

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Paschal Message of St. John Chrysostom

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in no wise be deprived there of. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.



Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a

(continued—see PASCHAL SERMON, page 3)

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Altar Servers*
April 11	Russian Ladies	Andreas Artemiou & Rachael Cattell	Team A
April 18	Elaine Stewart & Dee Patel	Beth Roberts & Ed Miranda	Team B
April 25	Julianne Vaughan & Beth Roberts	Leslyn & Mark Radomsky	Team A
May 2	Anne & Corene Swisher	Melody Thompson & Mark Fedkin	Team B
May 9	Ellen George	Megan Leathers & David Swisher	Team A
May 16	Anne-Therese Pelikan & Cathy Nemtsov	Andreas Artemiou & Rachael Cattell	Team B

* Team A: D. Andresen, C. Doty, N. Fedkin, M. Haupt, A. Miranda, S. Oleynik, and Jo. Stickles
Team B: J. Cattell, M. Doty, P. Doty, J. Miranda, S. Pelikan, and Je. Stickles.

“There’s Never Been a Pascha Like This”

In 1945, a Paschal Liturgy like no other was performed. Just days after their liberation by the U.S. on Palm Sunday, hundreds of Orthodox Christian prisoners at the Dachau concentration camp gathered to celebrate the Resurrection. Here is one account:

Of the 5,000 originally destined for [the concentration camp] Dachau, I was among the 1,300 who had survived the trip. Many were shot, some starved to death, while others died of typhus...

[On Lazarus Saturday] I and my fellow prisoners can hear the bombardment of Munich taking place some 30 km. from our concentration camp. As the sound of artillery approaches ever nearer from the west and the north, orders are given proscribing prisoners from leaving their barracks under any circumstances. SS-soldiers patrol the camp on motorcycles as machine guns are directed at us from the watchtowers, which surround the camp.

[The next day] the booming sound of artillery has been joined by the staccato bursts of machine gun fire. Shells whistle over the camp from all directions. Suddenly white flags appear on the towers. Then a strange sound can be detected emanating from somewhere near the camp gate which swiftly increases in volume...

Finally all 32,600 prisoners join in the cry as the first American soldiers appear just behind the wire fence of the camp. After a short while electric power is turned off, the gates open and the American GIs make their entrance. As they stare wide-eyed at our lot, half-starved as we are and suffering from typhus and dysentery, they appear more like fifteen-year-old boys than battle-weary soldiers...

An international committee of prisoners is formed to take over the administration of the camp. Food from S.S.-stores is put at the disposal of the camp kitchen. A U.S. military unit also contributes some provision, thereby providing me with my first opportunity to taste American corn. By order of an American officer radio-receivers are confiscated from “prominent Nazis” in the town of Dachau and distributed to the various national groups of prisoners. The news comes in: Hitler has committed suicide, the Russians have taken Berlin, and German troops have surrendered in the South and in the North. But the fighting still rages in Austria and Czechoslovakia...

Naturally, I was ever cognizant of the fact that these momentous events were unfolding during Holy Week. But how could we mark it, other than through our silent, individual prayers? A fellow-prisoner and chief interpreter of the International prisoner’s committee, Boris F., paid a visit to my typhus-infested barrack “Block 27” to inform me that efforts were underway...to arrange an Orthodox service for Easter day.

There were Orthodox priests, deacons and a group of monks from Mount Athos among the prisoners. [They devised] a creative solution to the problem of the vestments. New linen towels were taken from the hospital of our former SS-guards. When sewn together lengthwise, two towels formed an epitrichilion and when sewn together at the ends they became an orarion. Red crosses, originally intended to be worn by the medical personnel of the SS-guards, were put on the towel-vestments.

On Easter Sunday...Serbs, Greeks and Russians gathered at the Catholic Priests’ barrack... In the entire history of the Orthodox Church there has probably never been an Easter service like the one at Dachau in 1945. Greek and Serbian priests together with a Serbian deacon adorned the make-

Konavets Quartet to Perform

Holy Trinity will host an evening of beautiful sacred music performed by the Konevets Russian Quartet on Tuesday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. The selections sung by the quartet range from chants and hymns by 20th-century composers such as Chesnokov, Grechaninov, Stravinsky to ancient chants and hymns in their original one-, two- and three-part arrangements.

