

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reflections on How to Vote



by Dr. Peter C. Bouteneff

AMERICANS ARE APPROACHING an important election this fall. All presidential elections are important, but few have been this close or this polarized. Those of us who seek to live and act in a way that is consistent with the life and theology of the Orthodox Church do well to reflect upon how we will act on November [8]. Some Orthodox I know believe that the only way an Orthodox Christian could possibly vote is Republican/Conservative. Others whom I know have exactly the opposite impression. Where do we find ourselves in the political landscape today? There may not be a single answer for all Orthodox Christians, but we can at least clarify the questions...

To Vote or Stay Home?

The canons which forbid an ordained person from holding public office indicate the Church's ambivalent relationship to government. The Church is aware of

the inevitable conflicts of interest that arise when a visible representative of the Church is asked to represent an electorate of diverse religious and moral principles. But does this ambivalence mean that we should keep out of the process entirely?

The answer to that question will not be the same for everyone. All of us are called to be "not of this world" and yet also to be "in the world," and the way in which those two are balanced in our own lives will vary. Monastics have a particular vocation, a particular way of consecrating their lives, and a particular kind of obedience which will in most cases lead them away from voting, even if they may be very much involved in other aspects of contemporary life and society.

Some outside the monastic life opt out of the process as well, either because they feel the candidates are unacceptable, or out of principle.

(continued, see HOW TO VOTE, page 6)

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
November 6	FALL POTLUCK	J. Pertengill and S. Pertengill	M. Fedkin and R. Patel	Team A
November 13	E. George and K. Oleynik	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	S. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team B
November 20	A. Petrick and P. Doty*/**	A. Swisher and D. Swisher	B. Haupt and M. Stevens	Team A
November 27	L. Radomsky and C. Strauss*/**	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	G. Cartell and M. Fedkin	Team B
December 4	Russian Ladies*	J. Fyrncko and M. Fedkin	R. Patel and S. Stevens	Team A
	A. T. Pelikan and J. Miranda*	M. Thompson and J. Houser	M. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team B

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

2016 Annual Report

by Fr. John Reeves

I've discovered a world within the greater world of our existence. Life for me has seemed to be in suspended animation, a succession of medical protocols and rituals, hitherto unknown to me. I was initiated into a brotherhood of cancer strugglers and survivors. In most cases, apart from the fact that our paths now cross regularly at the cancer center, there is little to distinguish us from the uninitiated. We are young and old, and in between. Sometimes we've met before. Our stories are unique but then again so very similar.

On the one hand, it makes for a common bond, immediately. There is the little child coming in for infusion who simply bounds up into the treatment chair like a trooper, a regular activity for most of that young child's life; the older gentleman in his wheelchair, giving this neophyte a thumb's up as his wife wheels him out to car and home; my buddy from the bakery at Weis Market. It's a world within a world: a story common to all who experience it. But it is a story which the uninitiated never fully appreciate, be they parents, or spouses, or friends.

This is the world in which I now live and it is the world in which I must now attempt to appropriate meaning, and purpose, and blessing. I say that I must attempt this. There is a struggle to be sure.

On the other hand, what one of us is not supposed to appropriate meaning, and purpose, and blessing in whatever circumstance we find ourselves? My new health situation is becoming a time of spiritual focus, and re-focusing, a time of renewal, and a time for some tear-filled joy. It's not easy, but that's why I know it's so important. Someone has said that smooth mountains can't be climbed. In my new world, within a world, I realize this to be so very true.

This started out to be my annual rector's report, not a spiritual reflection. Yet, perhaps it is both. I came to

Meeting Information

*Holy Trinity will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 13 following the Divine Liturgy. Nominations are open for Council positions of President, Vice President, and Grounds Chair. All agenda items must be submitted in writing to the Parish Council for review prior to November 9. **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 2015 Meeting
- iv. Priest's Report
- v. Treasurer's Report
- vi. Review and Approval of the 2017 Budget (see next page)
- vii. Election of Officers
- viii. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..."

Holy Trinity almost 21 years ago, in January 1996. Ostensibly, any priest comes to a parish to help its people learn how to live together in Christ. Any other purpose or activity pales in comparison. The King of the Ages will have to make the ultimate determination in my regard as to whether or not I have done so.

