


THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH



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



Dn. David Smith and Margaret Lyter engage visitors at the Selinsgrove Street Fair (LEFT). Each bottle was labeled with a picture of the new temple, its new address, and contact information (UPPER RIGHT). The church building is scheduled for completion on October 9 (LOWER RIGHT).

Preparing the Soil of our Hearts

Before the Chapel of the Holy Spirit's new temple could begin arising above Beavertown's skyline, the surrounding ground had to be prepared and the foundation laid. Now that the building itself is nearing completion—with occupancy expected this month—Chapel faithful continue to do their part in laying a more important foundation, witnessing the Orthodox Faith in their community.

Since the Chapel began holding services regularly six years ago, we have prayed at every Liturgy "that our Lord would look upon us and the faithful of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, preparing the soil of our hearts so that His seed may grow and produce fruit in abundance, both in us and in Synder community."

Cooperating with God in this vision to see sown seed take root, the Chapel handed out thousands of materials last month, from pens and bottles of water, to pamphlets and Study Bibles at the Beaver Fair and the Selinsgrove Street Festival. This month, the Chapel will sponsor another Family Fun Night on Sunday, October 18 from 5 to 7 p.m., opening up the Middlecreek Area Community Center (MACC) for residents to enjoy. They will also witness Christ's love to passersby at the Beaver Springs Oktoberfest taking place there at the MACC the day before.

As the Chapel prepares to open the doors of its temple to the community, continue to pray that God will build upon the good heart-soil that has been tilled. ■

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
October 4	A. Legaspi and J. Cadman	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky**	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	Team B
October 11	E. Files and D. Patel	S. Pettengill and J. Pettengill	G. Cartell and R. Patel	Team A
October 18	L. Georgiou and L. Rush	M. Thompson and J. Houser	H. Torbic and S. Stevens	Team B
October 25	A. Swisher and C. Swisher	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	M. Fedkin and M. Stevens	Team A
November 1	FALL POTLUCK	A. Swisher and D. Swisher	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team B
November 8	E. George and K. Oleynik	S. Pettengill and J. Pettengill	S. Stevens and G. Cartell	Team A

* Denotes Fast Team A: A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, D. Stuckles, J. Torbic, E. Swisher and J. Swisher. Captains: D. Torbic and S. Oleynik
** Denotes switch/change Team B: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, B. Oleynik, S. Patel, and L. Torbic.

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

October: The Best is Yet to Come

The opening of Trinity House has been postponed for a few weeks because of a number of issues: permits, finishes, and furnishings. Please bear with us. Life's delays teach us patience, if we are willing. We'll enjoy things that much more upon completion. Stay tuned.

Nevertheless, we will welcome His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek to the parish for his annual visitation October 1-4. He will take the opportunity to visit with the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, tour the Chapel and Trinity House, and celebrate the Divine Liturgy with us on Sunday.

In other news, Inquirer's Class will continue every Sunday in October at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, while the Adult Study group meets there on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The Women's Book Study meets every other Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Rectory, 562 Lancashire Lane. For more information about these groups, visit our website, holytrinity-oca.org, or call the Parish Office, (814) 231-2855.

Sunday School has commenced once again with a record potential enrollment of 45 students. Many thanks to Deacon Mark and all the Sunday School teachers for their time, their dedication, and especially their prayers on behalf of our children: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and he will not depart from it when he is old" (Proverbs 22:6).

In addition to the commemoration of St. Demetrius of Thessaloniki on October 26, the Saturday preceding the feast is always a Soul Saturday, a time to remember the departed in Christ. I recently ran across a quote from Fr. Dr. Stelios Muksuris' talk at the 2013 International Conference on Liturgical Renewal in Boston and wanted to share it, especially because of all the superstitious practices associated with the end of October in our culture:

Those fallen asleep, like the saints who are glorified, remain full members of the sacramental Church and so continue to offer the worship due to God together with the living, albeit in a different phase of their existence. This unity was first conveyed by the ancient catacombs where Christians gathered for the Eucharist and later on up to our own day, by the cemeteries that surround local parish churches.

Make sure you commemorate your departed loved ones by leaving their names on the commemoration slips in the narthex when attending Divine Liturgy on St. Demetrius Soul Saturday, October 24, at 9 a.m. (The non-Orthodox should be clearly marked with an asterisk [*].)

