



■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

# On the Resurrection of Christ (continued from page 1)

If Christ's mission was not a rescue mission, if death were a part of the natural order, then it would seem that God is merely playing games with man. In other words, if death were God's intent from the start, it would make God unjust: creating man to die in the first place, only to tempt him with the offer of immortality.

Man was created for eternity but chose the temporal. He was made for Paradise but chose death on his own. And God, who is not only just but merciful, became one of us, to rescue us and give us eternal life through the Incarnation, death and Resurrection of his own Son. It is on this point that religions differ. The priest and the minister might still be in concert, but the rabbi would diverge here.

Everyone on the face of the planet ultimately must come to terms with this divergence: who Christ is and why he has come into the world. One way or another, one decides. Either God is just and merciful, or he is not. Either, man has been created for a purpose or life is without meaning. Either Christ is risen, or our faith is vain (*cf. I Cor. 15:14*).

The Resurrection of Christ is God's ultimate sign of justice and assurance of mercy. It is the stamp of his character on the whole creation. Already that creation longs for and groans for the redemption of our bodies. Already we yearn for our resurrection through Christ (*cf. Rom. 8:22-23*). That is truly why we are longing for Pascha, now: to shout with every fiber of our being:

**Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen! ■**

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

## Also from Father's Desk...

- **It is a Great Joy** to announce the ordination of **Deacon David Smith** to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, June 18, at 9 a.m. at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Beavertown. A banquet will follow at the Beavertown Fire Hall. Please circle this in red on your calendar and make every effort to attend and celebrate. Deacon David is the seventh man to enter ordained ministry from Holy Trinity.
- **We grieve with Seminarian Matt Fuhrman** (PSU/OCF Class of '06) at the unexpected death of his brother **Brandon** while on active duty with the U.S. Army in Germany, on April 5. On a joyful note, Matt will be ordained to the Holy Diaconate on Bright Saturday, May 7 at St. Tikhon's Monastery Chapel. He will be the ninth man to be ordained from Holy Trinity. Your prayers and presence are requested.
- **We extend sympathy to Justin Houser**, Council Secretary, at the death of his grandmother **Julia Breon** of Bellefonte, April 10.
- **The Guest Suite at Trinity House** hosted its first guests this April. The space is ideal for visiting alumni and parents of OCF students. Email [stay@trinityhouse-oca.org](mailto:stay@trinityhouse-oca.org) for details.



■ NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

## Your Financial Support Matters!

Thank you for your generous response thus far to the Parish Council's invitation to increase your giving. In the past 2 ½ months, together as a parish, we have:

- *Raised average weekly stewardship offerings by \$1,380, or 40%; and*
- *Met average weekly budget needs since mid-February.*

There is much to celebrate in these numbers! But, there remains much to be done in terms of increasing stewardship for every family, to eliminate our year-to-date shortfall caused by low January giving. As a start, we are working on making it easier for you to give monthly electronic donations online. Watch for the next issue of the *Trisagion* to learn how. ■

■ TLC-2

## Helping Families to Bond

Would you like to support new families with a warm meal? Did you know that a ministry exists to do just that? TLC-2 provides at least 7 postpartum dinners for families with newborns. In the last year alone, we provided a total of 34 suppers. "Since as a new Mom every second can be physically, mentally, and spiritually challenging, it's wonderful to have one less thing on your mind," said one of the recipients. "Having meals delivered via TLC-2 not only provides you great food but the friendly smiling faces and encouraging words of other Mothers who know exactly what you're going through!"

Providing food does not necessarily mean making a home-cooked dinner, but can be take-out, a gift card, or simply ordering a pizza. If you have questions or would like to be added to our mailing list to learn about upcoming opportunities, please see Corene Swisher or email [tlc-2@holyltrinity-oca.org](mailto:tlc-2@holyltrinity-oca.org). ■

## Headlines from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

### HATS AND BLANKETS FOR BABIES

*The women of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit will be starting a new outreach of crafting hats and blankets for babies. It will be a time of getting together, not only for fellowship, but to crochet or knit hats and sew or tie blankets for newborns at the local hospitals. We will be opening our doors to all in our community to participate in this ministry to introduce others to us and our church. The first meeting will be Monday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.*

*We have been blessed to have been given two large bags of yarn for our crocheting needs but are seeking donations of material for blankets. If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Mka. Brenda at (570) 765-2202 or [brenda.smith0826@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.smith0826@gmail.com).*

### YOUNG AND OLD ENJOY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

*On April 10, the Chapel sponsored a free Family Fun Night at the Middlecreek Area Community Center (MACC), extending the facility's hours for benefit of the community. The evening featured gym activities, crafts and food, and a round of kickball enjoyed by both old and young alike! There were lots of smiles and energy displayed in this game and everyone came out as winners. Of the 21 that attended, seven were first timers who quickly became old friends, making us even more eager for our next MACC event!*

