

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Dn. David to be Ordained a Priest



Photo Credit: Justin Engle for The Daily Item (Sunbury, PA)

In a picture taken by the Sunbury daily newspaper for a feature article on his upcoming June 18 ordination, Deacon David Smith poses in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit's new temple. In the background, the sanctuary's newly installed wainscoting can be seen.

VBS Week to Include Tour of Sheep Farm

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an enriching and fun summer program for all area children entering pre-Kindergarten (i.e., one year before Kindergarten) through the sixth grade this Fall. Each year, there are lessons, crafts, and activities that reinforce a biblical theme. Special for this year, however, will be a field trip to a farm so children can see first hand how animals referenced in Scripture behave. Participants in *VBS 2016: I Just Wanna Be a Sheep* will board a bus on Thursday, June 16 at 4:15 p.m. on a trip that promises to be one of the week's highlights. For more information, see the sidebar on the last page.

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, Dn. David Smith will be ordained to Holy Priesthood by His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek the week-end of Pentecost—the patronal feast of both Holy Trinity and its mission outreach, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Providentially and fittingly, the event will take place at the Chapel (145 North Kern Street, in Beavertown) where Dn. David has faithfully served as co-founder and administrator for several years. It will occur during the Saturday, June 18 Memorial Liturgy at 9 a.m., with a celebratory reception to follow at the Beavertown Firehall on 222 South Sassafras Street. Reservations are required for the meal only by Sunday, June 6. To RSVP, call (814) 231-2855 or email ordination@holyspirit-oca.org.

(continued, see ORDINATION, last page)

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
June 5	B. & N. Troyan and A. Stickle	A. Swisher and D. Swisher	B. Haupt and G. Cattell	Team A
June 12	Russian Ladies	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	M. Fedkin and S. Stevens	Team B
June 19	A.T. Pelikan and J. Miranda	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	H. Torbic and R. Patel	Team A
June 26	H. Torbic and M. Thompson	M. Thompson and J. Houser	B. Haupt and M. Stevens	Team B
July 3	J. Fryncko and K. Cattell	J. Petengill and S. Petengill	G. Cattell and M. Fedkin	Team A
July 10	D. Van Duin and B. Roberts	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	R. Patel and S. Stevens	Team B

* Denotes Fast Team A: A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, D. Stickle, 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

Thank You to My Loving Parish Family

Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!

I am away travelling in England with Mka. Linda and my grandson, Aiden, so my article will be brief this month. I will return on Wednesday, June 8 to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension with you.

To my loving Holy Trinity family: thank you for your love, your kindness, your thoughts, and your prayers that were offered at the surprise party celebrating thirty-five years of priestly ministry and twenty years at Holy Trinity. ■

From the Rector's Desk,
Fr. John

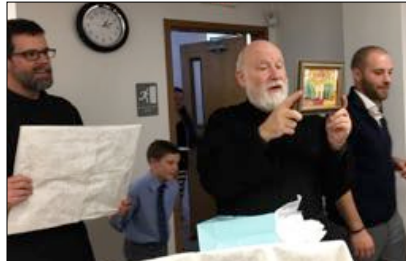


Photo Credits: Michael Pelikan and Elisabeth Craig

not “body-like,” but a body in the fullest sense of the word: a body that needs food, that tires and that suffers. Thus that which in the Scriptures is called life, that life, which above all consists of the human body animated by the spirit and of the spirit made flesh, comes to an end—at death—in the separation of soul and body. No, man does not disappear in death, for creation may not destroy that which God has called from nothingness into being. But man is plunged into death, into the darkness of lifelessness and debility. He, as the Apostle Paul says, is given over to destruction and ruin.

God did not create the world for this separation, dying, ruin and corruption. And for this reason the Christian Gospel proclaims that “the last enemy to be destroyed is death...” And that destruction, that extermination of death began when the Son of God Himself in His immortal love for us voluntarily

descended into death and its darkness, filling its despair and horror with His light and love. And this is why we sing on Pascha not only “Christ is risen from the dead,” but also “trampling down death by death...”