Finally, note that the annual meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8, following the Divine Liturgy. Nominations are currently being accepted for the Council offices of Treasurer, Secretary, and Building Chair. Since no motions may be made from the floor, please submit any proposed motions to the Council by its October meeting for consideration.

From the Rector's Desk,
Fr. John

Holy Day this Month



Great-martyr Demetrius, the Myrrhgusher of Thessaloniki

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Vespers: Friday, Oct. 23, 7pm
Liturgy: Saturday, Oct. 24, 9am
(Prophora: L. Reeves)

FESTAL SERVICES

Vespers: Sunday, Oct. 25, 7pm
Liturgy: Monday, Oct. 26, 8am
(Prophora: L. Reeves)

On Recognizing Good and Evil

"The right direction leads not only to peace but to knowledge. When a man is getting better he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse he

understands his own badness less and less. A moderately bad man knows he is not very good: a thoroughly bad man thinks he is all right. This is common sense, really. You understand sleep when you are awake, not while you are sleeping. You can see mistakes in arithmetic when your mind is working

properly: while you are making them you cannot see them. You can understand the nature of drunkenness when you are sober, not when you are drunk. Good people know about both good and evil: bad people do not know about either.

— C.S. Lewis

■ NEWS AND NOTES

Analysis: Proliferation of Pornography a Crisis for the Church, Culture

[In a recent study,] Barna found that 64 percent of American men and 20 percent of women view pornography at least monthly. And for Christian men, that number is 55 percent. [Fifteen] years ago, only one out of every three men had ever gone to a pornography site, but now nearly one-third of men under 30 do so on a daily basis. And if you think it can't get worse, the survey found that 18 percent of men believe they may be addicted to pornography. That's more than 20 million men in deep trouble...

One of the first things to realize is that rampant pornography use can't be isolated from its larger cultural context. So many of our social ills stem from the fact that society is losing or abandoning the ability to see people as beings made in the image of God. With crime, victims are treated as obstacles to overcome or things to exploit. Abortion sees people as disposable because he or she is inconvenient. Pornography treats people as objects in service of self-gratification. We've become this "use or be used" society.

And so, if we are to reclaim the sacred dignity of every human person amidst this brutish culture, we must turn inward—we can no longer stand in the front of the church patting ourselves on the back for not being like those sexual sinners out there. Instead, together we can lower our face before God and say, "Have mercy on me, a sinner..."

[B]y praying and seeking spiritual renewal in our Church, we have an incredible opportunity to reach out with the Good News of Jesus Christ to the hidden, the lost, and the ashamed. And right now, there are plenty of folks—millions even—waiting along the highways and byways for an invitation to the wedding feast of the Lamb. And invite them we must.

— John Stonestreet, breakpoint.org

Registration Open for Real Break, College Conference

The national Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) has announced that it will hold its annual College Conference at Antiochian Village on December 28-31 and will sponsor eight "Real Break" opportunities in 2016. The keynote speaker for the conference is Sr. Vassa Larin, host of the popular self-titled video blog; the three trips that will take place during Penn State's Spring Break (March 4-12) are Romania, Jerusalem, and New Orleans. Financial assistance is available. For information or to register, visit ocf.net.

Plan Your 2016 Summer at Project Mexico

Due to the increased interest in their home building ministry, Project Mexico has expanded the number of slots for the 2016 season. Applicants can choose from one of eight weeklong trips departing in March, June, July, or August. Registration opens on October 15 on a first-come, first-served basis; a non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due by December 1. Trip sizes range from 25 to 125 people. For more information or to register, visit projectmexico.org.

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

Five Indicators of an Evil Heart

by Leslie Vernick

One of the reasons we don't "see" evil is because we find it so difficult to believe that evil individuals actually exist. We can't imagine someone deceiving us with no conscience, hurting others with no remorse, spinning outrageous fabrications to ruin someone's reputation, or pretending he or she is spiritually committed yet has no fear of God before his or her eyes.

The Bible clearly tells us that among God's people there are wolves that wear sheep's clothing. It's true that every human heart is inclined toward sin, and that includes evil. We all miss God's mark of moral perfection. However, most ordinary sinners do not happily indulge evil urges, nor do we feel good about having them. We feel ashamed and guilty, rightly so. These things are not true of the evil heart.

Below are five indicators that you may be dealing with an evil heart rather than an ordinary sinful [one] ...