However, now I sense a new dimension, not really a new purpose, but a continuation of the original. St. Paul said that for him to live is Christ and to die, gain. My prayer is that I continue this ministry to the same end. If we learn to live together in Christ, then whatever happens along the way, including death itself, will not and cannot separate us from His love for us. ■

Hats and Blankets for Newborns

The "Hats and Blankets" ministry of the Chapel has been very busy over the last few months. The work of many hands has enabled us to make deliveries to Lewistown Hospital and Evangelical Hospital in Lewisburg. Each box contained 21 hats of various colors and sizes and 2-3 blankets which will be given to the newborns to take home. The ministry has been very blessed with busy hands and have a number of hats and blankets ready for another delivery to be made to Geisinger Hospital. Anyone interested in joining in this knitting and crocheting ministry may contact Mka. Brenda at (570) 765- 2202 or info@holyspirit-oca.org.

Another Year at Selinsgrove Fair

The Chapel had another successful outreach event last month at the annual Selinsgrove Fair. More than 1,000 bottles of water, pens, and literature were distributed.

Thanksgiving Drive Begins

Matthew 25 began its annual Thanksgiving food drive to help area needy families last month. To participate, see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex; collection will continue through November 20. Monetary donations (to cover the cost of the turkeys) are also appreciated.

Annual Audit Conducted

An audit of the church's 2015 records was conducted last month. Deposits and accounts were randomly chosen and checked. No discrepancies were found.

Feast Days this Month

ENTRY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

VESPERS: Mon., Nov. 7, 7pm
(M. Haupt, Litiya)
(S. Pettengill, Icon)

OBEDNITSA: Tues., Nov. 8, 8am
(P. Doty, Prospora)

Additional Eucharistic Obednitsa:

DATE/TIME	FOR	PROSPORA
Tues., Nov. 8, 8am	Synaxis of St. Michael	A. Stickles



Students take a Pilgrimage to Discover an Old Testament Hero

Last month, Holy Trinity's Sunday School took a bus trip to Lancaster to see *Samson*, a Broadway-quality musical produced by Sight & Sound Theatres. While typically not considered a superhero by Christians, the thought-provoking presentation showed kids and parents alike how God uses fallen people like us to accomplish great things for Him. ■

■ LETTERS TO THE PARISH Chapel of the Holy Spirit... One Year Later

One year! Can you believe it? It's been one whole year since the Chapel has been gathering together to worship and to pray in our new Temple! What was once a dream... a desire... a hope... a seeming impossibility has come to fruition, not because of us but because of the grace and the mercy of God Who has called us together in His Name, to bear His Kingdom witness in the Orthodox way! We have been utterly blessed your maternal love and care as our mother in the Faith, as well as by the support of the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania. Our partnership, has been an experiment in doing mission work in a different way than has been generally done. We would invite you: if you have not yet experienced worship at the Chapel to join us—soon!

—Fr. David Smith

We Are Grateful for You

Thank you for your love:
The prayers, the meals, and
Your ongoing concern since
Fr. John's illness.
We can never express our gratitude
Fully enough.

—Reeves and Craig Families

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

How to Vote on November 8 (continued from page 1)

Whether we vote or not, our decision must be conscious and deliberate, and the result of prayerful consideration. Orthodox Christians are called to take a stand on matters that affect how people live and how they are treated, and on how the natural world is treated. We are called to care about, to arrive at, and defend principles in terms of our fundamental beliefs.

The question of whether to vote is much easier to address than the question of how to vote. Part of our problem here is the nature of the options before us.

Liberal vs. Conservative

Politically as well as theologically, many conservatives will use “liberal” as a swear-word, and many liberals return the favor. We Orthodox Christians often consider ourselves to be a conservative church—and so we are, when we compare some of our theological and ethical principles to others. Our key doctrines about God and about Christ, as well as our positions on human life and human sexuality, are based on principles whose absolute and unchanging character are repulsive to some other Christians.

On the other hand, Orthodox theology and ethics admit a freedom that can seem downright liberal. I recall a conversation with a certain Presbyterian whose positions on matters of church and ethics alike were far more “liberal” than I as an Orthodox could accept. But when she started talking about her belief in the “total depravity” of the human person, our Orthodox voice began sounding to her like the more open, the more joyous, the more free. More generally, our approach to ethics and the canons provides a unique blending of absolute principles with particular, personal applications which can never be branded as sheer conservatism.

The terms “liberal” and “conservative” have only a limited use. Orthodox Christians should not let themselves be

pigeonholed into either category, either within Orthodoxy, with regard to the wider Christian landscape, or politically. Our province is not conservatism or liberalism, but truth.

