

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

New Icons Installed in Nave and Altar

Worshippers at Holy Trinity were treated on August 1 to a beautiful array of new iconography, the work of the hands of renowned iconographer Dmitry Shkolnik and his assistant, Alexander. The icons that were written were the large icons of the Theotokos and the Savior; Ss. Stephen and Romanos for the two deacon's doors; the Annunciation and the Four Evangelists for the Royal Doors; as well as the Platytera—flanked by Seraphim—on the east sanctuary wall above the altar table.

The new icons will be blessed along with the consecration of our new altar on Saturday, October 16, followed by a celebratory banquet.

After completing the project, Mr. Shkolnik remarked that this was his best work to date. Preliminary plans are already being made to invite him back as early as next summer to finish the iconography in the altar, including one of Pentecost, and to install the image of “Christ Pantocrator” on the ceiling of the nave.



Photo Credit: Ed Miranda

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Altar Servers*
August 15	Mat. Dea Biberdorf and Mat. Kelly Olegnik	Melody Thompson & Mark Fedkin	Team A
August 22	Russian Ladies	Megan Leathers & David Swisher	Team B
August 29	Karen Cattell and Darna Van Duijn	Beth Roberts & Ed Miranda	Team A
September 5	Leshyn Radomsky and Megan Leathers	Leshyn & Mark Radomsky	Team B
September 12	Melody Thompson and Jean Miranda	Melody Thompson & Mark Fedkin	Team A
September 19	Judy Fynchko and Holly Terbic	Megan Leathers & David Swisher	Team B

* Team A: C. Dook, N. Fedkin, M. Haupt, A. Miranda, S. Olegnik, and Jn. Steeles
 Team B: J. Carvel, M. Dook, P. Dook, J. Miranda, S. Peltan, and M. Spokes

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

On the Dormition by Fr. John Peck

The word “Dormition” simply means “falling asleep”—the biblical idiom for a believer’s death. The Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on August 15. This feast is called the Assumption in the Western churches, and commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of the Virgin Mary, Christ’s mother. It proclaims that Mary has been “assumed” by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not “voluntarily” as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the Mother of Life and participates already in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who “hear the word of God and keep it” (*Luke 11:27-28*).

The services of the feast repeat the main theme, that the Mother of Life has “passed over into the heavenly joy, into the divine gladness and unending delight” of the Kingdom of her Son (*Great Vespers verse*).

The Old Testament readings, as well as the Gospel readings for [Vespers, Matins,] and the



Photo Credit: theholymage.co.uk

Divine Liturgy, are exactly the same as those for the feast of the Virgin’s nativity and her entrance into the Temple. Thus, at the Vigil we again hear Mary say: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (*Luke 1:47*).

At the Divine Liturgy we hear the letter to the Philippians where St. Paul speaks of the self-emptying of Christ who condescends to human servitude and ignoble death in order to be “highly exalted” by God His Father (*Philippians 2:5-11*). And once again we hear in the Gospel that Mary’s blessedness belongs to all who “hear the word of God and keep it” (*Luke 11:27-28*).

(continued—see ON THE DORMITION, last page)

On the Dormition (continued from page 1)

Thus, the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (Mother of God) is the celebration of the fact that all men are “highly exalted” in the blessedness of the victorious Christ, and that this high exaltation has already been accomplished in Mary. The feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee, and the celebration that Mary’s fate is, the destiny of all those of “low estate” whose souls magnify the Lord, whose spirits rejoice in God the Savior, whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the Word of God which is given to men in Mary’s child, the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

Finally it must be stressed that, in all of the feasts of the Virgin Mother of God in the Church, the Orthodox Christians celebrate facts of their own lives in Christ and the Holy Spirit. What happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience, and love.

With her all people will be “blessed” to be “more honorable than the cherubim and beyond

compare more glorious than the seraphim” if they follow her example. All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit. All will become temples of the living God. All will share in the eternal life of His Kingdom who live the life that Mary lived.

In this sense everything that is praised and glorified in Mary is a sign of what is offered to all persons in the life of the Church. It is for this reason that Mary, with the divine child Jesus within her, is called in the Orthodox Tradition the Image of the Church. For the assembly of the saved is those in whom Christ dwells.

It is the final Great Feast on the Christian Calendar. Thus, as a symbol of all believers, the liturgical year begins with the Nativity (birth) of the Theotokos, and ends with her Dormition (falling asleep).

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Fr. John Peck is the rector of St. George Church of Prescott, AZ. This article appears courtesy of the Preachers Institute (preachersinstitute.com).*

Get Your Ticket (continued from page 3)

their own tickets, and, being responsible for them, and say, “It is mine.”

Finally, at any point, we must be able and prepared to show our tickets on demand (our names are also printed on most tickets) to prove that we are true travelers; in real life, every day our “ticket” is examined by someone. It is read at home, school, work, as well as in the street, and it seems as though our very faces are stamped with the name of the place to which we are travelling.

There are lots of fellow travelers who are on the same path to the city of the great King; they will

be helped along the road by the showing of our ticket. The boy who refused to tell a lie, or do a mean thing; the girl who is not afraid that others shall see her belief in Jesus Christ—these examples show very plainly of ones who possess a ticket and know their destination.

There is the story of the Prodigal son we read in Luke 15, “who took his journey,” who, because he did not know his real destination (*he had no ticket*), suffered great loss and had to start all over again. We need to make sure our children receive their tickets now and that they are marked plainly with the name of Him whom they will serve.