- **Evil hearts are experts at creating confusion and contention.** *They twist the facts, mislead, lie, avoid taking responsibility, deny reality, make up stories, and withhold information.*
- **Evil hearts are experts at fooling others with their smooth speech and flattering words.** *But if you look at the fruit of their lives or the follow through of their words, you will find no real evidence of godly growth or change. It's all smoke and mirrors.*
- **Evil hearts crave and demand control, and their highest authority is their own self-reference.** *They reject feedback, real accountability, and make up their own rules to live by. They use Scripture to their own advantage but ignore and reject passages that might require self-correction and repentance.*
- **Evil hearts play on the sympathies of good-willed people, often trumping the grace card.** *They demand mercy but give none themselves. They demand warmth, forgiveness, and intimacy from those they have*

harmed with no empathy for the pain they have caused and no real intention of making amends or working hard to rebuild broken trust.

- **Evil hearts have no conscience, no remorse.** *They do not struggle against sin or evil—they delight in it—all the while masquerading as someone of noble character... the longer you try to reason with them or show mercy towards them, the more you, as the Christian counselor, will become a pawn in his or her game.*

They want you to believe that:

- **Their horrible actions should have no serious or painful consequences...** *They believe grace means they are immediately granted immunity from the relational fallout of their serious sin. They believe forgiveness entitles them to full reconciliation and will pressure you and their victim to comply... When someone is truly sorry for the pain they have caused, he or she is eager to make amends to those they have harmed by their sin (see Zacchaeus' response when he repented of his greed in Luke 19)...*
- **If [they] talk like a [Christian they are], even if [their] actions don't line up with [their] talk.** *Remember, Satan masquerades as an angel of light. He knows more true doctrine than you or I will ever know, but his heart is wicked. Why? Because although he knows the truth, he does not believe it or live it. The Bible has some strong words for those whose actions do not match their talk. St. John the Baptist said it best when he admonished the religious leaders, "Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God" (Luke 3:8)...*

When you confront evil, chances are good that the evil heart will [depart from] you because the darkness hates the light... But that outcome is far better than allowing the evil heart to believe you are on his or her side, or that "he's not that bad" or "that he's really sorry" or "that he's changing" when, in fact, he is not. ■

Volunteer to Help Homeless

Our church has partnered with Housing Transitions, a non-profit organization that provides housing, food, clothes and various other services to the people in need in Centre County. Every second Tuesday of the month individuals or families from our church visit the residents (217 E. Nittany Avenue, State College), cook and eat dinner with them. It is a great experience to share family-like time with the residents, and, if you have a family, it is also a great learning experience for the kids. We are currently seeking volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please contact Samar Al Maalouf (samarmaalouf@gmail.com).

Peaceful Demonstration for Life

This year's Life Chain Sunday will be held Sunday, October 4, from 2 to 3 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.

Caution: Children Crossing Soon!

When Trinity House is complete, the Sunday School will shift most of its classes next door. In order to protect our children's safety while crossing between class and the church, the driveway will be blocked off on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon once the Borough grants occupancy. Please enter and exit the parking lot by means of the rear entrance at that time.

Changes Coming to the Library

The library will soon move to its own dedicated space in Trinity House's conference room, and expand. We will send out a survey this month to get your input as to what types of books you would like available to read, and which books you have found helpful in your own journey of faith. In the meantime, feel free to talk to Anna Stickle, the librarian, if you are looking for something in particular, or browse the database online at holytrinity-oca.org/lending-library. You can sort by category or use the new simple search feature. To check out a book, or for more information, use the online forms, or talk to Anna.



Living Witnesses to Christ

Members of our Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship joined more than a hundred student pilgrims on retreat to St. George Church in Taylor, Penna., which is the home of a miraculous myrrh-streaming icon of the Mother of God. There they prayed, enjoyed fellowship, and heard presentations on iconography and modern martyrdom from Frs. Mark Leasure and Andrew Damick. Our OCF students will remain busy this month, traveling to the woods of northern Pennsylvania on an overnight camping trip October 16-17, and then to York the following weekend to raise money for THON. You can follow the students by "liking" them at [facebook.com/psuocf](https://www.facebook.com/psuocf). ■

Women: Save the Date!

Coming in November: the annual Women's Coffee and Tea, sponsored by the Matushki of the church. The event will take place Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Rectory (562 Lanceshire Ln., in Park Forest). Ladies, RSVP at any time to Mka. Linda: 861-8020 or women@holytrinity-oca.org.