Republican vs. Democrat

This still leaves the question of how we are to position ourselves politically. And here we are placed in a serious bind for two reasons. One is that there are some questions for which Orthodox Christians are so far unable to identify a single right answer. For example, we have been divided as to how to approach the war on Iraq, and both sides have offered sound theological arguments. We do not often take two sides of the same fence, but the living character of our Church does allow it to happen.

The bigger reason for our difficulty in siding with one or another political party is that the parties today each advocate unacceptable positions alongside admirable ones... We must consider their positions not only on abortion, but also on capital punishment, war, and human rights. We need to look at each party’s position on education and the environment. Each party must be examined in terms of how wealth is distributed, especially in terms of what effects will be felt by the nation’s poor. We need to examine the candidates’ views on ethical and bioethical issues such as stem-cell research, euthanasia, HIV/AIDS, and marriage...

The voting Orthodox Christian today is effectively stuck being either a “Reluctant Republican” or a “Reluctant Democrat.” We are, as is often the case, left with a choice between the lesser of two evils. This doesn’t take us off the hook, for we must choose. We have a compass to guide us in our choice and that compass is our understanding of Christ’s Gospel and how it is lived in the world his spare time. ■

EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Peter Bouteneff is the Professor of Systematic Theology at St. Vladimir’s Seminary in Crestwood, New York.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

	2015 YTD ¹	2016 YTD ¹	2016 BUDGET	2017 PROPOSED	% CHG.
INCOME					
Stewardship Offerings ²	\$164,625	\$198,781	\$250,494	\$253,557	1.2%
Parking	5,167	5,077	6,000	6,000	0.0%
Candles and Flowers	2,920	2,892	3,150	3,150	0.0%
Interest Income	38	61	25	25	0.0%
Miscellaneous Income	7,339	45	—	—	0.0%
Total Budgeted Income	\$180,094	\$206,856	\$259,669	\$262,732	1.2%
Total Non-Budgeted Income	\$80,459	\$48,404			
TOTAL INCOME	\$260,553	\$255,260			
EXPENSES					
Personnel	\$118,816	\$121,638	\$148,760	\$148,879	0.1%
Mortgage Outlay ³	23,810	23,810	28,573	28,572	0.0%
Archdiocesan/OCA Expenses	17,785	16,780	20,486	20,486	0.0%
Utilities	8,412	8,032	11,550	12,700	10.0%
Outreach and Fellowship	9,693	6,928	10,250	10,250	0.0%
Physical Plant	9,357	6,574	10,200	10,200	0.0%
Liturgical	6,800	5,372	8,275	8,275	0.0%
Office Administration	4,969	4,452	5,600	5,350	-4.5%
(Transfer to) Property Reserve Fund ⁴	4,167	1,250	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Christian Education	2,981	2,643	3,600	3,600	0.0%
Insurance	2,611	2,892	3,020	3,020	0.0%
(Transfer to) Discretionary Funds ⁵	1,042	375	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Licenses/Fees/Service Charges ⁶	2,144	1,843	1,105	2,400	117.2%
(Transfer to) All-American Council Fund ⁷	833	250	1,000	1,000	0.0%
Refurnishings	—	—	750	750	0.0%
Accessibility Improvements	—	—	—	750	—
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,188	10	—	—	—
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$214,609	\$202,848	\$259,669	\$262,732	1.2%
Total Non-Budgeted Expenses	\$30,759	\$128,709			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$245,368	\$331,557			

Chapel of the Holy Spirit

	2015 YTD ¹	2016 YTD ¹	2016 BUDGET	2017 PROPOSED	% CHG.
INCOME					
Total Budgeted Income	\$17,742	\$15,486	\$18,300	\$18,500	1.0%
Total Non-Budgeted Income	\$79,867	\$3,055			
TOTAL INCOME	\$97,609	\$18,541			
EXPENSES					
Personnel	\$6,811	\$6,336	7,700	7,400	-3.9%
Property/Mortgage ⁸	205	2,650	3,000	3,500	16.7%
Operating	731	829	2,400	2,000	-16.7%
Utilities	91	1,484	2,400	2,100	12.5%
Outreach and Fellowship	1,972	1,606	1,800	3,000	66.7%
Insurance	—	368	1,000	500	-50.0%
Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments	—	—	—	—	0.0%
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$9,809	\$13,273	\$18,300	\$18,500	1.0%
Total Non-Budgeted Expenses	\$123,290	\$13,149			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$133,099	\$26,422			

FOOTNOTES

1 through October 31.