## Serving God and the Homeless

*Members of the Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship participated in a mission trip to New Jersey this April. They spent the first full day organizing supplies for Atlantic City homeless and the following day worshipping at Holy Cross in Medford. Visit [facebook.com/psuocf](https://facebook.com/psuocf) to see photos.*



## ■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

# Christ, Church, Husband, and Wife

by Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky (courtesy of oca.org)

*“For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the Church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore just as the Church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it”*

— EPHESIANS 5:23

Some brides-to-be resent this epistle read at every Orthodox Church wedding. They think it’s sexist... in this era of liberation of women. But that objection is misdirected. This advice of St. Paul is not about subordination of woman to man, nor is it about control. This is about love. The holy apostle is not putting wives down; he’s raising the vision of husbands to a spiritual awareness of responsibility.

It’s a daring equation, comparing the husband with Christ. Can a Christian who wears a cross at his neck and hangs a cross in his bedroom not comprehend the great, sacrificial love that Jesus Christ has demonstrated for His Church? There is not an atom of selfishness in it. Who reading the gospels can find somewhere or some word of the loving Lord that suggests, “What’s in it for Me?” Show me a place that implies the Church doing something for Christ, rather than what Christ is doing for the Church.

St. Paul is speaking to all married men... Look up at Christ on the cross. Will you ever do that for her?... [L]ay down your life in her behalf. If it comes to one of you making a sacrifice for the sake of the family, step out smartly and be the one who offers his life for wife and family... The love of Christ for the Church is your measure of your own adoration of your wife. God forbid that you ever terrorize her, intimidate her or control her by temper tantrums or any of the more subtle mind control methods rampant in our culture.

You were commissioned by Christ in the sacred sacrament of marriage to love and honor her—she is ever your queen, and you must look for the crown still worn on her head, albeit invisibly.

Your love for her must be always pure and sacred. She is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and you must do nothing to defile that living temple. She is baptized in the blessed water of Jordan. It takes nothing from the romance or the love act to treat your wife as a being precious in the sight of the Lord. Any expression of love that degrades, humiliates or plain uses the partner is unworthy of your marriage. Any violation of your marital obligations to one another, adultery or lewdness, will invite the serpent of evil into your bed, cause you deceit and hypocrisy, and reduce you to shame and self-rejection.

True love will be constantly in search of ways to please your spouse, not yourself. Real affection is given through a glance, a touch, a card or flower. This woman is not your cook, your washerwoman or maid. She is far more than the one who cares for your children. If that’s all she is to you, you are unworthy of calling yourself her husband.

If as you heard at the wedding, you “leave father and mother and cleave to your wife,” she has become your very body. You are one flesh and blood with her. You can no more separate yourself from her that you would hack off your right arm. Despite our wicked society, you don’t change partners; you live with the one that God gave you.

Most of all, your love is a reflection of the love of Christ for your spiritual family and the Church of which you all are a part. Your home is an extension of your parish, a chapel where love is the binding ingredient between your family members and with the loving Lord and yourself. ■

## ■ VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016

# The Lord is My Shepherd

 by Dn. Mark Oleynik

The Scriptures are rich in references to the animal life and agriculture in the lands of the Bible. This is understandable since it was addressed to simple nomadic men and women who lived off the land. Obviously, much has changed over the centuries.

It is probably safe to say that most readers of the Bible do not have much, if any, knowledge of such things as goats, olive growing, yokes, and soil. Without any agricultural experience, it can be difficult to grasp (especially for children) scriptural truths if the meanings and lessons of the stories are missed.

To help provide some “farm” knowledge to our children, this year’s Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme will focus on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The students will study the “Shepherd’s Psalm” (23) and learn about the traits and characteristics of sheep (they are fascinating). The objective of this VBS is to reveal why sheep are so prominent in the Bible (sheep are referenced over 500 times) and to learn what one of the most beloved psalms really means. It promises to be terrific week of scripture, songs, games, crafts—and even a tour to sheep farm!

VBS will be conducted June 13 through June 17 in the evenings (5:15–8:00 p.m.) and is open to children



who are entering Pre-K (i.e., **one** year before Kindergarten) through sixth grade in Fall 2016. Each day will begin with dinner. Parents are also encouraged to attend Daily Vespers and pray with their children on the Wednesday of VBS week, beginning at the special time at 5 p.m. Please visit our parish website ([holymtrinity-oca.org](http://holymtrinity-oca.org)) to register your children online by June 5.

