

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Women Spend Day Devoted to Prayer



WOMEN FROM THE PARISH were blessed to spend March 11 with two nuns during a Lenten retreat on prayer and preparation for resurrection of Christ. Mothers Christophora and Seraphima of the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, PA spent the day leading a two-part presentation designed to guide the women of Holy Trinity and the Chapel on their Lenten journeys.

Mother Seraphima spent the first session discussing the Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday: it reminds us all to be watchful for Christ, and it is this watchfulness that leads to salvation. The session concluded with the women signing together the hauntingly beautiful Hymn of Kassiani, one of the highlights of the evening service. Mother Christophora spent the second session on the life of Mother Alexandra, first abbess of the monastery, explaining how her story and that of other holy women can be applied to Christian women today. ■

Student Charity Dinner Raises More Than \$1k for Prison Ministry

This year's *Soup-er* Sunday—the Lenten charitable offering of all the parish's students—raised a stunning \$1,177 for the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry's **Matthew 25:26 Fellowship**. The children will use the proceeds from the meal's freewill offering to support the pan-Orthodox ministry's flagship initiative, which trains volunteers to conduct visitations, and supplies inmates and prison libraries with icons, Study Bibles, prayer books, and devotional materials. This is the most money raised by the annual meal prepared and served by our youth. Last year's luncheon, which benefited State College's Pregnancy Resource Clinic, raised an impressive-but-still-less \$727. To view photographs of the event, visit holytrinity-oca.org. ■

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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State College, PA 16801

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
April 2	J. Cadman and L. Rush*	M. Thompson and E. Miranda**	R. Patel and M. Stevens	Team B
April 9	A. Legaspi and K. Cartell*	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	S. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team A
April 16	PASCHA	<i>All Available Greeters</i>	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	Team B
April 23	R. Schrauf and D. Patel	B. Roberts and J. Houser	G. Cartell and M. Stevens	Team A
April 30	L. Georgiou and B. & N. Troyan	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	R. Patel and S. Stevens	Team B
May 7	A. Swisher and B. Roberts	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and H. Torbic	Team A

* Denotes Fast

** Denotes scotch/change

Team A: A. Evans, D. Stickle, J. Torbic, C. Schrauf, 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

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK: GUEST AUTHOR

Pascha in the East and West

by Met. Hierotheos

The Orthodox Church is the Church of the Resurrection, because it gives prominence to Christ's victory over death. Pascha is the overcoming of death, the passage of the Word to the human heart and not the reduction of the heart to human reason and senses. When one examines the "ethos" of Orthodoxy, one finds that it confers the "spirit" and life that comes out of the Tomb: the "life in the tomb" as the hymns say. It is a blaze of light and the ecstasy of life. This is where the difference between western Christianity and the Orthodox Church can be seen:

Saint Francis, in Kazantzakis' biography, reaches the highest degree of the spiritual life by feeling "God crucified" in his body. He said of this: "It is a cross, Brother Leone, man's body is a cross—open your arms and you will see, God is crucified upon it." And he prayed, "My Christ, my love, I ask one favour of you, one favour for me before I die—that I may feel in my body and soul, as far as possible, Your pain and Your Holy passion..." He reached the point of seeing the wounds of the Cross on his body, and when he asked for another, greater, experience, he heard a divine voice saying: "Do not ask for more; this is where man's ascent ends—at the Crucifixion!"

On the other hand, the Orthodox saint, St. Silouan the Athonite, saw the Resurrected Christ and experienced Pascha within his being and within creation. Following the vision of Christ resurrected he said: "I was living in a paschal feast. Everything was beautiful; the world was grand, people were pleasing, nature was unspeakably lovely, the body changed and became light, strength was added... the soul overflowed with joy; it had compassion on people and prayed for the whole world."

This difference between Western and Eastern thinking is seen in the difference between Jean-Paul Sartre and St. Seraphim of Sarov. The former (Sartre), disillusioned by western Christianity said: "The other is my hell!"