Young Adults to Kick Off Fall

The Young Adult group will meet at the Leathers' residence (4817 W. Whitehall Rd.) for dinner and games around an open fire beginning at 6 p.m. on Monday, October 12. The main dish and drinks will be provided; bring a side dish or dessert. RSVPs to youngadults@holytrinity-oca.org are appreciated.

For the Record

BIRTH

- **Sasha Stevens, daughter of Shane and Maria Stevens, born September 8, measuring 8 lbs., and 21 inches long. Many years!**

Holy Trinity Calendar

All events take place at 119 South Sparks Street in State College, unless where noted.
Events listed at **Trinity House** take place at 123 South Sparks Street, in State College.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am All-Parents Session with Dn. Mark, 12pm	28	29 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am Adult Study Group: "Everyday Saints", 7pm	30 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	October 1 Protection of the Theotokos Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	2	3 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
4 Sunday School, 9am Matins with Episcopal Greeting, 9am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 10am Life Chain Sunday, 1:45pm-3pm @ 900 W. College Ave. Inquirer's Class, 6:30pm	5 Annual Women's Night Out, 6pm-8pm @ Hoss's Steak and Sea House, 1450 N. Atherton St.	6 St. Innocent of Alaska Adult Study Group: "Everyday Saints", 7pm	7 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	8 Women's Book Study: <i>Pearl of Great Price</i> , 10am @ Rectory (562 Lancashire Ln.) Penn State OCF: Dinner and Game Night, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Ctr.	9 St. Tikhon, Enlightener of North America	10 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
11 Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Archdiocesan Youth/Family Bonfire, 4pm @ 8461 Peters Rd., Cranberry Twp. (Archdiocesan Ctr.)	12 Young Adult Fall Kickoff/Cookout, 6pm @ 4817 W. Whitehall Rd., Pennsylvania Furnace (Leathers' Home)	13 Clergy Meeting, 11:45am Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave. Parish Council Meeting, 5:30pm Adult Study Group, 7pm	14 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	15 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	16 Penn State OCF: Fall Cabin Retreat departs, 5pm (returns Saturday, 4pm)	17 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 5:15pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
18 Apostle and Evangelist Luke Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parents' Session, 12am Combined Orthodox Youth Assoc. (gr. 5-12) Corn Maze Trip, 3pm Inquirer's Class, 6:30pm	19	20 Adult Study Group: "Everyday Saints", 7pm	21 Great Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	22 Women's Book Study: <i>Pearl of Great Price</i> , 10am @ Rectory Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	23 Holy Apostle James Penn State OCF: THON Canning Trip departs, 5pm (returns Sunday, 4pm)	24 Memorial Saturday— St. Demetrius Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
25 Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Inquirer's Class, 6:30pm	26 St. Demetrios the Myrrhgusher Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am)	27 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am-1pm Adult Study Group: "Everyday Saints", 7pm	28 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	29 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	30	31 St. John (Kochurov) of Chicago Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
November 1 Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fall Potluck, 12pm	2	3 <u>Election Day</u> (Parish Offices Closed, No Adult Study Group)	4 Vespers, 5:30pm (No Confessions)	5 (No Women's Book Study) Penn State OCF: Dinner and Prayer Night, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	6	7 Archdiocesan Assembly (all day) @ Philipsburg (Our delegation to depart at 7:45am from HTOC.) 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.

Tuesday 6 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home (845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs)	Sunday 25 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am @ TBD
Sunday 11 Confessions, 9am Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am	Book Study, 12:30pm @ Smith Home
Tuesday 27 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home	Tuesday 27 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home
Tuesday 13 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home (845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs)	Saturday 31 Vespers, 6pm @ TBD
Saturday 17 Beaver Springs Oktoberfest Outreach, all day @ the MACC. (The Chapel is sponsoring a table.) Vespers, 6pm	Sunday Nov. 1 Confessions, 9am @ TBD Hours, 9:40am @ TBD Divine Liturgy, 10am @ TBD
Sunday 18 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study, 12:30pm @ Smith Home (350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown) Chapel Family Fun Night, 5-7pm @ the MACC	Tuesday 3 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home
Tuesday 20 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home (845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs)	Sunday 11 (Matins/Divine Liturgy, 9am @ Holy Trinity) Parish Annual Meeting, 12pm @ Holy Trinity
Please Note: We anticipate a transition to our new location on 145 North Kern Street in Beavertown this month. Please check holyspirit-oca.org or call (570) 541-8895 for locations.	

October 2015