

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Can We Live in an Orthodox World?

by Dn. Mark Oleynik

“WE WANT TO THINK *that we have only to contemplate salvation and desire it, and everything is all set. That is not how it happens in reality. The matter of salvation is the most important thing. Consequently it is the most difficult. This is by virtue of its importance and by the labor required. Labor then, for the Lord's sake! Very soon you will see the fruit. If you do not set to work, however, you will be left without anything and be unworthy. Deliver us, Lord, from this!*”

—St. Theophan the Recluse,
Letter 51, *The Spiritual Life and How to Be Attuned to It*

David the Psalmist yearns for a life in which the spirit of worship is unceasing and in which the divine beauty is contemplated, and in which all investigation is to be made in the spirit of the reverent supplication. Are we willing to labor to live such a life?

Yes, we think we can, provided it is on our terms and conditions. In a world that distracts and teases us with sports, movies, TV, vacations, games, careers, etc., we often find our lives revolving around everything except for our Lord. Is this the essence of an Orthodox life? It is not enough to say that we are Orthodox Christians or that we belong to the Church. We have to live like Orthodox Christians. We need to infuse each hour of our day with Christ.

Later this month our children will once again be engaged in a week of learning, prayer, song, and fun during our annual Vacation Bible School (VBS)—a



vibrant and exhilarating part of our parish life. This year's theme is “Living in an Orthodox World,” where participants will learn that we are to love God and Christ's Church, and live in a world dedicated to Him.

The Church must be at the center of our existence and touch every part of us and so each VBS day will highlight a service of the liturgical cycle. The Church must touch our day and our night and everything in between. Our morning is touched by morning prayers or Matins, and our evening is touched by evening prayers or Vespers with the other services in between.

Just as the Earth revolves around the sun, our lives must revolve around the Church, so that the Light of Jesus can touch every part of our life. The Light of Christ will keep us warm, and we will grow together as His Church. ■

(for more information on VBS, see next page)

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
June 4	PENTECOST (<i>Bagels & Coffee</i>)	J. & R. Cadman and J. Houser**	M. Fedkin and R. Patel**	<i>All Servers</i>
June 11	Russian Ladies	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	G. Cattell and M. Stevens	Team A
June 18	A.T. Pelikan and J. Miranda*	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	R. Patel and S. Stevens	Team B
June 25	H. T orbic and L. Georgiou*	A. Ashmore and E. Ashmore**	B. Haupt and H. T orbic	Team A
July 2	M. Leathers and A. Ashmore	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	G. Cattell and M. Fedkin	Team B
July 9	J. Cadman and L. Rush	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	R. Patel and M. Stevens	Team A

* Denotes Fast

** Denotes switch/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 I. Torbic.

Captains:
D. Torbic and S. Oleynik

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK: GUEST AUTHOR

Children in the Sanctuary

by Rabbi Menachem Creditor

EDITOR'S NOTE: *With this month being dedicated to Vacation Bible School, Fr. John asked that this article be shared. Although the author is writing from a rabbinical perspective, his insights should resonate with us as we seek to instruct our children to love and follow Christ.*

I share these words in response to something disturbing that has taken place in my synagogue's sanctuary twice over the last month. In both cases, a child in the sanctuary made child-like sounds, and in both cases, someone asked the child's parents to take the child out of the sanctuary. In one case, the person said to the parent, "perhaps your child doesn't belong in synagogue." Besides my sense of (and agreement with) the parents' hurt, these words are also the least synagogue-ish I've ever heard. This sentiment has no place in our faith communities, and my response is one of outrage that they were said in the first place.

My response to these wrong reactions to the presence of children within holy space is simple and core to who we are called to be as faith communities: **Our sanctuaries are not sanctuaries from children. They are sanctuaries for children.** Parents are the only ones responsible for their children, in a sanctuary and in general. We expect them to use good judgment, knowing that children have a hard time being quiet and that there are some quiet moments of solemnity. So while parents should be responsible for exercising wisdom, only parents are entitled to make that decision.

If you feel the urge to react to the sound a child makes in a sanctuary, please know that you are welcome to

Vacation Bible School 2017: Living in an Orthodox World

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be filled with prayer, games, and music, and will be conducted June 12-16 from 5:30pm to 8pm. It is open to all students from age 4 to rising seventh graders. (Parents and older kids are needed to be the helping hands and leaders.)

Register today at holyltrinity-oca.org.

walk out until that feeling subsides. Children are cherished parts of our spiritual lives, not distractions from it. [Cries they make] spell out a glorious, vital future for my community and for people of faith. After all, we are only older versions of the children we see.

