir Clinic—Session III (Ensemble), 1pm-3pm Great Vespers/Conf. 6pm
26 St. Jacob, Enlightener of Alaska Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	27 Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon	28 Altar Servers' Spikes' Baseball Outing, 7:05pm @ Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, Univ. Park	29 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	30 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (R.O.C.K.) "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ Orchard Park, State College	31	August 1 Procession of the Life-giving Cross Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
2 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	3	4 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am-1pm	5 Great Vespers/ Litiya/ Blessing of Fruit, 7pm	6 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) R.O.C.K. "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ TBD	7	8 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.

Saturday 4 (No Vespers)	Sunday 19 Confessions, 9am Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
Sunday 5 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study: "The Tools of Spiritual Warfare," 12:30pm @ Smith Home (350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown)	Tuesday 21 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home
Tuesday 7 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home (845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs)	Sunday 26 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study, 12:30pm @ Smith Home (350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown)
Sunday 12 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Annual Chapel of the Holy Spirit Picnic, 12pm-3pm @ Spring Twp. Park (across from the MACC)	Tuesday 28 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home
Tuesday 14 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home (845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs)	Saturday August 1 Vespers, 6pm
Saturday 18 Vespers, 6pm	Sunday 2 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study, 12:30pm @ Smith Home (350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown)
	Tuesday 4 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home

July 2015