

# THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH



## Chapel's Grand Opening to Take Place this Weekend

You are invited to join members of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit for their official grand opening this upcoming weekend.

On Saturday, October 31 at 4 p.m., there will be a brief door opening ceremony and Great Vespers. An informal time for refreshments and fellowship will follow the services. (To allow as many as possible to participate, Great Vespers will be canceled at Holy Trinity that evening.)

Then on Sunday, November 1 at 10 a.m., the new chapel's first Divine Liturgy will be celebrated. Plan to be a part of history and to stay for the time of food and fellowship that follows.

Holy Trinity is organizing rides for those who wish to carpool to either event. To request transportation, email [info@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:info@holytrinity-oca.org) or call (814) 321-4473.

For those driving on their own from State College, the easiest (less scenic) route is to take U.S. 322 East to U.S. 522 North in Lewistown and then turn left on N. Kern St. in Beavertown. Visit the Chapel's website, [holyspirit-oca.org](http://holyspirit-oca.org), for door-to-door directions. ■

## 2015 Annual Report

by Fr. John Reeves

LET'S LOOK OVER THE PAST YEAR: It goes without saying that Opening the Doors for worship of our new Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Beavertown on October 31 takes the spotlight. After much hard work, prayer, and perseverance, that such a beautiful building is now "up and running" is a joy to behold.

Running a close second is the much anticipated completion of the Trinity House next to the church. Engaging in one project can be challenging, but our

parish has had two racing in tandem toward the finish line. It hasn't been a tie but it has been close.

Trinity House's original opening set for October was postponed because of red tape with certain overseeing agencies. So, it pays to be cautious about setting another "opening day" event. Though, as soon as we have the green light to occupy the building, we will go and pray there and open those doors, too. The opportunities for more ministry abound.

*(continued, see 2015 ANNUAL REPORT, page 2)*

**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
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## Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
November 1	FALL POTLUCK	A. Swisher and D. Swisher	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team B
November 8	E. George and K. Oleynik	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	S. Stevens and G. Cartell	Team A
November 15	P. Doiy and C. Strauss*	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	M. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team B
November 22	A. Petrick and L. Radomsky*	M. Thompson and J. Houser**	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	Team A
November 29	B. & N. Troyan and A. Stickle*	J. Petengill and S. Petengill**	G. Cartell and R. Patel	Team B
December 6	Russian Ladies*	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	H. Torbic and S. Stevens	Team A

\* Denotes Fast  
\*\* Denotes switch/change

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

# 2015 Annual Report (continued from page 1)

One key to ministry is always the funding necessary for ministry. In the Scriptures, we read about Christ's ministry being supported, in large part it is believed, by a number of pious women from Galilee whom Jesus had healed: Joanna, Susanna, Mary Magdalene, and many others. They followed Christ and ministered to Him "of their substance," that is of their personal wealth (cf. *Luke 8:1-3*).

In other words, the women's gratitude was expressed not merely in words but in wealth. They just didn't say "thank you." They put their money where their mouths were. In time these women would be known to us as the Holy Myrrhbearers, those who stood before Him at the Cross, who prepared Jesus' body for burial, and who first heard the glad tidings of the Resurrection from the Angel.

They gave both so Christ could minister to others as He had to them, and ultimately they ministered directly to Christ, buying burial ointment and anointing his Body. In fact, it would be precisely because they were busy about their ministry that they would be shown worthy of first hearing the Good News that Christ was risen from the dead.

Through the generosity of many, both the Chapel construction and Trinity House renovation has been made possible. Contributions above giving enabled the Chapel to be built with the Archdiocese loaning the balance: \$115,000 from the Chapel and \$75,000 from the Archdiocese. Likewise, building fund donations and pledges have accounted for almost \$200,000 for Trinity House.

This being said, these buildings are not ministry. They only provide a location, a shelter, a roof. We could rest and be satisfied, but in time we would only have pretty buildings to show for it.

## Meeting Information

*Holy Trinity will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 8 following the Divine Liturgy. Nominations are open for Council positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Facilities Chair. All agenda items must be submitted in writing to the Parish Council for review. **Nothing will be considered from the floor.***

*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 2014 Meeting
- iv. Priest's Report
- v. Treasurer's Report
- vi. Review and Approval of the 2016 Budget (*HOC, see page 3; CHS, see last page*)
- vii. Election of Officers
- viii. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..."

