

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

New Opportunities for Ministry



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT: Trinity House Ministry Center officially opens January 10. On the lower level are two Sunday School classrooms. The main floor features conference facilities and two offices. The new Fr. Atty Memorial Student Lounge is upstairs.

We're starting January 2016 in a new way, literally: new Sunday School classrooms; new conference facilities, a new student lounge, an expanded bookstore and lending library, plus offices for staff, new to boot as well. Yes, we finally have that seemingly elusive occupancy permit for Trinity House, and it will be all ready to go when Sunday School resumes on January 10. There's still some furnishings to be delivered, but it's quite a lovely place that makes a great impression on anyone visiting Holy Trinity throughout the week.

Our energies have been focused on beautifying the temple since we remodeled it nine years ago. But Trinity House is quite an upgrade in and of itself. For me personally it means my office—all three offices, in fact—is above ground level. (I forgot the

positive effect of natural lighting having officed in the basement for the last 20 years! What a difference it makes.) With more than 2,500 square feet of additional ministry space next door, many others in the parish and community will benefit as well.

Speaking of making a difference, there is much more room for fellowship in the Parish Hall, since we have been able to repurpose the former offices in the basement. My old office is now the **Kindergarten and Pre-K classroom, which doubles as a nursery** for moms during services. (Parents do need to stay with their children whenever using the space.)

Finally, the **Bookstore** is now where Laura's office was, with plenty of room for browsing and chatting.

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

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
119 S. Sparks Street
State College, PA 16801
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE COLLEGE, PA
PERMIT NO. 289

Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
January 3	D. Van Duin and B. Roberts	M. Thompson and J. Houser	H. Torbic and B. Haupt	Team B
January 10	A. Legaspi and J. Cadman	S. Pettengill and J. Pettengill	M. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team A
January 17	R. Schrauf and D. Patel	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and R. Patel	Team B
January 24	L. Georgiou and L. Rush	A. Swisher and D. Swisher	H. Torbic and S. Stevens	Team A
January 31	A. Swisher and C. Swisher	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	B. Haupt and M. Stevens	Team B
February 7	E. George and K. Oleynik	J. Fedkin and M. Fedkin	G. Cattell and M. Fedkin	Team A
<p>* Denotes Fast Team A: A. Miranda, N. Peltkan, 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.</p>				

Have Your Home Blessed This Month

The entire month of January following Theophany is set aside for home blessings. The process is simple: give your preferences (*first, second, third*, etc.) of the shifts listed below using the form at holyltrinity-oca.org or the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Within 48 hours of placing your request, you will be contacted with confirmation of the exact time of your appointment. Every effort will be made to accommodate your availability and any special needs or requests you may have.

To give as many as possible an opportunity to participate, thirty minutes have been allotted for each blessing. Instead of a meal then, the best way for you to show hospitality is to have your home clean and brightly lit. If possible, have a candle and bowl ready.

Everyone and everything in the home is blessed to bring Christ's sanctification, making each home a small church in essence. As with any Orthodox sacrament, there is absolutely no charge to have your home blessed. Requests can be made by anyone. ■

2016 Home Blessing Schedule

LOCATION	AVAILABLE DATES AND TIMES	
Eastern Centre County (16801,-27,-28,-51) <i>including Downtown State College, State College (South Atherton), Boalsburg, Centre Hall, Houserville, Lemont, and Pine Grove Mills.</i>	Friday, January 8	10am–12pm; 2pm–4pm
	Wednesday, January 13	10am–12pm; 2pm–4pm
	Tuesday, January 19	2pm–4pm; 7pm–9pm
	Thursday, January 21	10am–12pm
	Saturday, January 23	1pm–4pm
Penn State Campus (16802)	Thursday, January 21	7pm–9pm
Western Centre County (16803,-68,-70) <i>including State College (North Atherton), Park Forest, Pine Grove Mills, Port Matilda, and Stormstown.</i>	Saturday, January 9	1pm–4pm
	Tuesday, January 12	2pm–4pm; 7pm–9pm
	Thursday, January 14	10am–12pm
	Friday, January 15	10am–12pm; 2pm–4pm
	Wednesday, January 20	10am–12pm; 2pm–4pm
Northern Centre County (16823,-53) <i>including Bellefonte, Milesburg, and Zion.</i>	Thursday, January 14	7pm–9pm
	Saturday, January 16	1pm–4pm
	Tuesday, January 26	2pm–4pm; 7pm–9pm
Snyder County (178xx)	Sunday, January 17	1pm–4pm
Other Locations/Make-ups	Wednesday, January 27	10am–12pm; 2pm–4pm
	Thursday, January 28	10am–12pm; 7pm–9pm
	Friday, January 29	10am–12pm; 2pm–4pm
	Saturday, January 30	1pm–4pm

It is not permissible either to baptize or to hold a love feast without the bishop. But whatever he approves is also pleasing to God, in order that everything you may do may be trustworthy and valid” (Smyrneans 8:1-2).