Founded by graduates of the St. Petersburg Music Conservatory in 1992, the ensemble travels around the world with the goal of sharing the rich Russian vocal tradition with its audiences.

The performance is free of charge. A free-will offering will be accepted to support the Konevets Monastery (from which the group takes its name), a 600-year-old religious community located 100 miles northeast of St. Petersburg on Lake Ladoga. It is being rebuilt and reborn after having been nearly destroyed by Soviet military occupation.

IOCC Home Building Mission Taking Volunteer Applications

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is mobilizing volunteer teams to help build homes in St. Tammany Parish, LA, which was inundated with flooding and high winds when Hurricane Katrina came ashore in 2005. This is an excellent opportunity to roll up your sleeves, get some dirt under your fingernails and volunteer in the field!

The period of deployment is one week for each team—from Sunday to Sunday. Missions will run from May through August. Volunteers are asked to contribute \$800 per person; in turn round-trip airfare, local transportation, room and board, materials, supplies, tools and site supervision are provided.

For more information, contact Pascalis Papouras, U.S. Program Coordinator, at (410) 243-9820.

Sabbatical Update

As a reminder, Fr. John leaves for his Sabbatical next month on May 25. In terms of parish administration and liturgical responsibility, the following arrangements have been finalized:

- Deacon Alexander will handle issues of parish administration that typically fall on the rector to perform.
- Dr. Bob Roberts, Parish Council President, will work with Deacon Alexander on fiscal and parish fabric issues that jointly concern the rector and the Parish Council, save and except the authority to sign checks, etc. The latter will remain exclusively with the Parish Council in Fr. John’s absence.
- Fr. Basil will take care of liturgical services and pastoral matters while Father is away. Supply clergy will serve in State College whenever Fr. Basil is needed at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

Look in next month’s *Trisagion* for a full feature on Fr. John’s trip, including information on how to follow him along his route, and details on all the special parish events and programs taking place to build up our community before, during, and after Fr. John’s expedition.

Ecumenical Patriarch Interviews Now Available

If you missed the recent television interviews of His All Holiness Bartholomew on PBS and CBS, DVD copies are now available on loan from the Church library in the Parish Hall. Please sign for your copy and check your name off upon return.

Become a Part of Coffee Hour!

If you have not yet signed up to host Coffee Hour, please consider doing so. This vital ministry has set a goal of 100% participation among Holy Trinity members. If everyone volunteered, we all might host only once a year! For more information, check the posting in the Parish Hall or contact Ellen George at emg7@psu.edu.

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

The Ministry of Children

In the Church there are many ministries that are formed to do God's work and those who serve in these groups are "ministers". Although they are not often thought of in this role, children are also "ministers" in their own way who can teach us many lessons and influence us greatly.

First, they purify. There is a sweet fragrance streaming forth from the life of every little child, which makes older people long to get back to the sweetness, the simplicity, the purity of the days of early youth and childhood. They preach to us, not so much by their lips as by their innocence.

Next, they elevate. Children appeal to the highest and best instincts of our nature. They take our thoughts away from lowly things and lift us to high thinking and noble acting.

They instruct. God speaks to us through them. He taught Eli by young Samuel as He used the little boy to instruct the aged priest. He has continued to speak since Eli's days to those of riper years through the lips of children. He manifests Himself through a child's prayers, through a child's questions, through a child's piety, through a child's

example. He takes children's lips and fills them with amazing messages of Himself.

Church School News

PARENT & STUDENT RETREAT

Mark your calendars! Our Sunday School will conduct a half day retreat on Saturday, May 8 for children ages 10 through high school and for all parents (regardless of the age of their children). The retreat topic is "Sex: What's Love Got to Do With It?" and will be led by the clergy of our parish. The primary objectives of the retreat are to understand that God created sex and it is good in the context for which it was intended (within marriage), to recognize that there is no separation of physical from spiritual in human life, and to call attention to the Church's teachings regarding sex. Additional details for parents and students will be forthcoming.