For this coming year, let's look at the example of the Myrrhbearing Women and ask ourselves three questions whether or not our attitude towards giving to Christ's ministry mirrors theirs.

➤ **First, do we give generously?** *The Scriptural measure of generous giving didn't begin until after the required 10% of income was given. In fact, in the Bible this amount, the tithe, was not considered an offering. An offering only began after the tithe was first paid. I would suggest that here is where generous giving begins for us, too. The Women gave of their substance, that is, their principal, their capital. — If we talk about after-tax income, the Myrrhbearers were engaged in after-tithe generosity.*

## Thanksgiving = Thanks + Giving

We know that Thanksgiving is a time to say "Thanks" to God for His many mercies. However, Christ has made it clear that an important way to say thanks is by giving: giving to Him through those who are in need. **Matthew 25** ministry will soon begin the annual Thanksgiving food drive to help needy families in our community. Watch for messages in the weekly bulletin, announcements after Liturgy, and sign up sheets in the Narthex for how you can give thanks by giving this Thanksgiving season.

## Women's Ministry News

Thank you to everyone who came to the "Ladies Night Out" at Hoss's last month. We had a lovely time of fellowship. We also revealed the winner of our vote and have chosen St. Elizabeth the New Martyr as the patron saint of the Women's Ministry. As a reminder, the annual **Women's Coffee and Tea**, sponsored by the Matushki of the church, will take place Saturday, November 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Rectory (562 Lancashire Ln., in Park Forest). RSVP to 861-8020 or [women@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:women@holytrinity-oca.org).

## Draft Chapel Budget Presented

At the October Parish Council Meeting, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit presented a draft budget for 2016. Actual figures for 2015 and a detailed year-to-year comparison will be available in the 2015 Annual Report and voted upon at the annual meeting. Questions? Contact [dndavid@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:dndavid@holytrinity-oca.org).

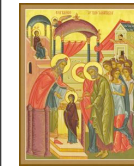
CATEGORY	2016 PROPOSED
<b>CHAPEL EXPENSES</b>	
Personnel	\$7,700
Mortgage <sup>1</sup>	3,000
Office Administration	2,400
Utilities	2,400
Outreach	1,800
Insurance	1,000
Snow Removal	—
Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments <sup>2</sup>	—
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,300</b>

1 The Chapel mortgage balance as of September 30, 2015 was \$75,000.  
2 Holy Trinity subsidizes Archdiocesan/OCA assessments for parishioners who regularly attend the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

## Holy Days this Month



**Synaxis of the Archangel Michael**  
*Vespers:* Saturday, Nov. 7, 6pm  
*Matins:* Sunday, Nov. 8, 9am  
*Liturgy:* Sunday, Nov. 8, 10am



**ENTRY OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE**  
*Vespers:* Friday, Nov. 20, 7pm  
*(Litiya Bread: M. Haupt)*  
*Liturgy:* Saturday, Nov. 21, 9am  
*(Prospora: L. Reeves)*

## ■ NEWS AND NOTES

### Miraculous Icon to Visit Archdiocese this Month

The miraculous myrrhstreaming icon that some of our OCF students witnessed in September is coming to our Archdiocese this month. You can venerate it at St. Nicholas Church (ACROD) in Homestead (near Pittsburgh) on Friday, November 6 at 6 p.m.

### Run in Annual Charity Race

Holy Trinity's partner ministry, Housing Transitions invites you to "Run for Shelter!" The 5K run/walk will take place on Saturday, November 7 at 9 a.m., and begin and end at Centre House. All proceeds will benefit the homeless shelter. Forms and additional details are available to those who contact Samar Al Maalouf at [samaralmaalouf@gmail.com](mailto:samaralmaalouf@gmail.com).

### Join a Mission Team in 2016

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL [*via ocmc.org*] — Join one of the teams that will be serving in Alaska, Albania, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, and Uganda. Spend two weeks volunteering at a youth camp, teaching the faith, empowering Orthodox women, restoring a church, or providing healthcare. Anyone older than 18 can serve! Visit [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org), e-mail [teams@ocmc.org](mailto:teams@ocmc.org), or call (877) 463-6784 to volunteer.