Because the Bishop cannot be in every parish in a given diocese, we have priests and deacons, who are the extension of the bishop’s ministry. One of the biggest responsibilities of a bishop is to be a pastor to the pastors of his diocese. By guiding his priests and deacons, the bishop is able, through them, to guide the people in his diocese, when he is not there to do so directly, in person.

It should also be pointed out that the people also have a role in guiding the diocese, and assisting the

bishop. They do this by their work in their local parish, by their attendance at general parish meetings; and they also do this through their representatives on the parish council, and through their delegates to diocesan assemblies, [and national councils]. In this way, the people ensure that the finances, and organizations of their parish, and their diocese are managed in a transparent and appropriate manner.

We tend to get the leadership we deserve, and so if things are not being run well, we probably need to roll up our own sleeves and get to work at helping to fix those problems—and the more we do that, the better we will see things being run. ■

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Fr. John Whiteford is the rector of St. Jonah Church in North Houston (Spring), Texas. You can read this reflection and others like it on his blog, fatherjohn.blogspot.com.*

Opening Wide the Doors: Overcoming the World’s Nihilism

In this age of information we must demonstrate to our youth the difference between information and wisdom. Wisdom is that which is passed down from the past and which imparts substance and enlightenment. Wisdom is not about information, and does not compete with worldly knowledge. Wisdom need not be in conflict with science, nor be linked to narrow-mindedness. Wisdom is that which not only connects us to the best of human knowledge and experience, but links us to that which is eternal. Wisdom gives us the ability to relate to our Creator, to our culture and to others. The urgency of imparting this message is great, for we have a whole generation that is in danger of losing faith in God.

It is not enough to expect our young people to attend services if we do not listen to them, respect them, and try to understand the world that is confront-

ing them. They are growing up in a different world than people of my generation experienced, and this important difference must be acknowledged and respected.

We can’t simply teach the truth to our youth, we must live it in a way that makes it real for them. We must be patient with them, be open to their struggles and non-confrontational when they disagree with us, or we will lose them forever to Christ.

Today’s young people have the same hopes and dreams that previous generations held, but this fast changing world is depriving them of hope. Nihilism has become the religion of countless numbers of our youth, with the result that life has become meaningless. The information age has driven God out of societal, cultural and governmental prominence, resulting in mass disbelief.

We who are of the older generations must witness to the wealth of truth that is in the ancient knowledge and

wisdom of the Church by demonstrating it’s worth in how we live.

If young people do not see a genuine living out of the Faith in us, they will keep looking for truth in directions that will take them far from it. Young people are worthy of our love and respect, and worthy of sharing with us the life in Christ that is their heritage as well. The Church will not be a draw to our youth unless her members demonstrate holiness of life and reach out with love, patience and understanding, offering something that is seen as real by today’s young people.

Finally, today’s young people need to see joy in the hearts of those of us who have taken on Christ. If we do not have joy in our hearts the youth will see nothing that is attractive to them, and will continue in the wasteland of consumerism, materialism, nihilism, and all hope for the future of our planet will die.

— Abbot Tryphon
All Merciful Saviour Monastery
Vashon Island, Washington

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

What Trusting the Bishop Means

by Fr. John Whiteford

In Orthodoxy, the bishop is the central figure in the church. The priest is the bishop's assistant, carrying out his will, and the people are told to follow and trust in the bishop. But we hardly know the bishop. He'll never visit us often enough for us to develop any sense of trust based on personal interactions with him. And over the history of the church there have been some bishops who clearly were not trustworthy, in that they stole or mismanaged money, committed serious sins, or led their flocks into error... How can we trust them when we don't have the first idea who they are?

Regardless of how often we see our bishop, how pious he may be, or how much of a personal relationship we may or may not have with him, we owe our bishops our prayers and our obedience:

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conduct... Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:7,17).

