

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

One Month and Counting to Consecration!

The time we have been waiting for is soon upon us! Only a month remains between now and the consecration of our new altar, and the blessing of the new iconography on our altar wall and iconostasis. You are cordially invited to be a part of the many events, services, and celebrations that will take place over the next thirty days, culminating over a two-day period in mid-October. For many of us, this will be the first time we have been able to witness such an event.

There are still several ways you can be involved in this solemn occasion:

➤ **Attend the Services and Festive Luncheon**

The celebration officially begins the day before with the arrival of His Grace Bishop MELCHISEDEK for the All-Night Vigil (which is Vespers, Matins, and First Hour combined). It will take place on Friday, October 15 at 6 p.m. The Consecration service itself, which is in effect the baptism and chrismation of the holy altar, begins the next day at 9 a.m. The elaborate service features processions around the church, the sealing of relics within the altar table, as well as its ceremonial washing, anointing, and vesting. It is immediately followed by the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

After a brief reception in the Parish Hall, we will travel over to the Nittany Lion Inn to partake in a buffet luncheon to recognize our distinguished guests and celebrate the return of Fr. John. So we have an accurate count, tickets to the event are required. Please see Mat. Kelly Oleynik or call the Parish Office at (814) 231-2855 for more information.

➤ **Honor a Loved One**

A great way to have a lasting remembrance of this event is to sponsor a message in our Commemorative Program. Any tax-deductable donation offered will give you an opportunity for your tribute to appear in this keepsake. Call or email dnalex@holytrinity-oca.org to participate.

➤ **Learn More at our Consecration Exhibition**

Holy Trinity will be offering a brief presentation following the Liturgy on October 3 explaining the Consecration service. The presentation will be interactive, allowing participants to view up close the new altar and how we will—through the various parts of the service—sanctify it.

➤ **Involve Your Children**

All parish youth are invited to join Dn. Mark Oleynik and Patty Doty of our Sunday School Program in creating large banners for the Consecration procession. This fun workshop will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 2 in the Parish Hall.

➤ **Assist at our Special Parish Work Day**

Also on Saturday, October 2, at 9 a.m., all members of the parish are invited to join us for an enjoyable morning of fellowship beautifying our temple in advance of the Consecration. Coffee and bagels will be provided.

➤ **Pray**

Finally, your fervent prayers are requested. Please pray for all who are travelling to join us that weekend, including Fr. John, for a safe arrival. Pray also for our community that this important day in the history of our parish will serve to strengthen us and preserve us unto ages of ages.

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Schedules

| | Coffee Hour | Greeters | Altar Servers* |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------|
| September 19 | Judy Fryncko and Holly Torbic | Megan Leathers & David Swisher | Team B |
| September 26 | Juliann Vaughn and Mat. Jennifer Cadman | Beth Roberts & Ed Miranda | Team A |
| October 3 | Russian Ladies | Leslyn & Mark Radomsky | Team B |
| October 10 | Elaine Files and Dee Patel | Melody Thompson & Mark Fedkin | Team A |
| October 17 | Bob Schrauf and Beth Roberts | Megan Leathers & David Swisher | Team B |
| October 24 | Ellen George and Maria Stevens | Beth Roberts & Ed Miranda | Team A |

* Team A: 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.

■ ORTHODOX NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Your Feedback to Strengthen our Parish

Over the summer, Holy Trinity began the first part of a healthy church initiative in our diocese using a program called Orthodox Natural Church Development (NCD).

NCD's purpose is to guide us in assessing our parish's overall health by viewing the parish as an organism with definite strengths and weaknesses. Overall health is determined by our ability to pray, minister, share, and evangelize rather than on simple numerical measures (such as church or staff size). In other words, the emphasis is on quality not quantity.

The initial test to measure eight quality areas of church life is complete, and the results have been shared with our Church Health Team. It is now time for the rest of the parish to hear the results and share their thoughts.

Over the next three weeks, Holy Trinity will be conducting feedback sessions to explain the NCD process, review and explain the survey findings, and hear your insights concerning our parish health, with a particular emphasis on the area with the lowest score.

Parish Hall to Serve as Polling Place Again this November

The Centre County Election Office will use our Parish Hall for the election on November 2, 2010 from 6 a.m. to approximately 11 p.m. As a result, the Parish Office will be closed. Be sure to vote!

Matushki Plan Women's Social

Our matushki (Linda, Dea, Jennifer, and Kelly) will host a Women's Coffee and Tea for all parish women on November 13 at 10 a.m. at the Oleynik's. Look for more details in next month's issue.