# What a Normal Orthodox Christian Does

by Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick

The normal Orthodox Christian—who is living according to the norms of the Orthodox faith—will be doing the following (this list is not exhaustive, not in order of priority, and not to be confused with what the “average” Orthodox does):

1. **Participating in church services as often as possible.**

*Attendance at every Sunday morning liturgy is a minimal baseline for worship life—in most cases, it is not enough. And participation doesn't just mean attendance, but engagement, whether silently and attentively, singing along, making the Sign of the Cross, etc.*

2. **Prayer at home every day.**

*Ideally, at least morning and evening prayer, as well as prayer over meals. It is especially important for husbands and wives to pray together regularly and for parents to pray with their children. This will include reading Scripture, too, especially Scripture that is prayer, such as the Psalms.*

3. **Receiving the sacraments.**

*This isn't just communion and confession, but also holy unction (when sick), marriage (in the Church, not outside!), baptism and chrismation (for you and your children), and even considering whether you or one of the men of your family should think about ordination.*

4. **Avoiding immorality.** *What we do with our bodies, minds and words has an effect on our salvation. Use them for good, not for evil. Seek to serve rather than to be served.*

5. **Fasting according to Church tradition.**

*Your father-confessor will help to apply the fasting traditions of the Church for you and your family. We fast on most Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as during the four major fasting seasons (Great Lent, the Apostles Fast, the Dormition Fast and the Nativity Fast).*

6. **Confession.**

*[This sacrament] is critical to our repentance. We should go... whenever there is a need, especially a sin that disrupts your peace.*

7. **Getting spiritual advice.**

*This often happens in confession, but your father-confessor is there for you at other times, too. He's a resource you should utilize frequently.*

8. **Tithing.**

*Giving 10% of your income back to God (it is His gift to you!) is a Biblical standard that Orthodox Christians should embrace. If you're not ready for 10% yet, choose another percentage and be disciplined about it, working toward 10%. If you're able to give more than 10%, do so... Giving our money to God in worship (not because we need to meet a budget) is one part of what it means to give Him everything about ourselves so that it can be healed.*

*(Is tithing Orthodox? Yes! It's mentioned in the Fathers many times, but here's the kicker—the Fathers usually say that Christians should exceed the tithe expected by the Old Covenant.)*

9. **Almsgiving.**

*This is directly aiding someone in need. It might be monetary, but it also might be with your labor, your encouragement, or your attitude.*

10. **Education.**

*We seek a deeper understanding of our faith not only so that we can know what our piety means but so that we give even our minds to God for His healing and transformation. Our whole intellect should be engaged in Christ—whether through spiritual reading, classes or some other form of education...*

11. **Sharing the faith.**

*If you're grateful for the salvation God has given you, you will want to share it with others.*

12. **Going on pilgrimage.**

*It's a journey with a holy purpose. [D]estinations include monasteries and important shrines. ■*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Fr. Damick is the pastor of St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church in Emmaus, PA. He has authored several books and blog articles, including this one from “Roads to Emmaus,” which is accessible by visiting [blogs.ancientfaith.com](http://blogs.ancientfaith.com).

➤ **Second, do we give cheerfully?** *The Scriptures also teach that God loves a cheerful giver: not grudgingly, but joyfully. In fact, the Greek word for this type of giving is “hilarious.” That's right, giving hilariously. This Greek word is related to the word for the sun “ilios” (ήλιος). Just as sunlight shines forth naturally from the sun, God wants our giving to well forth from us naturally without compulsion (cf. 2 Cor. 9:7). — The Myrrhbearers gave hilariously, all the way to the Cross, the Tomb and the Resurrection on the Third Day.*

➤ **Third, do we give lovingly?** *It has been said that we can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving. Jesus sums it up best when He said: “God so loved the world, that He gave his only-begotten Son, that all who believe on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16). — The Women knew this well. Jesus never asked them for a thing. He simply loved them, healed them and said, “Follow me.” They responded to His love by loving him in return.*

For our parish, there is no difference. We are asked to give to the work of ministry, out of our substance, in gratitude for all that Christ has done in our lives. It is not a question of paying the bills, although bills always have to be paid. Rather it is a concrete act of worship when we follow Christ, to give of our substance. It is an expression that our lives have been healed, our infirmities cured, our demons cast out, such that all we can do is lavish our love on Christ's Body, his Church.