St. Paul also says of himself, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). We should imitate our leaders, as they follow Christ. If we see something in them that is not in accordance with Christ, we should not imitate them in that. But even if we find that they fall far short of being the kind of Christian that they should be, we still must pray for them, and obey them, unless they ask us to do something that is evil. If we have a good bishop, we should thank God. If we have a bishop who is not so good, we should pray that God would make him better.

The canons of the Church tell us that we cannot separate from our bishop simply because we see him

sin, or violate the canons and traditions of the Church. We can and should make the synod that he answers to aware of his behavior, if his errors are serious enough to warrant it, but we have to allow the synod of bishops to deal with their brother bishop, in accordance with the canons. Only when a bishop preaches heresy, clearly, unambiguously, and publicly do we have grounds to separate from them.

Thankfully, in most cases, our bishops are sincere and pious men, and while they are not perfect, they are not malicious. We may not always agree with their decisions, or understand the reasoning behind them, but we have to follow their instructions (except in those rare instances in which a bishop would require someone to do something that would be in clear violation of the teachings of the Church). We also have to keep in mind that bishops make decisions based on the information that they have, which we may not be privy to. We have to give them the benefit of the doubt, and assume they are acting in good faith, unless proven otherwise. We can also communicate to them our concerns, in a respectful manner, because we may have information that they are not privy to as well.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, a disciple of the Apostle John wrote:

"Flee from divisions, as the beginning of evils. You must all follow the bishop, as Jesus Christ followed the Father, and follow the presbyters as you would the apostles; and respect the deacons as the commandment of God. Let no one do anything that has to do with the Church without the bishop. Only that Eucharist which is under the authority of the bishop (or whomever he himself designates) is to be considered valid. Wherever the bishop appears, there let the congregation be; just as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church."

From the Rector's Desk (from pg. 1)

Our new office hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday, and by appointment. Our address will shift to 123 S. Sparks, but "119" will still get the mail to us. The phone remains the same, 231-2855.

Finally, don't forget our ultimate goal is to keep the **Alexander Atty Student Lounge** open each weekday for the benefit of students. We are going to depend on volunteer staffing to do this outside of regular hours. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. Please let Deacon Alex know if you can offer a few hours a week or month to make this happen.

One last thing: the **driveway** will be blocked off each Sunday during the school year to allow our kiddoes additional safety as they move to and from Trinity House. Please access the lot from the rear alley.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this happen through your prayers and donations. May each of you have a happy, healthy, blessed New Year.

From the (relocated) Rector's Desk in Trinity House,
Fr. John

New Women's Book Study Begins

Starting Tuesday, January 26 at 7 p.m. in the Trinity House Conference Room and continuing weekly until Lent, the Women's Ministry will study *Ruth: Loss, Love & Legacy* by Kelly Minter. Classes are for all women ages 18 and up. Call/text Laura Rush at 808-6345 for information or to reserve a copy of the book.

New at the Bookstore this Month

Praise the Lord, All Ye Nations is the first album of the Patriarch Tikhon Choir, a 30-voice mixed choir that brings together vocalists and choral musicians from the United States, Canada, and Russia. The CD is available for purchase at the bookstore for \$15 or for download for \$10 at the Patriarch Tikhon Russian-American Music Institute website: patraminstitute.org.

Your Official Guide to Trinity House



LOWER LEVEL

The standalone **Lower Level** is now the home of the **1st-2nd and 3rd-5th grade Sunday School classes**. New doors enclose four storage areas and the building's state-of-the-art electronic and mechanical equipment.

MAIN LEVEL

Visitors arriving from the street are greeted to an opened up **Entryway**; a brand new galley **Kitchen** greets those entering from the back **Porch** (which will have a picnic table by summer). A beautiful new **Conference Room** and table that seats ten leads to the **Administrative and Rector's Offices**; on Sundays, the **Middle School class** meets here. Brides will enjoy getting ready in the ADA-accessible bathroom's **Anteroom**, which includes a lighted mirror, vanity table, and seating area.

SECOND FLOOR

The spacious **Archpriest Alexander Atty Memorial Lounge** and attached **Chaplain's Office** will be used by the **High School** and **Penn State OCF**. The dining table and big-screen TV will also be available to those staying overnight in the **Guest Room**, smartly furnished with new Amish-crafted furniture arriving this spring. New tile in the upstairs bathroom provides a nice touch.

Two Additional Choirs Forming

Matt Finke (spruceisland@gmail.com) is organizing a small ensemble for male voices to sing two-part music at various services throughout the year. Also, Philip Graybill (philipgraybill@gmail.com) is forming a youth choir for students in grades 3-8. He plans for them to sing the communion hymns at Liturgy once per month this year. Contact either director if interested.