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

The last day of Sunday School this semester will be May 16. We would like to take a group picture immediately following the Divine Liturgy so all children are asked to attend (and bring their smiles!).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

We will once again conduct VBS for children ages 4-14 this summer. Parents are currently being surveyed for dates, times, and how they are willing to assist.

Let us open our eyes to see what children may become to us and what we ought to be to them. Theirs is a ministry of powerful good. – Dn. Mark

They console. No one can over-estimate the amount of blessing children have brought to hearts and homes in the way of taking our minds off our troubles and giving the cheer and consolation of a sweet and clinging love. Their ministry is at its highest intensity in soothing our sorrows.

They soften and make us tender. No mother's heart is ever quite the same after having picked up and hugged a child who has fallen hurt and is crying. No father can feel the touch of a tiny hand in his hand while crossing the street without being softened and made gentler.

They lead us towards God. There are many remarkable ways in which a child can lead adults back to or closer to God with a simple question, a growing curiosity, or an unquenchable thirst to know about the ways God works.

These are only a few ways in our children minister to us.

shift "vestments" over their blue and gray-striped prisoners uniforms. Then they began to chant, changing from Greek to Slavonic, and then back again to Greek. The Easter Canon, the Easter Sticheras—everything was recited from memory. The Gospel—"In the beginning was the Word"—also from memory. And finally, the Homily of Saint John Chrysostom—also from memory. A young Greek monk from the Holy Mountain stood up in front of us and recited it with such infectious enthusiasm that we shall never forget him.

Paschal Sermon (continued from page 1)

Body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? **Christ is risen**, and you are overthrown. **Christ is risen**, and the demons are fallen. **Christ is risen**, and the angels rejoice. **Christ is risen**, and life reigns. **Christ is risen**, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Altar Servers' Retreat

All acolytes and boys aged 8 and up interested in learning how to help minister in the sanctuary are invited to attend our annual Altar Servers' Retreat on Saturday, May 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will get to know the services and each other better, then conclude with lunch. See Micah Cattell or Dn. Alexander for more information.

Parishioners to Walk for Autism

Sam and Megan Leathers are taking part in a 3k walk this Saturday to help find a cure for autism, a complex developmental disability that affects a child's ability to interact with others. To learn how you can join them in supporting this important cause, please call Sam at (814) 574-2454.

The priests who participated in the 1945 Dachau Easter service are commemorated at every Divine Service held in the Dachau Russian Orthodox Memorial Chapel, along with all Orthodox Christians, who lost their lives "at this place, or at another place of torture." Should you ever come to Germany, be sure to visit our Russian Chapel on the site of the former concentration camp in Dachau.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This article was adapted from Douglas Cramer's Dachau 1945: The Souls of All Are Aflame.*

For the Record

BAPTISMS

- **Helena and Tiyanna Woskob**, daughters of Victor and Gina Woskob, baptized March 20.
- **Elena Stevens**, daughter of Shane & Maria Stevens, baptized March 27, sponsored by Rebecca Ziegler.
- **Sarah Rauterkus**, baptized April 3, sponsored by Kenneth Wells.

CHRISMATIONS

- **David Aderhold**, chrismated April 3 at Holy Cross in Williamsport.

Thousands of Soccer Fans Share Paschal Greeting

MOSCOW, April 5 (Interfax)—Fans greeted each other on Easter at a Sunday evening soccer match at Moscow Lokomotiv stadium.

At the beginning of the second half of the match thousands of fans started chanting, "Christ is Risen!" an Interfax correspondent reports. Thousands of fans of Lokomotiv team on the opposite side of the stadium responded by chanting, "Truly He is Risen!"

The exchange took place several times. The correspondent who has attended soccer matches for almost 50 years says it was the first occurrence of this kind in the history of Russian soccer.