He alone arose from the dead, but He has destroyed our death, destroying its dominion, its despair, its finality. Christ does not promise us Nirvana or some sort of misty life beyond the grave, but the resurrection of life, a new heaven and a new earth, the joy of the universal resurrection. Christ is risen, and life abides, life lives... That is the meaning; that is the unending joy of this truly central and fundamental confirmation of the [Creed]: “And the third day, He rose again according to the Scriptures.” This is the entire faith, the entire love, and the entire hope of Christianity. And this is why the Apostle Paul says, “If Christ is not risen, then your faith is in vain.” ■

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Congratulations to our Grads by Dn. Mark Oleynik

With school ending for the summer, now is a good time to recognize our graduating high school seniors:

- **Peter Doty** will be a student at University Park, enrolling in the College of Information Sciences and Technology.
- **Brittany Torbic** plans to attend Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. She will major in secondary math. She hopes to spend a lot of time hiking the Appalachian Trail and living a life of adventure!
- **Natasha Fedkina**, an honor roll student and two-time CDT Athlete of the Week, will enroll in Penn State's College of Health and Human Development. She will also join the Nittany Lion women track and cross country team.
- **Nora Strauss** is graduating with high honors. While in high school, she traveled to Germany as an exchange student and enjoyed working on the talent show and a musical production of The Hungry Games. This fall, she will attend Dickinson College, studying Liberal Arts. ■

VBS 2016 Information

This year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme is **"I Just Wanna Be a Sheep."** Throughout the week there will be services, crafts, activities, and songs that will elucidate the animal and farm imagery that our Lord uses throughout Scripture, especially that of shepherd and sheep as found in Psalm 23 (22).

VBS will be conducted the evenings of June 13-17 for children entering Pre-K (one year before enrolling in Kindergarten) through the sixth grade in Fall 2016. Each day will include a free dinner for students. Parents are also encouraged to attend Vespers and pray with their children on the Wednesday and Friday of VBS week, beginning at 5 p.m.

To register, simply go to holytrinity-oca.org and fill out the online form. If you have any questions, see Dn. Mark or email dnmark@holytrinity-oca.org.

For the Record

BAPTISMS

- **Christian Stodart**, son of Brandon and Chelsea Stodart, baptized April 23, sponsored by Jeremy Dinsmore & Alexandra McCafferty. *Many years!*
- **Evan (John) Ashmore** and Amber (Mary) Schall, baptized April 30, sponsored by Samuel and Megan Leathers. *Many years!*
- **Nicholas McNulty**, son of Daniel and Katherine McNulty, baptized May 21, sponsored by Chris McNulty and Elizabeth Posluszny. *Many years!*

MARRIAGE

- **Evan (John) Ashmore** and **Amber Schall** were crowned in marriage on May 22, sponsored by **Samuel and Megan Leathers**. *Many years!*

ORDINATION

- **Matthew Fuhrman** (PSU '06) was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by **Met. Tikhon** on May 7. *Axios!*

GRADUATIONS

- **Eliana Christou** (Ph.D., Statistics), **Nikita Fedkin** (B.S., Meteorology), **Philip Graybill** (B.S., Engineering), and **Joseph Nakpil** (B.S., Comparative Lit., Russian) graduated this year. *Congratulations!*

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

On Death and Resurrection

by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

Christianity proclaims, confirms and teaches, that [the] separation of the soul from the body, which we call death, is evil. It is not part of God's creation... [It is] opposed to God and [violates] His design, His desire for the world, for mankind and for life. It is that which Christ came to destroy.

But again, in order not so much to understand, but rather to sense, to feel this Christian interpretation of death, we must begin by saying at least a few words about this design of God's, as much as has been disclosed to us in the Holy Scriptures and revealed to its fullness in Christ, in His teaching, in his death and in His Resurrection.

This design may be simply and concisely outlined thus: God created man with a body and soul, i.e. at once both spiritual and material, and it is precisely this union of spirit, soul and body that is called man in the Bible and in the Gospel. Man, as created by God, is an animate body and an incarnate spirit, and for that reason any separation of them, and not only the final separation, in death, but even before death, any violation of that union is evil. It is a spiritual catastrophe.