Feast Days this Month

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

VESPERS: Sat., April 8, 6pm
(A. Stickles, Litiya Bread;
L. Rush, Icon)

LITURGY: Sun., April 9, 10am



GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

VIGIL: Sat., April 15, 11:30pm
(L. Radomsky, Icon)



Additional Daily Liturgies:

DATE	TYPE	PROSPHORA
Wed., April 5, 6pm	Presanctified	K. Bazilevskaya
Sat., April 8, 6pm	Lazarus	A. Stickles
Mon., April 10, 9am	Presanctified	K. Bazilevskaya
Tue., April 11, 9am	Presanctified	K. Bazilevskaya
Wed., April 12, 9am	Presanctified	K. Bazilevskaya
Thu., April 13, 10am	Vesperal	I. Andrzhiievsky
Sat., April 15, 10am	Vesperal	A. Stickles
Mon., April 17, 8am	Paschal	I. Andrzhiievsky

The latter (St. Seraphim of Sarov) addressed everyone who met him with the greeting: "Christ is Risen, my joy." Each and every "other" is not "different" a "stranger" a "foreigner", but a brother. The experience of the Resurrection overcomes death, neutralises selfishness, and abolishes Hades. Otherwise, man is enclosed in his own personal hell.

In celebrating "our Pascha" as "the feast of feasts" and as "the death of death, the first-fruits of another life that is eternal" we feel within ourselves and around ourselves the scent of spiritual death, of life that is before the Resurrection of Christ. We live this biological life simply for survival, but, indeed, as yet mortal.

New Addition to the Bookstore!

The Bookstore is excited to announce that it is now carrying coffee roasted by Burning Bush Coffee Roasters, which is run by the monks of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Monastery in South Canaan, PA. They are a small-batch artisan coffee roastery with a focus on roasting "specialty grade" coffee beans from around the world. Specialty grade coffees are coffee beans that are the highest quality coffees available. Purchases benefit both the monastery and our Bookstore. If you would like more information about Burning Bush, please visit: burningbushcoffee.com.

■ NEWS AND NOTES

Nat'l Orthodox Christian Fellowship Begins Search for an Executive Director

BROOKLINE, MA [via ocf.net] — The Orthodox Christian Fellowship headquartered here is accepting resumes from interested candidates for the position of Executive Director. With a network of more than 400 chapters that stretches across the United States and Canada, including one at Penn State, OCF is seeking a motivated individual who can champion Orthodox campus ministry and oversee the operations of OCF's regional and national programs. The candidate must demonstrate strong leadership ability, management skills, an ability to multitask, and an understanding of and respect for the practices, traditions, theology and structure of the Orthodox Church.

Applicants will be reviewed and contacted based upon the order of submitted applications, with a hope that the position will be filled as quickly as possible with a target date of June 2017. A full job description and application instructions are available on the OCF website (ocf.net). For information, contact Deacon Alex Cadman (orthodox@psu.edu), chaplain of our Penn State chapter; and OCA representative on, and Secretary of, the National OCF Board of Trustees. ■

Students Sought for Conference

Archbishop Melchisedek is looking for interested young people to represent the Archdiocese at IOCC's *Serv-X-Treme Youth Leadership Conference*. The goal of this annual event is the prepare Orthodox Christian youth, appointed by their bishop, to serve at home and abroad by learning about mission through meaningful volunteer service opportunities. The conference will take place July 29-August 4, 2017 in Minneapolis. All costs (transportation, lodging, meals, etc.) are completely underwritten after a \$100 copay. Nominations should be sent to Patty Lear (pnlear@verizon.net) by April 24.