We cry. *Why shouldn't they?* They play. *Shouldn't we as well?* Those children will, one day, please God, take our places as leaders of faith communities. That is, they will be the next generation of faith leaders unless we inform them that their whole selves aren't welcome in our sacred spaces.

[Our] tradition teaches us that the Gates of Heaven are only open because of the cries of children. *How can our prayers be acceptable if we exclude our most pure sound?...*

A sanctuary is not a sanctuary from children. It is a sanctuary we've built for our children, and their children after them. ■

Play Like Children

[To obtain the reality you seek] start behaving as if you had it already. That is why children's games are so important. They are always pretending to be grown-ups—playing soldiers, playing shop. But all the time, they are hardening

their muscles and sharpening their wits so that the pretense of being grown-up helps them to grow up in earnest.

Now, the moment you realize [you are] dressing up as Christ it is extremely likely that you will see...less of a pretense and more of a reality. You will find

several things going on in your mind which would not be going on there if you were really a son of God. Stop them! Or you may realize that, instead of saying your prayers, you ought to be downstairs writing a letter, or helping your wife to clean up. Go and do it!

—C.S. Lewis

■ NEWS & NOTES

Register Now for OCF's National Summer Leadership Institute

KANSASVILLE, WI [*via ocf.net*] — The Summer Leadership Institute, a ministry of the national Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is a four-day leadership training institute for Orthodox Christian college students and young adults (ages 18-25). Participants will learn what it means to be an Orthodox leader on campus, in church, and in the world. The intensive conference takes place August 16-19, 2017 here at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. Visit ocf.net to learn more.

Medical Missionaries Sought for Summer Teams

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL [*via ocmc.org*] — Do you work in the medical field? Have you ever wondered if you can offer your medical skills in a region of the world where access to primary care is limited? Have you heard God speak in your heart about serving Him but you really weren't sure whether that was practical? If so, you may be called to treat illnesses, care for the poor, offer public health training and be a witness of our Orthodox Faith on an OCMC Health Care Team. Call OCMC today at (904) 829-5132 to see if you should be on a team.

St. Vladimir's Announces New President, Structure

CRESTWOOD, NY [*via svots.edu*] — The Board of Trustees of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary here last month unanimously confirmed Fr. Chad Hatfield as President of the Seminary for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2017. The appointment is part of a new governance structure designed to ensure the seminary remains a worldwide leader in Orthodox post-graduate education. For more information or to learn about the opportunities St. Vladimir's provides, see our very own Melody Thompson, who serves as a member of the Board. ■

■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Join Members of the Chapel for Their Patronal Feast and Annual Picnic

The Chapel of the Holy Spirit will be celebrating its patronal feast (Feast of the Holy Spirit) on Sunday, June 11 (transferred from Monday, June 5). The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10 a.m., followed by the annual picnic on the church lot. Meat and beverages will be provided by the Chapel; please bring a covered dish or dessert. All regular attendees of Holy Trinity and visitors are encouraged to make the hour-long pilgrimage to the Chapel for this very wonderful time of celebration and fellowship. See you there.

Chapel Increases Outreach to Community

The folks at the Chapel were pretty busy the month of May. The faithful there hosted their quarterly Family Fun Night at the Middlecreek Area Community Center (MACC) in Beaver Springs. Approximately 30 people enjoyed hot dogs, snacks, crafts, and gym activities. Pray for this ministry; several new people attend every quarter the event is hosted. As an added outreach to newcomers, the community finished one study of the Faith and began another at the Chapel rectory (see the calendar on the next page for details). ■

Feast Days this Month

HOLY PENTECOST: THE FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY

VESPERS: Sat., June 3, 6pm
(M. Haupt, Litiya Bread)
(P. Doty, Icon)



LITURGY: Sun., June 4, 10am

HOLY APOSTLES PETER & PAUL

VESPERS: Wed., June 28, 7pm
LITURGY: Thurs., June 29, 8am
(A.T. Pelikan, Prospora)



Before Opening Your Bible

by Fr. Lawrence Farley

Just the other day I opened a Bible [at the local Value Village] and was saddened by what I read. For there, on the initial fly-leaf, were written in beautiful calligraphic script the words, “*Presented to Cathy Ruth by Mom and Dad, April 18, 1993...*”

Of course, I have no idea of what might have led “Cathy Ruth” to junk her Bible... Perhaps she is continuing in zealous service of her Lord and now has so many Bibles she needs to lighten the load on her library shelf; given that this volume was given to her by her parents, I think this unlikely. A more likely scenario is that Cathy Ruth has drifted away from her youthful faith and now values that Bible no more than she values old copies of Harlequin romances and tapes she once listened to. How does this happen? How does one go from opening one’s Bible and reading with compunction to throwing it into a box for donation to Value Village?