From this we receive our belief in the salvation of the world through the incarnate God, i.e. again, above all, our belief in His acceptance of flesh and body,

How to Know God and Find Life

1. The belief that the truth of things can be known, and the desire to know the truth and to do it, wherever it leads, is most essential... In a sense, this desire and seeking is all that is necessary.

2. The seeking person must read the New Testament through, slowly and without judgment of details... They should let go of what is not clear, and focus on what they can understand, what is clear to them. It would also be helpful to read a Psalm or two [daily.]

3. The person must pray, as they can. If they claim to be Christian, at least somehow, they should say the Lord's Prayer, and other prayers of the Church tradition, and attend services, without serving or singing or reading. If they are not Christian, or are unsure, they must at least pray, "to whom it may concern," saying something like, "if you are there, teach me, lead me, guide me."

4. The person must eat good foods in moderation. A couple of days a week (like Wed. and Fri.) the person should fast; eating much less than usual. During this search the person should abstain from all alcohol, tobacco and drugs... If overeating or drinking, smoking or drug-taking is a problem, the seeker must get formal help...

5. The person should abstain from all sexual activity unless they are married and expressing love (and not just having sex). There should be no TV or Internet porn. If sex is an addictive problem, they must take steps to get formal help.

6. The person should sit alone and still in silence for at least a half hour each day. They should watch their thoughts, but not engage them. They should say a very short prayer while doing them, to avoid engaging their thoughts.

7. The person should give at least a couple of hours a week to charitable work, and should give away some

of their money (if they can) in a sacrificial way. They should do this, as far as possible, without anyone knowing what they are doing.

8. The person should open their life fully to at least one other trustworthy person, telling absolutely everything, without editing or hiding anything: their thoughts, dreams, temptations, actions, sins, fears, anxieties, etc.

9. The person must regularly talk with someone trustworthy specifically about their family of origin: their family history going back as far as possible, their childhood, relations with their parents and grandparents and siblings, their spiritual and religious history, their sexual history, education, etc.

10. The person must find a community of friends with whom to struggle to know the truth and to find life. The search cannot be done alone. We need each other.

— Fr. Thomas Hopko (+2015)

CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT Ordination to Take Place at Chapel

(cont. from page 1)

There is no charge to attend the formal reception, but a freewill offering is being collected in honor of Deacon David and Mka. Brenda for the Chapel of the Holy Spirit Fund. Your generous gifts memoed "Smith Ordination" will help the Chapel and their newly ordained priest continue their ministry to the people of the central Susquehanna Valley. Thank you.

Before being received into Orthodoxy, Dn. David served as a Lutheran pastor for 20 years. He helped to establish the Chapel in 2008, and hosted services in his home while the community prepared to build its new temple. To further the Chapel's apostolic work, he was ordained to the diaconate on the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul (June 29) in 2013. Father's first

NEWS AND NOTES

Join Fellow Orthodox Christians at PNC Park This Month

On June 21 at 7:05 p.m., watch the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the San Francisco Giants with fellow Orthodox Christians from the Archdiocese. The cost is only \$23. To order tickets or for more information, contact John Schultz at (304) 479-5071 or email jpswr@comcast.net by June 6. Play ball!

Local Care Provider Seeking Summer Applicants

STATE COLLEGE — Comfort Keepers here provides non-medical, in-home care to seniors who need help with daily living. Services include companionship, personal care, meal prep., light housekeeping, and running errands. Training will be provided; no experience necessary. Scheduling is very flexible. Starting wages are \$10.25-\$12.51 per hour. To apply, call Michelle at (814) 861-1628.