2 includes the income for the former Deacon Support, OCF, and Mission appeals.

3 includes both interest and principal payments. Principal is now paid from the Trinity House Phase II Fund as of Jan. 1. The mortgage balance as of Oct. 31 was \$425,597.

4 indicates contributions to the Property Reserve Fund. To improve cash flow, financing of all HTOC funds was halted by Council on Apr. 1. Subsidies will resume once budget is met.

5 indicates contributions to the Rector’s and Ministry Director’s discretionary funds (transfers stopped Apr. 1, see footnote #4).

6 now includes online banking fees.

7 indicates savings towards the triennial Sobor (next held in '18) (stopped Apr. 1, see footnote #4)

8 The Chapel’s mortgage balance as of Oct. 31 was \$72,250.

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
30 Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	31 St. John (Kochurov) of Chicago	November 1 Women's Book Study, 10am @ Trinity House Conference Room Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm	2 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions "Orthodoxy 101" Inquirer's Q&A, 7pm	3 Penn State OCF: "Stump the Deacon" Night, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	4 Penn State OCF: Father's First Friday Film Series: <i>Zorba the Greek</i> , 7pm @ Atty Student Lounge, Trinity House	5 Archdiocesan Assembly (all day) @ New Salem (Our delegation to depart 6am from Holy Trinity. No Vespers at HTOC or CHS.)
6 Sunday School, 9am EST Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Parents Session, 12pm EST @ Trinity House Lower Level Combined OYA (Orthodox Youth Association, gr. 9-12) and Jr. OYA (gr. 5-8) Monthly Outing, 6pm EST	7 Great Vespers, 7pm (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 8pm-11pm)	8 Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 8am <i>(Hours, 7:40am)</i> Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ 217 E. Nittany Ave.	9 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	10 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	11 Archdiocesan Centennial Celebration, 10am @ St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park (banquet to follow) Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	12
13 St. John Chrysostom Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Parish Annual Meeting, 12pm	14 Apostle Philip Penn State Student Night, 7pm-10pm @ Atty Student Lounge, Trinity House	15 <i>Nativity Fast Begins: Omit meat & dairy (all days), and fish (most Mondays through Fridays, and Dec. 20-24).</i> Women's Book Study, 10am @ Trinity House Conference Room	16 Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions "Orthodoxy 101" Inquirer's Q&A, 7pm	17 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	18 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 5:15pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	19
20 Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Great Vespers with Litiya, 7pm	21 ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 8am <i>(Hours, 7:40am)</i>	22	23 <i>(No Vespers or Confessions)</i>	24 National Day of Thanksgiving	25 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	26
27 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	28 <i>(Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)</i>	29	30 Apostle Andrew the First-Called Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	December 1 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Prayer Night, 6pm @ Eisenhower Chapel and 124 Pasquerilla Center	2 Penn State OCF: Father's First Friday Film Series: <i>Ostrov</i> , 7pm @ Atty Student Lounge, Trinity House	3 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
4 Sunday School, 9am EST Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Combined OYA (Orthodox Youth Association, gr. 9-12) and Jr. OYA (gr. 5-8) Monthly Outing, 6pm	5 Great Vespers with Evlogia for Children, 7pm Penn State Student Night, 8pm-10pm @ Atty Student Lounge, Trinity House	6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Divine Liturgy, 8am <i>(Hours, 7:40am)</i> Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm	7 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	8 Penn State OCF: End-of-Semester Game Night, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	9 Sunday School Dinner, Christmas Caroling, and Cookie Decorating Night, 5:30pm-8:30pm	10 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

Chapel Calendar

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

Tuesday 1 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Sunday 20 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>
Saturday 5 Archdiocesan Assembly (all day) @ New Salem (Our delegation to stay at Trinity House overnight and depart at 6am from HTOC. No Vespers at CHS.)	Monday 21 ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS <i>(Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 8am @ Holy Trinity)</i>
Sunday 6 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Chapel Family Fun Night, 5pm-7pm @ MACC (67 Elm St., Beaver Springs)	Tuesday 22 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Tuesday 8 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Sunday 27 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>
Sunday 13 St. John Chrysostom Divine Liturgy, 9am <i>(Hours, 8:40am)</i> Parish Annual Meeting, 12pm @ Holy Trinity in State College	Monday 28 Monthly Women's "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Knitting/Crocheting Outreach, 6:30pm
Tuesday 15 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Tuesday 29 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Saturday 19 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Saturday Dec. 3 Great Vespers, 6pm
	Sunday 4 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>

November 2016