*(VBS is now recruiting men, women, and teens to serve as shepherds this summer. Please see Deacon Mark or email [dnmark@holymtrinity-oca.org](mailto:dnmark@holymtrinity-oca.org) to volunteer.)* ■

## Sunday School Scoops

### Teacher Appreciation

*Please take a moment to thank this year’s terrific Sunday School staff. It was certainly an exciting year due to our move to Trinity House in January and the teachers did a superb job of handling the transition and challenges. Most importantly, they have dedicated their time every week in preparation, teaching, study, etc., for which we ask God to bless all the fruit of their labors. Many years and much appreciation to all of them!*

### Parents Session

*During the most recent Parents Session, attendees discussed several activities for the children of our parish. There will a couple activities scheduled for the summer while other activities will be scheduled for the fall and coming year. Stay tuned and plan to participate!*

### School’s Out!

*The last day of class is Sunday, May 22.*

# 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>May 1</b> <b>GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA</b> Matins/Hours/Divine Liturgy, 12am Blessing of Baskets/ Festal Meal, 2:30am Agape Vespers, 4pm Agape Meal, 5pm	<b>2</b> <b>Bright Monday</b> Paschal Liturgy, 9am ( <i>Paschal Hours, 8:50am</i> ) Annual Women's Ministry Brunch, 10:30am Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm	<b>3</b> <b>Bright Tuesday</b> Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm	<b>4</b> <b>Bright Wednesday</b> Paschal Liturgy, 8am ( <i>Paschal Hours, 7:50am</i> ) Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm	<b>5</b> <b>Bright Thursday</b> Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm Penn State OCF : Dinner and Game Night 6:30pm @ <i>Trinity House</i> "Thursdays in the Park", 10am @ <i>Talleyrand Park</i>	<b>6</b> <b>Bright Friday</b> Paschal Liturgy, 8am ( <i>Paschal Hours, 7:50am</i> ) Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm Annual Men's BBQ, 7pm @ <i>562 Lancashire Ln., Park Forest (Rectory)</i>	<b>7</b> <b>Bright Saturday</b> <b>St. Alexis Toth</b> Great Vespers, 6pm
<b>8</b> <b>Thomas Sunday</b> <b>St. John the Theologian</b> Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Church School Egg Hunt, 12:30pm @ <i>Holmes-Foster Park</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Day of Rejoicing</b> Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.</i>	<b>11</b> <b>Ss. Cyril and Methodius</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	<b>12</b> "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Kaywood Park</i>	<b>13</b> Bridge of Hope Glowin' Home Run/Walk, 8pm @ <i>Medlar Field at Lubrano Park</i>	<b>14</b> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
<b>15</b> <b>Holy Myrrhbearing Women</b> Sunday School, 9am ( <i>Locations vary;</i> <i>All classes begin in the Parish Hall.</i> ) Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	<b>16</b> Young Adult Potluck, 6pm @ <i>4817 W. Whitehall Rd. (Leathers' Home)</i> Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm @ <i>Trinity House</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	<b>19</b> "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Bernel Road "Airport" Park</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Ss. Constantine &amp; Helen</b> Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Baptism of Nicholas McNulty, 2pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
<b>22</b> <b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b> Sunday School, 9am Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am ( <i>Hours, 9:40am</i> ) Crowning of Amber Schall and Evan Ashmore, 3pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Midfeast of Pentecost</b> Vespers, 5:30pm ( <i>No Confessions</i> )	<b>26</b> "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Haymarket Park</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Vespers, 6pm ( <i>No Confessions</i> )
<b>29</b> <b>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am ( <i>Hours, 9:40am</i> )	<b>30</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> ( <i>Trinity House and Parish Offices Closed</i> )	<b>31</b>	<b>June 1</b> Vespers, 5:30pm ( <i>No Confessions</i> )	<b>2</b> "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Orchard Park</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Vespers, 6pm ( <i>No Confessions</i> )
<b>5</b> <b>Sunday of the Blind Man</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am ( <i>Hours, 9:40am</i> )	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Leavetaking of Pascha</b> Great Vespers with Litiya for Ascension, 7pm	<b>9</b> <b>ASCENSION</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am ( <i>Hours, 7:40am</i> ) "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Tudek Park</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Annual Altar Servers' Retreat & Lunch, 10am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

# Chapel Calendar

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

<b>Sunday May 1</b> <b>GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA</b> ( <i>Paschal Matins/Hours/ Divine Liturgy, 12am @ Holy Trinity</i> )	<b>Sunday 22</b> <b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b> Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am
<b>Sunday 8</b> <b>Thomas Sunday</b> <b>St. John the Theologian</b> Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am	<b>Monday 23</b> Women's "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Knitting/Crocheting Outreach, 6:30pm
<b>Tuesday 10</b> Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	<b>Tuesday 24</b> Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
<b>Saturday 14</b> Vespers, 6pm	<b>Saturday 28</b> Vespers, 6pm
<b>Sunday 15</b> <b>Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women</b> Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am	<b>Sunday 29</b> <b>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b> Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am
<b>Tuesday 17</b> Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	<b>Tuesday 31</b> Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
	<b>Saturday June 4</b> Vespers, 6pm

May 2016