When we look at the blessings of this parish, its facilities, its people, its ministries, let's embrace the opportunity to follow Christ, giving like Myrrh-bearing Women this coming year: generously, cheerfully, lovingly. The opportunities for more ministry abound, not building more buildings but building up souls for the Kingdom of Heaven. ■

From the Rector's Desk,  
*Fr. John*

CATEGORY	2015 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2015 BUDGET	2016 PROPOSED	% CHG.	FOOTNOTES	
<b>HOLY TRINITY INCOME</b>						
Stewardship Offerings <sup>2</sup>	\$154,971	\$239,284	\$250,494	4.7%	1 through Sept. 30, 2015. 2 now includes the income for the former Deacon Support, OCF, and Mission appeals. 3 for budgeting/cash flow purposes, includes both the interest expense and funds going toward principal. The mortgage balance as of Sept. 30 was \$437,310. 4 now includes Coffee Hour (which was formally its own category). 5 indicates the parish's annual contribution to the Property Reserve Fund. The balance as of Sept. 30 was \$10,756. 6 indicates the parish's annual contribution to the Rector's (\$1,000) and Ministry Director's (\$500) discretionary funds. 7 increase reflects additional charges pertaining to new PA background check law. 8 indicates the parish's annual contribution to the Sobor Fund. The balance as of Sept. 30, 2015 was \$383.	
Parking	4,987	4,500	6,000	33.3%		
Candles	2,243	2,000	2,500	25.0%		
Flowers	475	600	650	8.3%		
Interest Income	19	100	25	-75.0%		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$162,695</b>	<b>\$246,484</b>	<b>\$259,669</b>	<b>5.3%</b>		
<b>HOLY TRINITY EXPENSES</b>						
Personnel	\$104,077	\$144,370	\$148,760	3.0%		
Mortgage <sup>3</sup>	21,429	28,573	28,573	0.0%		
Archdiocese	15,920	21,530	20,486	-4.8%		
Utilities	7,692	10,346	11,550	11.6%		
Outreach and Fellowship <sup>4</sup>	7,298	10,000	10,250	2.5%		
Physical Plant	9,294	7,000	10,200	45.7%		
Liturgical	6,721	4,675	8,275	77.0%		
Office Administration	4,252	5,100	5,600	9.8%		
(Transfer to) Property Reserve Fund <sup>5</sup>	3,750	5,000	5,000	0.0%		
Christian Education	2,532	3,600	3,600	0.0%		
Insurance	2,520	3,020	3,020	0.0%		
(Transfer to) Discretionary Funds <sup>6</sup>	1,080	1,250	1,500	20.0%		
Legal/Professional Fees/Other Charges <sup>7</sup>	1,905	270	1,105	309.3%		
(Transfer to) All-American Council Fund <sup>8</sup>	750	1,000	1,000	0.0%		
Refurnishings	—	750	750	0.0%		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>189,220</b>	<b>\$246,484</b>	<b>\$259,669</b>	<b>5.3%</b>		