Local Pregnancy Clinic Raises Thousands for Life; HTOC Contributes \$500

STATE COLLEGE [via scprc.com] — The Pregnancy Resource Clinic here held its annual fundraising dinner last month and raised more than \$200,000 in gifts and pledges. The local nonprofit educates, encourages, and empowers both women and men to make informed life choices based on Christian principles and values. The advocates and medical personnel never offer or refer abortions or abortifacients for those seeking assistance. Representing Holy Trinity at the dinner were Dn. Alex and Mka. Jennifer Cadman, who presented PRC a \$500 check on behalf of the parish. ■

Medical Professionals Needed for Mission Teams

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL [via ocmc.org] — The Mission Field needs medical professionals to volunteer on short-term mission teams this summer! Administering health care to people who do not normally have access to treatment is an essential part of OCMC missions, and your expertise could make a huge impact on suffering people around the world. Opportunities are open for the two Guatemala trips (Aug. 25-Sept. 3; Nov. 10-19) and the Indonesia team (Sept. 18-30). For information or to apply, visit ocmc.org. ■

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

A Profound Disruption

by Elissa Bjeletich (via ancientfaith.com)

There are services morning and night...and they can wear you out. They'll take over your life. Trying to accomplish the basic requirements of a family life (providing meals and clean laundry and maybe showering) can become pretty challenging when you're endeavoring to really live Holy Week. It is profoundly disruptive to your family rhythm.

Some parents will look at that schedule and shrug, confident that Holy Week was not designed for families. In fact, Holy Week is designed for families. It is a targeted medicine for the very spiritual illness that ails modern American families most especially: the sickness of worldly busyness.

Our families cater to complex children's schedules, and we run from work to take the kids to practice; we travel to see them play games and tournaments; we push back mealtimes and ignore church services. We allow the rhythm of our homes to be set by coaches, rather than settle into the healthier patterns of the church calendar and prayer cycles.

Holy Week and Pascha disrupt all of this. The Church calls out to you: Put it away. Lay aside your earthly cares, and come here. Stop playing with toys, spinning with the pursuits that will fade away and disappear when we die. Come face your Lord, come walk with us to Golgotha and dive down into Hades to rise up on the third day. Enter into the eternal truth...

The details and scuffles and frustrations of our daily lives are where we work out our salvation, but they will all fade away in an instant. They are not real like God is real; in eternity, they will be revealed as vain imaginings and illusions. At the Second Coming, all of this noise will be silenced and we will stand before the Lord our God, and the idea of soccer practice will not once enter our heads...

Everything must be disrupted to take us off the path of death. Our Lord took on flesh, somehow containing the uncontainable in a human body, to disrupt everything, to change our course, to save us. On Great and Holy Friday, we'll sing "Today He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the Cross..." Not 2,000 years ago, but **today**... time changes in Holy Week...

[Beginning the evening of Palm Sunday] the Matins (morning services) are in the evening [at 7 p.m.] and the Vespers (evening services) are in the morning [at 9 a.m.]. Time is on its head. Holy Week is intentionally disruptive. This is what we need, so let's give in to it: Throw caution to the wind, and let your life be disrupted and transformed. ■

Extra Scoops...

High School Class to Attend OCF April 6

On Thursday, April 6, at 7 p.m., the high school class is invited to attend the OCF meeting to see what goes on there and to interact with our Penn State students to learn about their college experiences. Fr. Timothy Hojnicky of Holy Apostles in Mechanicsburg will be our guest that evening, taking questions from all those present. If your child would like to attend, email orthodox@psu.edu so that additional food may be ordered (yes, they get dinner!).

Special Holy Week Sunday School Events

On Palm Sunday (April 9) following the Divine Liturgy (about 12 p.m.), school age girls will review and rehearse (for approximately 20 minutes) for Holy Friday services. Also, as we did last year, all high school students are asked to come at midnight on Holy Friday to keep vigil at the tomb and to take turns reading from the book of Psalms. The group is slotted to read from 12 a.m. to 2 a.m. Last year there were at least six high school students so each person read for approximately 20 minutes. Please let me know if your child will be attending.