It all depends upon how we read the Bible. Do we read it like we are performing a chore? Do we consider Scripture-reading a duty, something we do to please God, who for some inexplicable reason insists that we read religious literature we find boring as a kind of *podvig*? If so, it is not surprising that we find persevering in that task difficult, and would be only too relieved to be done with it all. If we read our Bible as a duty and nothing more, it is all but certain that it will soon acquire a coat of dust and end up at Value Village.

But there is another way to read the Scriptures. That way is to focus on love for Christ and not the performance of duty as the central motivation of our life. We then will not think in terms of duties (or “works,” to use Pauline terminology), or of things we must do to get on God’s good side. Rather, we think only of Christ and of our relationship with Him. The first question to be faced before ever thinking of opening a Bible is: “*Do you know and love Jesus?*”

Is Jesus simply an historical figure, with whom you have no real relationship, and thus on par with other historical figures, such as Socrates or the Buddha? Or do you really know Him, and find in His love for you, the reason for your existence? The latter is the only way for a Christian, and without this relationship with the living Christ our Orthodoxy is simply a sham. This issue must be faced and resolved before beginning to seriously read the Bible, for the Bible is addressed only to those who have given their lives to God. Reading Scripture seriously before we have given ourselves to Jesus is like reading someone else’s mail—it is no wonder that we can make little sense of it and quickly lose interest.

When we have given our lives to Jesus, we then find the Bible a different book than we first thought it was. We now read the Old Testament to find Jesus there—hidden in typology and symbol, foreshadowed in Israel’s experiences, seen from afar by the prophets. We read the New Testament to draw near to the Lord we have come to know—nourishing our hearts with His teaching in the Gospels, hearkening to the advice of His apostles in their letters which tell us how to serve Him better. Once we have surrendered our lives to Him, our central aim will be to know Him more and more. Reading the Scriptures will then be urgently relevant to our own needs and desires, for it addresses itself to our condition and tells us how to arrive at the destination we ourselves have chosen...

For those who truly know Jesus, it is unthinkable to turn away from Him and try to live without Him. It is therefore equally unthinkable that we would discard as worthless something as important to our relationship with Him as our personal Bible—regardless of who had given it to us, and regardless of the inscription on the fly-leaf. ■

EDITOR’S NOTE: Fr. Lawrence Farley is the priest in Langley, B.C., and is the author of many books and Ancient Faith Radio podcasts. This article originally appeared on oca.org.

Young Adults Plan Summer Events

On Monday, June 19, the Young Adult Fellowship will hike Bear Meadows Trail starting at 6 p.m. The group will meet in the parking lot of Tussey Mtn. (311 Bear Meadows Rd. in Boalsburg) and caravan to the trailhead. Bring water and snacks and eat before coming. Then on July 11, the group will split: the ladies will have dinner together at the Leathers’ residence (4817 W. Whitehall Rd. in Pennsylvania Furnace) and the guys will meet up at Champs for Team Trivia and Nachos beginning at 8 p.m. (food at both events will be sponsored by the church). To learn more, email Megan at youngadults@holyltrinity-oca.org.

New to the New Bookstore

Parenting Toward the Kingdom by Dr. Philip Mamelakis, Professor of Pastoral Care at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, will help you make the connections between the spiritual life of the Orthodox Church and the ongoing challenges of raising children. It takes the best child development research and connects it with the timeless truths of our Christian faith to offer you real strategies for navigating the challenges of daily life. You can find this title in the *new and improved* Holy Trinity Bookstore located in the lower level of the church. Stop by this Sunday!

Diocese to Sponsor Parish Forum

Parish Development Program Director Joe Kormos will conduct the annual Small Parish Forum being co-sponsored by our Archdiocese and the Diocese of the Midwest (OCA). It will be held at St. John the Baptist parish in New Kensington July 13-15. The conference is designed to share helpful, hopeful ideas and tools for stabilizing and strengthening parish life. To learn more, see a member of the clergy or visit ocadwpa.org.