March for Life: Friday, January 22

Holy Trinity will provide free transportation to the 2016 March for Life in Washington, DC. Youth are especially encouraged to attend with their parents; Fr. John will join the January 10 high school Sunday School class to explore in depth the abortion issue. For more information, see Deacons Mark or Alex.

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 Sunday After the Nativity Protomartyr and Archdn. Stephen Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord Matins, 9am (No Sunday School) Divine Liturgy, 10am	28 Young Adult Outing: Laser Tag and Dinner, 6pm @ <i>What-a-Blast, 111 Sowers St., State College</i> OCF College Conference (through December 31) @ <i>Antiochian Village</i>	29	30 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	31 Great Vespers, 7pm	January 1, 2016 Circumcision of Christ St. Basil the Great Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Open House, 2pm-5pm @ <i>125 Wildernest Ln., Port Matilda (Oleynik's)</i>	2 St. Seraphim of Sarov Saturday Before Theophany Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
3 Sunday Before Theophany Matins, 9am (No Sunday School) Divine Liturgy, 10am One-Year Memorial for Eleni Nichols, 11:45am	4	5 Eve of the Theophany Royal Hours, 10am Great Vespers/Litiya/Blessing of Water, 7pm	6 THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST Matins, 8am Divine Liturgy, 9am Great Vespers, 7pm	7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am)	8 <u>HOUSE BLESSINGS BEGIN</u> (Schedule yours in the Narthex or online at holyltrinity-oca.org .)	9 Sunday School Classroom Setup/Prep., 5:15pm @ <i>Trinity House</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
10 Sunday After Theophany Sunday School, 9am @ <i>Trinity House (gr.1-12) & H.T. Nursery (PreK.-K.)</i> Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Outdoor Blessing of Water, 1:30pm @ <i>Spring Creek Park, Pavilion 2</i>	11 St. Theodosius the Great	12 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am-1pm Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.</i> Women's Bible Study, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House</i>	13 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	14 Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF): Weekly Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ <i>122 Pasquerilla Center</i>	15	16 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 5:15pm @ <i>Trinity House—Lower Lvl.</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
17 St. Anthony the Great Sunday School, 9am @ <i>Trinity House & Holy Trinity Nursery</i> Parents' Session, 12:15pm @ <i>Trinity House—Lower Level</i> Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	18 Penn State OCF: Student Night, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House—Atty Lounge</i>	19	20 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	21 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ <i>122 Pasquerilla Center</i>	22 43rd MARCH FOR LIFE (Church vans depart at 6:30am, return by 10pm.)	23 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
24 Sunday School, 9am @ <i>Trinity House & Holy Trinity Nursery</i> Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	25 St. Gregory the Theologian	26 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am-1pm Women's Bible Study, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House—Conference Room</i>	27 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	28 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ <i>122 Pasquerilla Center</i>	29	30 Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
31 Sunday School, 9am @ <i>Trinity House & Holy Trinity Nursery</i> Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Archdiocesan Youth Ice Skating Outing 3:30pm-5:30pm @ <i>PPG Rink, Pittsburgh</i>	February 1 Great Vespers/Litiya/Blessing of Candles, 7pm	2 MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Women's Bible Study, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House—Conference Room</i>	3 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	4 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ <i>122 Pasquerilla Center</i>	5	6 Altar Society Meeting, 10am @ <i>Trinity House—Conference Room</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 2 Vespers, 6pm	Sun. 17 (cont.) Outdoor Great Blessing of Water, 12:30pm @ <i>Beaver Creek, Beaver Springs</i> Progressive Home Blessings, following (Schedule at the Chapel or at holyltrinity-oca.org)
Sunday 3 Sunday Before Theophany Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Book Study: "The Tools of Spiritual Warfare," 12:30pm	Tuesday 19 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Tuesday 5 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Sunday 24 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study, 12:30pm
Sunday 10 Sunday After Theophany Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study: "The Tools of Spiritual Warfare," 12:30pm	Tuesday 26 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Tuesday 12 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Sunday 31 Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Book Study, 12:30pm
Saturday 16 Vespers, 6pm	Tuesday Feb. 2 MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE (Hours/Divine Liturgy, 7:40am @ <i>Holy Trinity</i>) Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Sunday 17 St. Anthony the Great Confessions, 9am Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am	Tuesday 6 Great Vespers, 6pm

January 2016