—Dn. Mark Oleynik

On Pascha

Either Christ rose from the dead, or death is not conquered. If death is not conquered, we are still in our sins, to borrow from St. Athanasius. Either Christ was and remains God in the flesh, before, during, and after his Passion and Resurrection, or all that we are about to celebrate is simply play-acting, a myth, a drama without much to compel it... On Pascha night...we fill the night skies with the cry which makes devils tremble: "Christ is risen!"

— Fr. John Reeves

We chant "Christ is Risen!", we celebrate on the outside, but the bitterness of Hades rules within us, often even in church life. The remembrance of death is bitter, so too is the pain of loneliness. These poisonous constraints, even in the field of Christianity are bitter; even in the Church itself, which continues to be the Church of the Resurrection and to preach the mystery of the Resurrection.

It is of course our various passions that keep us away from the existential festival of life. Various pressures also make Church life feel different from this. Christians divided by various political considerations, the Orthodox with various rivalries between themselves; these do not remind us of the Resurrected Christ at all. So, the crucifixion of the Orthodox Church continues. The wounds of the Cross of the Church in Jerusalem, from its internal weaknesses and external influences blacken the "Holy Fire" that comes from the Sepulcher of Christ. The political opportunism, the nationalistic racists with their all too human passions do not allow the joy of the Resurrection to shine out as light to the people round about.

The domineering powers that can be seen in all Christian confessions drain away the "Joy to all," the "Peace unto you," the "be of good cheer," because they are ruled by other alien powers, foreign to the "spirit" of the Resurrected Christ. Unfortunately, politics, often in ecclesiastical dress, are the nails of the crucified Church, the bride of the Resurrected Christ together with the worldly-led pressures that take place in the name of the term "mother Church..."

Our Pascha, as the victory over death and the experience of life, is lived out today despite these secular-minded powers and tendencies. It is experienced by those who live humbly and existentially within the sphere of the Church, away from secularization, racism and political considerations and can be clearly seen in the relics of saints.

Normally, the bodies of those saints that have fallen asleep, which are a just mass of cells, within which are included the cells for ageing, should rot away. However, the power and grace of the Resurrection does not let them break up; something which proves they have overcome death. The saint is a person who is asleep awaiting the last wake up call.

This then is our Pascha, as a mystery of the Resurrection, and not as a Christianity of religiosity with the passions of the love of precedence, of division and of rivalry. "Our Pascha" cannot be replaced by "our Religion," which lives under the rule of death. The Resurrected Christ cannot be made up out of the political expressions of Christianity and the power of the Resurrection cannot fit within the so-called "Christian States". It is experienced in a life beyond the imagination, thinking and speaking; transfigured by Divine Light, with a loving desire for God and with humility. ■

Also from Father's Desk...

- **Fr. John completed** the first half of the in-home portion of his treatment on March 31. This means that 24 weeks remain of the current course of treatment: thrice-weekly injections of interferon as adjuvant therapy to stimulate his immune system to resist future bouts of cancer. The parish celebrates this important milestone and looks forward to the Fall when he expects the side-effects of his treatment will subside.
- **Appointments** with Fr. John are available on a limited basis through the Parish Office only—(814) 231-2855 or office@holymtrinity-oca.org. Father is unable to meet with parishioners before or after the Sunday Liturgy. Thank you for understanding.