Join Fellow Orthodox at PNC Park

On July 17 at 7:05 p.m., watch the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Milwaukee Brewers with fellow Orthodox Christians from the Archdiocese. The cost is only \$23. To order tickets or for more information, call or text John Schultz at (304) 479-5071 by June 19. *Play ball!*

Late Bishop’s Memorial to be Held

The tenth anniversary of Archbishop KYRILL’s repose will be commemorated at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City on Monday, June 19, with a Divine Liturgy (9:30 a.m.) in the monastery church (a graveside panikhida will take place immediately afterward). Archbishops MELCHISEDEK and ALEXANDER (the deceased’s successors in the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania and the Bulgarian Diocese, respectively) hope you can join them at the monastery that day. Lunch in the refectory will follow the services.



2017 Directories Now Available

Directories featuring full-color portraits of parishioners from Holy Trinity and the Chapel are now available in the Narthex for all those that participated this Spring. The directory is also updated online (visit holyltrinity-oca.org/directory to request access). If you missed the photo shoot this year, the directory will be updated regularly (i.e., once we have 15 in the queue). See Deacon Alexander for assistance or to learn more. ■

For the Record

BAPTISMS

- **Andria and Gabriel Mekerishvili**, twin sons of Giorgi and Salome Mekerishvili, baptized May 13 at Holy Trinity by Fr. David Smith. Andria was sponsored by Ilia Krasikov and Sophia Abashidze, and Gabriel was sponsored by Givi Melkadze and Nita Burkadze. **Many years!**

DEATH

- **Mary Laboda**, beloved aunt of Barbara and Diedrich Farber of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit reposed in the Lord on May 22. At 100, she was Holy Trinity’s oldest living parishioner at the time of her passing. **May her memory be eternal!**

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
28 Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	29	30	31 Vespers, 5:30pm (No Confessions)	June 1	2	3 Memorial Saturday Altar Society Decoration for Pentecost, 4:30pm Great Vespers w/ Outdoor Litiya for Pentecost, 6pm Confessions
4 PENTECOST Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) "Kneeling" Vespers of Pentecost, 12pm Annual Parish Picnic/Patronal Feast 1pm-4pm @ <i>Sunset Park, N. McKee St., College Heights (new location)</i>	5 Day of the Holy Spirit Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm @ <i>Trinity House</i>	6	7 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	8	9	10 Archdiocesan Clergy/Lay Retreat: "Humility & Obedience", 10:30am-2:30pm @ <i>St. John the Baptist Church, Monessen</i> Baptism, 4pm Great Vespers/Conf., 6pm
11 All Saints Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Annual Chapel Picnic, 12pm @ <i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit, 145 N. Kern St., Beavertown</i>	12 Vacation Bible School (VBS) Begins. Theme: "Living in an Orthodox World," 5:15pm-8pm	13 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.</i> Vacation Bible School, 5:15pm-8pm	14 Vespers, 5pm Confessions Vacation Bible School, 5:35pm-8pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i>	15 Vacation Bible School, 5:15pm-8pm	16 Vacation Bible School, 5:15pm-8pm	17 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
18 All Saints of America Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	19 10-Year Memorial for Abp. Kyrill, 9:30am @ <i>Transfg. Monastery, Ellwood City</i> Young Adult Fellowship Hiking Outing, 6pm @ <i>311 Bear Meadows Rd., Boalsburg</i>	20	21 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	22	23	24 Nativity of St. John the Forerunner Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
25 Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	26	27	28 Great Vespers, 7pm Confessions	29 HOLY APOSTLES SS. PETER AND PAUL Divine Liturgy or Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 8am (Hours, 7:40am)	30	July 1 Great Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
2 Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> (Trinity House and Parish Offices Closed)	5 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	6	7	8 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday-Sunday 4 (All Services for Pentecost Weekend @ <i>Holy Trinity</i>)	Sunday 25 Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following Video Presentation & Study: <i>History of the Orthodox Church Part III, 12:30pm @ 140 Old Orchard Dr.</i>
Tuesday 6 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Monday 26 Women's "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Knitting/Crocheting Outreach, 6:30pm
Sunday 11 All Saints Sunday Chapel Patronal Feast (transferred from June 5) Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Annual Chapel Picnic, following. (Please bring a covered dish and lawn chairs; all meats and beverages will be provided.)	Tuesday 27 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Tuesday 13 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Saturday July 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
Saturday 17 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Sunday 2 Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following Video Presentation & Study: <i>History of the Orthodox Church Part IV, 12:30pm @ 140 Old Orchard Dr.</i>
Sunday 18 All Saints of America Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following	Tuesday 4 <i>Independence Day</i> (No Choir Rehearsal)
Tuesday 20 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	

June 2017