# 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
<b>October 25</b> Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Inquirer's Class, 5:30pm Great Vespers, 7pm	<b>26</b> <b>St. Demetrius the Myrrhgusher</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am <i>(Hours, 7:40am)</i>	<b>27</b> Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am-1pm Adult Study Group: "Everyday Saints", 7pm	<b>28</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	<b>29</b> Women's Book Study: <i>Pearl of Great Price (Ch. 8)</i> , 10am @ <i>Rectory</i> Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ <i>122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>St. John (Kochurov) of Chicago</b> Chapel of the Holy Spirit Grand Opening Celebration: Thyranoixia and Great Vespers, 4pm <i>(No Vespers at HTOC)</i>
<b>November 1</b> <b>Ss. Cosmas and Damian</b> <i>(Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am)</i> Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fall Potluck, 12pm	<b>2</b> <i>Matthew 25</i> Thanksgiving Drive Organizational Meeting, 5:30pm	<b>3</b> <b>Election Day</b> <i>(Parish Offices Closed, No Adult Study Group)</i>  OCF Executive Committee Meeting, 5:30pm @ <i>HUB-Robeson Center</i>	<b>4</b> Vespers, 5:30pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>	<b>5</b> <i>(No Women's Book Study)</i> Penn State OCF: Dinner and Prayer Night, 6pm @ <i>122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Archdiocesan Assembly (all day) @ <i>Philipsburg</i> (Our delegation to depart at 7:45am from HTOC.) Housing Transitions 5K, 9am @ <i>217 E. Nittany Ave.</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
<b>8</b> <b>Synaxis of the Archangel Michael</b> Festal Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parish Annual Meeting, 12pm Baptism, 1:30pm	<b>9</b> Young Adult Potluck, 6pm @ <i>4817 W. Whitehall Rd., Pennsylvania Furnace (Leathers' Home)</i>	<b>10</b> Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am-1pm Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.</i> Adult Study Group: "Everyday Saints", 7pm	<b>11</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>12</b> Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ <i>122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</i>	<b>13</b> <b>St. John Chrysostom</b> OCF/THON Canning Trip, 6pm (thru. Sunday, 3pm) @ <i>York, PA</i>	<b>14</b> <b>Apostle Philip</b> Annual Women's Coffee and Tea Social, 10am @ <i>Rectory</i> Vaughn Baptism, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
<b>15</b> <i>Nativity Fast Begins: Omit meat &amp; dairy (all days), and fish (most Mondays through Fridays, and Dec. 20-24).</i> Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Orthodox Youth Association (OYA)/ Jr. OYA Monthly Activities, 6pm	<b>16</b> <b>Apostle and Evangelist Matthew</b>	<b>17</b> Adult Study Group: "Everyday Saints", 7pm	<b>18</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	<b>19</b> Women's Book Study: <i>Pearl of Great Price (Ch. 9)</i> , 10am @ <i>Rectory</i> Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ <i>122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</i>	<b>20</b> Great Vespers with Litiya, 7pm	<b>21</b> <b>ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> Divine Liturgy, 9am Men's Fellowship Brunch, 10:30am S.S. Teacher Mtg., 5:15pm Great Vespers/Conf., 6pm
<b>22</b> Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parents' Session, 12:15pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am-1pm Adult Study Group: "Everyday Saints", 7pm	<b>25</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	<b>26</b> <b>National Day of Thanksgiving</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
<b>29</b> Matins, 9am <i>(No Sunday School)</i> Divine Liturgy, 10am	<b>30</b> <b>Apostle Andrew the First-Called</b>	<b>December 1</b> Adult Study Group: "Everyday Saints", 7pm	<b>2</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	<b>3</b> Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ <i>122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</i>	<b>4</b> Sunday School Dinner, Christmas Caroling, and Cookie Decorating Night, 5:30pm-8:30pm	<b>5</b> Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

# Chapel Calendar

All events take place at the new building (145 North Kern Street) in Beavertown, unless where noted.

Saturday Oct. 31 Grand Opening Celebration: Door Opening Service ( <i>Thyranoixia</i> ) and Great Vespers, 4pm Public Reception with Light Refreshments, 5:30pm	Saturday 14 Vespers, 6pm
<b>Sunday Nov. 1</b> Confessions, 9am Hours, 9:40am First Divine Liturgy in New Church, 10am	<b>Sunday 15</b> Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study: "The Tools of Spiritual Warfare," 12:30pm
Tuesday 3 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Tuesday 17 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Saturday 7 Archdiocesan Assembly (all day) @ <i>Nativity of St. John the Baptist Church, Philipsburg</i> <i>(Great Vespers, 6pm @ Holy Trinity)</i>	<b>Sunday 22</b> Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study: "The Tools of Spiritual Warfare," 12:30pm
<b>Sunday 8</b> Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study: "The Tools of Spiritual Warfare," 12:30pm	Tuesday 24 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Tuesday 10 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	<b>Sunday 29</b> Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study: "The Tools of Spiritual Warfare," 12:30pm
	Tuesday Dec. 1 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm

**November 2015**