More Headlines from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

HATS AND BLANKETS FOR BABIES

The women of the Chapel had their first "Hats and Blankets for Babies" meeting last month. The group got off to a great start on several items that will be donated to local hospitals; current and future members are looking forward to future opportunities for fellowship, and to further their work. To meet this need, the ministry will take place regularly on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chapel. For more information, please contact Matushka Brenda at (570) 541-8895.

full liturgy as priest will be Pentecost at Holy Trinity (June 19, 10 a.m.). He will also serve the Holy Spirit Day (June 20, 9 a.m.) and Nativity of St. John liturgies (June 24, 8 a.m.) here at Holy Trinity before commencing weekly Sunday services at the Chapel. Your prayers and presence are requested. ■

Feast Days this Month

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

VESPERS: Wed., June 8, 7pm
(A.T. Pelikan, Litiya Bread)
(K. Fedkin, Icon)

LITURGY: Thu., June 9, 8am
(L. Reeves, Prospora)



PENTECOST

VESPERS: Sat., June 18, 6pm
(M. Haupt, Litiya Bread)
(K. Fedkin, Icon)

LITURGY: Sun., June 19, 10am



Additional Daily Liturgies:

DATE	FOR	PROSPHORA
Mon., June 20, 9am	Holy Spirit Day	L. Reeves
Fri., June 24, 8am	St. John the Forerunner	A. Stickle
Wed., June 29, 8am	Ss. Peter & Paul	L. Reeves

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
29 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Youth Choir Rehearsal, 9:15am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	30 <i>Memorial Day</i> (Trinity House and Parish Offices Closed)	31	June 1 Vespers, 5:30pm (No Confessions)	2 "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ Orchard Park	3	4 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
5 Sunday of the Blind Man Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Parents Session, 12pm @ Trinity House Lower Level	6 Young Adult Potluck and Game Night, 6pm @ Trinity House	7	8 Leavetaking of Pascha Great Vespers with Litiya for Ascension, 7pm	9 THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ Tudek Park	10	11 Parish Council Special Working Lunch Meeting, 11am-2pm @ Trinity House Conference Room Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
12 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Sunday School Teacher Recognition/High School Graduation, 11:45am	13 Vacation Bible School 2016 Begins. Theme: "I Just Wanna Be a Sheep," 5:30pm-8pm (Registration opens 15 minutes prior to start of VBS each day.)	14 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave. Vacation Bible School, 5:30pm-8pm	15 Vespers, 5pm Confessions Vacation Bible School, 5:45pm-8pm	16 "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ Fairbrook Park Vacation Bible School, 4:15pm-9:30pm	17 Vespers, 5pm Confessions Vacation Bible School, 5:45pm-8pm	18 Memorial Saturday Hierarchical Liturgy/Ordination of Dn. David Smith to the Priesthood/Reception, 9am @ CHS Altar Society Decr'g., 4pm Great Vespers/Litiya, 6pm
19 PENTECOST Festal Matins, 9am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 10am "Kneeling" Vespers of Pentecost, 12pm Annual Parish Picnic/Patronal Feast 1pm-4pm @ Holmes-Foster Park	20 Day of the Holy Spirit Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am)	21 Third Day of the Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Pirates Baseball Outing, 7:05pm @ PNC Park, Pittsburgh	22 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	23 "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ Governor's Park Great Vespers, 7pm	24 Nativity of St. John the Forerunner Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am)	25 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
26 All Saints Sunday Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	27	28 Great Vespers, 7pm	29 Holy Apostles Ss. Peter and Paul Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	30 "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ Sunset Park	July 1	2 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
3 All Saints of America Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	4 <i>Independence Day</i> (Trinity House and Parish Offices Closed)	5 Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	6 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	7 "Thursdays in the Park" Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ Spring Creek Park	8	9 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 4 Vespers, 6pm	Saturday 18 (cont.) Celebratory Luncheon Reception, 12pm @ Beavertown Firehall, 222 S. Sassafras St., Beavertown
Sunday 5 Sunday of the Blind Man Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am	Sunday 19 PENTECOST (Matins/Divine Liturgy/Vespers/Parish Picnic, 9am @ Holy Trinity)
Tuesday 7 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Tuesday 21 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Sunday 12 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am	Sunday 26 All Saints Sunday Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
Tuesday 14 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Monday 27 Monthly Women's "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Knitting/Crocheting Outreach, 6:30pm
Friday 17 (Vespers of the Ordination, 5pm @ Holy Trinity.)	Tuesday 28 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Saturday 18 Memorial Saturday Hours, 8:40am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with the Ordination of Dn. David Smith to the Holy Priesthood, 9am	Saturday July 2 Great Vespers, 6pm

June 2016