Why? Because by scrutinizing the lowest benchmark—like the lowest plank of slatted barrel in which water will not rise above—we can improve the area of parish life that is holding us back from achieving the full potential God has planned for us.

All sessions are open to all members of the parish and everyone is encouraged to contribute. Please join the discussion by attending one of the following sessions in the Parish Hall:

- **Wednesday, September 22 at 7 p.m.**
Hosted by Robert Schrauf
- **Saturday, September 25 at 11 a.m.**
*Hosted by Mark Fedkin
(Russian interpreter provided).*
- **Monday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m.**
*Hosted by Dr. Darren Torbic
(Child Care provided).*
- **Tuesday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m.**
Hosted by Robert Schrauf.
- **Thursday, September 30 at 3:30 p.m.**
Hosted by Melody Thompson.
- **Tuesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m.**
Hosted by Chuck Beechan.

For the Record

CHRISMATIONS

- **Andrew Symes** chrismated on August 14, sponsored by Darren and Holly Torbic.
- **Earl and Margaret Lyter**, chrismated on September 11, sponsored by Pastor David and Brenda Smith.

MARRIAGE

- **Rachael Cattell and Andrew Symes**, crowned in marriage August 22, sponsored by Darren and Holly Torbic.

Youth Have Purposeful Fun and Grow in Faith and Knowledge

The last couple of weeks were an exciting time in the life of our parish. On August 16-20, 36 attendees of our annual Vacation Bible School studied the life of St. Herman, truly a "Man with a Mission." Enjoying their time with crafts, songs, games, and skits, children learned about monastic life, followed St. Herman from his ascetical beginnings in Finland to his repose on Spruce Island, and discovered what it means to be a missionary and about the Aleutian people they touched. To help convey the life of a monk and St. Herman's importance to the history of Orthodox Christianity in America, the Parish Hall was transformed into Spruce Island, complete with a monk's cell that the students could experience.

Then, on Tuesday, August 24, 15 students travelled to Lancaster to see the play *Joseph*, based on the life of Jacob's son. Before the play, the students visited a life-sized reproduction of the tent tabernacle built by Moses in the desert. The students had a terrific and insightful day.

Finally, earlier this week, the Orthodox Youth Association (OYA) kicked off for our parish's teens and preteens. Now divided into two separate groups—OYA for those in grades 9-12 and Jr. OYA for those in grades 5-8—these organizations aim to build strong Christian relationships with fun, age-specific activities. Both groups return in October and every month thereafter on the second Sunday.

Newcomer's Night a Success

Last week, Holy Trinity held its annual open house for all the newcomers of our parish and those interested in becoming more involved. Ministry leaders and clergy were on hand to greet the group and present on the various aspects of our church life and social outreach. For more information on all that Holy Trinity has to offer you and your family, please visit holyltrinity-oca.org.

Fourth Sunday School Class Added to Meet Demand

On September 12 at 9 a.m. the Holy Trinity Sunday School began the 2010-2011 academic year. Because of increased enrollment, a fourth class level was added to provide for better age appropriate instruction. The four classes now are: Pre-school/Kindergarten, Primary (grades 2-5), Middle School (grades 6-8) and High School (grades 9-12).

This year our Sunday School will be using curriculum developed by the Orthodox Christian Education Commission (OCEC), which was founded in 1957 by a group of Orthodox theologians and educators to exchange ideas, solve common educational problems, and publish instructional material for churches throughout North America. By employing a five category curriculum—Biblical Study, Church History and Tradition; Liturgy, Prayer and Worship; Doctrine; and Spiritual/Moral Development—students in each class level will have and build upon a solid foundation of Christian teachings.

Please keep in your prayers all of the students and the teachers who have dedicated themselves to the spiritual education of our youth.

Weekly Choir Rehearsals Begin

The Choir is looking to find people (particularly female voices) who know how to sing or would like to learn. To give more an opportunity to participate, the Choir will be practicing Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Nave this fall. The Choir is open to all members of the parish, including catechumens, aged 12 and above. For information, contact choir@holyltrinity-oca.org.

Thank You, Altar Society!

The beautifully decorated cross and icons of the Nativity of the Theotokos and Exaltation of the Cross are the hard work of the Altar Society. To learn more, please see Joanne Takarchek.

■ MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Ten Great Dates Coming This October

Beginning Friday, October 1, couples can learn important skills with *Ten Great Dates*, an award-winning approach to revitalize and energize marriages. Each date consists of showing a short video clip (about 10 minutes long), that is emceed by a trained facilitator. Afterwards there is an opportunity to discuss the principles introduced. You then depart on the date of your choice.