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
26 St. John Climacus Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Parent's Session, 12pm @ Trinity House Lower Level	27 <i>(Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)</i>	28 Women's Bible Study, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	29 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	30 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	31 St. Innocent of America Penn State OCF Spring Service Trip, departs 5pm (returns Sunday, 4pm) @ Ocean City, New Jersey Akathist to the Theotokos, 6pm	April 1 Annual Parish Work Day, 9am-1pm Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
2 St. Mary of Egypt Sunday School, 9am (Locations vary; All classes begin in the Parish Hall.) Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Deanery Lenten Vespers, 4pm @ St. Michael's Church, Irvona	3 <i>(Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)</i>	4	5 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm (No Confessions) Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	6 Penn State OCF: Dinner & "Stump the Priest Night" with Fr. Timothy Hojnicky ("Move-up Day" for High School Sun. School), 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	7 St. Tikhon, Enlightener of North America Vespers, 5:30pm	8 Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy, 9am Altar Soc. Decorating, 11am First Confessions, 3:30pm Confessions, 4pm Youth Pascha Wksp., 4pm Vespers/Litiya/Conf., 6pm
9 PALM SUNDAY Sunday School Palm Prep., 9am Hours & Palm Procession, 9:30am Divine Liturgy, ~10am Myrrhophores Practice, 12pm Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday, 7pm	10 HOLY MONDAY Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday, 7pm	11 HOLY TUESDAY Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ 217 E. Nittany Ave. Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday, 7pm	12 HOLY WEDNESDAY Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Matins of Holy Thursday/Holy Unction, 7pm	13 HOLY THURSDAY Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am Penn State OCF: Dinner at Holy Trinity, 6pm Matins of Holy Friday (12 Passion Gospels), 7pm	14 HOLY FRIDAY Royal Hours, 10am (Unnailing) Vespers of Holy Friday, 4pm Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations), 7pm	15 HOLY SATURDAY Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am Nocturns, 11:30pm
16 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST Matins/Hours/Divine Liturgy, 12am Blessing of Baskets/Festal Meal, 2:30am Agape Vespers, 4pm Agape Meal, 5pm	17 Bright Monday Paschal Divine Liturgy, 8am (Pashcal Hours, 7:40am) Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm <i>(Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)</i>	18 Bright Tuesday Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm	19 Bright Wednesday Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm	20 Bright Thursday Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	21 Bright Friday Paschal Vespers, 5:30pm Annual Men's BBQ, 7pm @ Trinity House	22 Bright Saturday Deanery Paschal Divine Liturgy, 10am @ St. John the Baptist, 785 Blaire Rd., Black Lick Great Vespers, 6pm
23 Thomas Sunday St. George the Trophy-bearer Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Church School Egg Hunt, 12:30pm @ Holmes-Foster Park	24 Young Adult Potluck and Game Night, 6pm @ Trinity House	25 Day of Rejoicing Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark	26 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	27 Penn State OCF: End-of-Semester Dinner and Game Night, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	28	29 Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
30 Holy Myrrhbearing Women Apostle James, brother of St. John Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Parents Session, 12pm-12:30pm @ Trinity House Lower Level	May 1 Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm @ Trinity House	2	3 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	4	5	6 Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)

Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Sunday 23 Thomas Sunday / Great-martyr St. George Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship & Study of Ch. 6 of <i>The Orthodox Faith—Spirituality</i> , following
Sunday 2 St. Mary of Egypt Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship & Study of Ch. 5 of <i>The Orthodox Faith—Spirituality</i> , following	Monday 24 Monthly Women's Knitting Outreach, 6:30pm
Tuesday 4 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Tuesday 25 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Sunday 9 PALM SUNDAY <i>(Matins/Divine Liturgy, 9am @ Holy Trinity)</i>	Saturday 29 Great Vespers, 6pm
Saturday 15 HOLY SATURDAY <i>(Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 10am @ Holy Trinity)</i> <i>(Nocturns, 11:30pm @ Holy Trinity)</i>	Sunday 30 Holy Myrrhbearing Women / Apostle James Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship & Study of Ch. 7 of <i>The Orthodox Faith—Spirituality</i> , following
Sunday 16 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA <i>(Paschal Matins/Hours/Divine Liturgy, 12am @ Holy Trinity*)</i>	Tuesday May 1 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
*NOTE: No Events or Services at the Chapel April 8-21.	Saturday 6 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

April 2017