Matthew 25 Back-to-School Drive to Support Area Children

This year Holy Trinity will provide 31 boys and 13 girls from Kindergarten through ninth grade school supplies for the upcoming year. Some of the basic items that have been requested are backpacks, Crayola crayons (24-pack or smaller), glue sticks, magic markers, wooden pencils, mechanical pencils & lead, dry-erase markers, three- or five-subject and spiral notebooks. Please consider either purchasing a few supplies or giving a monetary donation. Bring your contributions to church no later than August 22. Thank you for your support of **Matthew 25!**

Men's Fellowship Returns

After a brief hiatus during the summer, Men's Fellowship returns in August. Men's Fellowship is a monthly breakfast in the Parish Hall for all of the men in the church to grow in fellowship with one another and meditate on the disciplines of a godly man. The gathering is free and open to newcomers. This month's event takes place on Saturday, August 21, at 9 a.m.

■ NEWS & NOTES

Abortion Doctor Kicked out of Pennsylvania

by Marie McCullough, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

PHILADELPHIA – Steven Chase Brigham, a physician whose medical license has been revoked, relinquished, or temporarily suspended in five states, is now facing regulatory and tax troubles that could jeopardize his chain of 15 abortion clinics.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health last month ordered Brigham to permanently shut his four clinics in the state for repeatedly employing unlicensed caregivers... Brigham also has to deal with the IRS. In April, it placed \$234,536 in liens against him for failing to pay payroll taxes from

Newcomers' Night Scheduled

Our annual social event for newcomers—and anyone looking to learn more about the life of our community—will take place Thursday, September 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. This enjoyable evening gives you an opportunity to interact with our ministry leaders and discover the various outreach, educational, and social activities that take place at Holy Trinity. Refreshments will be provided. Look for more information in next month's *Trisagion*.

For the Record

DONATED

➤ **Lucy Rusinko** donated the flat-screen television for use by our Sunday School that was installed in the Parish Hall last month.

FAREWELLS

➤ **Cathy Nemtsov** and her daughter, **Ksenia** moved last month to pursue an opportunity in Jamestown, North Carolina.

➤ **Valery and Galina Pavlov**, and their children **Ivan, Tim, and Varvara**, moved to Auckland, New Zealand. Valery will be teaching at the University of New Zealand for four years.

2002 to 2006. His company, which does business as American Women's Services, performed about 3,600 abortions a year in Pennsylvania, state records show. It has clinics in Pittsburgh, Allentown, Erie, and State College...where patients could rendezvous for "free transportation" to a clinic.

Brigham, 53, has rarely given interviews about his legal scrapes, which go back as far as 1989 and have pitted him against medical boards, creditors, landlords, patients, and others.

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP Get Your Ticket Now!

by Dn. Mark Oleynik

Everyone knows that you need a ticket to ride a train or plane. Without a ticket, you don't know where you're going and you'll get there fast.

Whenever we want to ride a train or board a plane we must first purchase a ticket. We give a stack of money or a credit card to the agent (or if we're doing it online—enter our card number into the computer) and in return, we get piece of paper with some words printed upon it, put it in safe place, and prepare for our journey.

During the boarding process, our tickets are often checked multiple times by different people. Why all the interest with the ticket? As we know, on the ticket our destination is printed. There may be connecting flights or many stations on the railway line, but there is one and only one destination to which you eventually travel, and certainly not one a bit further or closer. We need to have a destination to know where we are going, even though it may take quite a long time to get there.

"What are you going to do when you grow up?" and "What do you wish to be?" are questions that are asked of children, and the answer often is, "I don't know; I have not made up my mind yet." The answer shows that even though our children have begun their life journey, they do not know where they will end up. But we all need to know where we are going. Imagine travelling without a ticket!

Usually found on these tickets are the words "TICKETS NOT TRANSFERABLE". This not only means we cannot use another person's ticket but also we must have our very own. Sometimes there are some who are found travelling with

Extra "Scoops"

VBS BEGINS NEXT WEEK!

Kids: The time you have been waiting for is here! Our Vacation Bible School will be conducted August 16-20. Featuring games, crafts, songs, and more, the theme this year is "St. Herman – Man with a Mission." All children must be registered. Contact Deacon Mark at dnmark@holytrinity-oca.org as soon as possible.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

All prior-year (2009-10) and current-year (2010-11) participants in our Sunday School program are invited to attend the musical, "Joseph" and to view a reproduction of the original Old Testament tabernacle in Lancaster. This trip is fully sponsored by the Holy Trinity Sunday School Program through our annual Gertrude Hawks candy fundraiser. Check your email next week for more information. Not on our Sunday School email list? Contact Dn. Mark.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Don't forget that the first day of Sunday School is Sunday September 12 at 9 a.m. There will be also be a kickoff meeting for parents before Vespers at 4:30 p.m. on the preceding night. (Be there or be square!)

BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO MATINS

As we finish our summer break from Sunday School, enrich your children by attending a Matins service. It is a beautiful and theologically rich service that can better prepare you and your children for the Eucharist.

other people's tickets, but they are usually discovered before very long. Everyone must travel on the road of life with his or her ticket; none other is accepted.

Tickets are also personal things: we are not concerned at first where others are going, or why, but only with our own ticket and journey. How proud most children are when they can buy

(continued—see GET YOUR TICKET, last page)