This program is sponsored by Centre County Marriage Savers, of which Holy Trinity is a co-

founding member. Affiliate organizations, (including Holy Trinity in November) will take turns hosting the opening exercise and providing free child care. Each date is self-contained with no prerequisites so you can attend as many or as little as you like. A one-time fee of just \$10 for materials applies.

See the attached calendar, the Sunday bulletin, or contact Dn. Alex at dnalex@holytrinity-oca.org for times and locations.

■ NEWS & NOTES

The Orthodox Church Beyond Our Parish

DOZENS OF STUDY BIBLES DISTRIBUTED TO ORTHODOX FAITHFUL IN ALASKA

MARSHALL, ALASKA – The Archpriest John M. Reeves, rector of Holy Trinity, had an opportunity to hand out Orthodox Study Bibles to each member of the community here, where he began a catechetical mission on August 20. The Bible distribution is one of the many highlights of his three-week visit to spiritually build up this small village community on the Yukon River.

Fr. John's time here concludes his four-month pilgrimage across Russia to Alaska. You can read his retelling of this wonderful event and catch up on the rest of his Sabbatical journey by visiting frjohn.holytrinity-oca.org.

FIRST INDEPENDENT ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COLLEGE OPENS ITS DOORS

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA – St. Katherine College, the first independent Orthodox Christian College in the United States, announced today that it would begin accepting student enrollment applications for classes that will begin in the fall 2011. The

college will offer undergraduate degrees in 12 majors including biochemistry, public policy, and interdisciplinary studies.

"The founding of St. Katherine College is a remarkable milestone in the history of the Orthodox Church in the U.S. We are providing a college experience to students of all religious and ethnic backgrounds. The motto Inquiry Seeking Wisdom provides the context of the school's core philosophy," says Dr. Papatheofanis, president and founder of St. Katherine's.

The school emphasizes the unique value of studying original texts and of formulating original problems based on the study of those texts. This integrative core is based on criteria defined by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. "Opening our student's minds to new ideas and helping them to gain perspective with context is an important aspect to our well rounded education. That is something students can expect from St. Katherine College," says communication director Vicki Brannock.

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Attitude Adjustments Available

How many times parents have uttered or children have heard the words, "I don't like your attitude"? Attitudes are the roots of habits and it is true that families also develop an attitude toward the Church.

Listen to the children of a family for a while and you will discover the attitude of that family towards the Church. Some families see the Church as an adversary and treat her with suspicion. They create an atmosphere in which the family needs to protect itself against the Church. And when these attitudes in the home cultivate personal animosities, petty jealousies, or a lackadaisical approach to spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, almsgiving, etc.) to fit their own lifestyle, children can be taught more than the Church alone can overcome.

When being introduced to other people, oftentimes how this introduction is handled (who it is, what he has done, where he lives, who he works for, etc.) affects our response and reaction to the other person. How Christ is introduced and how His Church is viewed in our homes can determine the kind of reception He gets from our children. The Church is hurt when she is introduced negatively to the home, but the family is the real loser.

On the other hand, encouraging attitudes allow the Church to redeem the family. The Church can teach our families what is valuable and lasting. Society, with its many loud voices, teaches our families anti-Christian lessons everyday. If our families never hear anything else, they will believe only the lessons they are taught. The Church is one of the few places eternal things can be learned. It is the Church that teaches "man shall not live by bread alone."

The family is also redeemed when the Church is allowed to provide a wholesome atmosphere for the family. The climate and culture in which plants grow is very important. The Christian family must also have a favorable climate in which to grow. Christian families, working together in a church fellowship, inspire each other for a meaningful, personal, and spiritual growth.

Young people need guidance and inspiration; Adults need strength and determination. The Church is uniquely equipped to provide for these needs if their attitudes allow the Church to function and they allow themselves to participate.

We live in a time when many options are available to us—vocational opportunities, moral choices, and value decisions. Never before have we had to be so responsible to make wise choices among so many different appealing values. When it is given an opportunity, the Church can provide a framework of judgment in which Christian people can make Christian decisions.

Young people especially need to be given criteria by which to make life's choices so that they are both wise choices and Christian choices. The Church can help a family by providing this framework of judgment for life's important issues, which requires a foundation of the Church's teachings, doctrines, practices, and traditions.

This is precisely what Holy Trinity and our Sunday School program offer to children ages four through high school. We resumed our weekly classroom instruction this month and look forward to providing families and children a framework of life by which to make his choices and discovering the One upon whose judgment they can rely.

