

# THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Truly Being a “Child Friendly” Parish



Photo Credit: Benjamin Oleynik

Children of all ages participate in a procession on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. The annual celebration, held the first Sunday of Lent, commemorates the defeat of iconoclasm via the Seventh Ecumenical Council in 787 and the official restoration of icons in 843.

by Fr. John Reeves

WE HAVE ALWAYS ATTEMPTED to have a child friendly attitude towards having the whole parish worship together. This has called for patience on the part of all parishioners, not just our parents. But what does it really mean to have a “child friendly” parish?

We don't provide babysitting services during liturgy, for example. We expect little children to learn love of God in the Church from their earliest days and hope these days will be among their fondest memories. “From the Rector’s Desk” the next few months, we will explore this question together.

*(continued, see FROM THE RECTOR’S DESK, page 3)*

## Chapel to Hold Holy Week Services

FOR THE FIRST TIME the Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Beavertown will conduct Holy Week services, a significant step in the development of the nascent worshipping community. Beginning with Palm Sunday (April 1) and culminating with a three-day Paschal Triduum (April 5-8) that consists of the Vespers of Holy Thursday, “Un-nailing” Vespers of Holy Friday, and an abbreviated Paschal Vigil starting on Holy Saturday night, the Chapel will proclaim the Death and Resurrection of Christ to those in Snyder County and beyond. See the calendar for details. ■

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH  
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## Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
March 4	A.T. Pelikan and J. Miranda*	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	G. Cartell and H. Torbic	Team B
March 11	H. Torbic and P. Doty * / **	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	E. Ashmore and M. Stevens	Team A
March 18	SOUP-ER SUNDAY*	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	M. Fedkin and R. Patel	Team B
March 25	M. Leathers and A. Ashmore*	A. Ashmore and E. Ashmore	B. Haupt and G. Cartell	Team A
April 1	Russian Ladies*	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	H. Torbic and E. Ashmore	Team B
April 8	PASCHA	All Greeters	M. Stevens and R. Patel	All Servers

\* Denotes fast  
 \*\* Denotes switch change

Team A: Z. Cadman, B. Oleynik, J. Torbic, C. Schrauf, E. Scwisler, and J. Scwisler.  
 Team B: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, S. Patel, D. Stuckles, and L. Torbic.

Captains: D. Torbic and S. Oleynik

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

# What Does Kid-Friendly Truly Mean? (continued from pg. 1)

I can well remember, almost 70 years ago, being carried into a church in rural Texas by my mother. I also recall other equally precious memories of church services, and pageants, and once in a while even a sermon. Maybe I just have a good memory.

People paused, relaxed, and smiled. For staid Presbyterians as we were, relaxation could be a challenge. It wasn't the sermon that Sunday, but it became one for me, one that I've never forgotten.

It wasn't easy for Mother; Dad didn't attend and even resented our attendance. Sometimes to keep the peace, there would be a lull in devotion. At other times, Dad's hostility would wane a bit. It didn't hurt when we became a two-car family. Transportation was no longer a matter of contention.

That experience, as well as theological reflection later on, became a defining moment for me. If a church were truly to suffer little children to come unto Christ, it included baptism of infants, communion of infants, and indeed, the presence of infants in church worship. Either they are fully members of the body of Christ, the Church, or they are not.

In fact, I remember one service in particular. A baby was crying a bit, and the pastor finally stopped the service. "How wonderful, it is, to hear a baby's cry in church," he said, with a twinkle in his eye.

(TO BE CONTINUED...) ■

From the Rector's Desk,  
*Fr. John*

## What Youth Need

*Here are 7 things youth need from their parents so they won't abandon God:*

### **They need you to stop handing their faith off to youth leaders...**

*Parents, you have the primary responsibility of building faith in your children. Youth leaders exist to equip you and supplement the work you are doing in the home. They don't exist to replace you.*

### **They need you to care as much about their struggles as you do about their salvation...**

*Parents, what you can do is show the love of God to your children. This starts by helping them see their present struggles as God's concern. Sit down with your children. Talk to them. Show them grace. As you do this, the gospel will come to life. The gospel doesn't just inform salvation. It informs everything.*

### **They need you to answer the questions they are asking...**

*Today's culture is extremely complicated and complex. Young people see everything... Yes, these conversations are awkward. Yes, they create tension. But your children are asking them. Unless you create space for the hard questions, they will turn to other sources for answers...*

### **They need you to stop protecting them...**

*As a parent, your goal should not be to teach your kids how to flee from evil. Your goal should be to show them how to engage it for the glory of God. In those spaces, they will see the gospel. And it will become real.*

### **They need you to see God as more than rules and church attendance.**

*If you boil Christian living down to church attendance and morality, your children will notice. And who wants to*

*follow a God who is nothing more than rules and showing up to a building? I sure don't.*

### **They need you to see your struggles and doubt...**

*Parents, your kids have doubts. And they need to see that you have doubts as well. Otherwise, when questions about God come, our kids will either internalize them or turn to another source for answers...*

### **They need you to plead for God to build and sustain their faith...**

*The church plays a role in the faith of your children. But the primary responsibility is yours, parents. You got this. God would never give you a task and not equip you for it. Your children don't need the funniest, most knowledgeable or best communicator to build their faith. They need you...*

— Frank Powell

## Chapel to Host Mission Vespers

The Chapel of the Holy Spirit will open its doors to travelers from around the deanery on Mar. 25 at 3 p.m. for "Mission" Lenten Sunday Vespers. Following the service, all are welcome to stay for a meal and time of fellowship. For details or directions, contact Mka. Brenda at (570) 765-2202. Carpooling is available by contacting the Parish Office at (814) 231-2855.

## On the Road with Jr. OYA

Jr. OYA, the parish's youth group for students in grades 5-8 will be traveling the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on Sunday, March 25. The group is renting a large van so that the students may all be together for greater fellowship and educational opportunities during the trip. The young pilgrims will also have an opportunity to participate in some fun activities following the liturgy in and around Synder County. Departure will be from the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. (There will be no Middle School Sunday school class on this day at Holy Trinity, class will be in the van).

## Pool Party Rescheduled

The annual Sunday School pool party that was postponed last month has been rescheduled to St. Thomas Sunday (April 15) from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Ramada Inn on South Atherton Street. (The Egg Hunt will be conducted following the Divine Liturgy as usual.) Events like these are supported through the Gertrude Hawk candy fundraiser. Thank you.

## 2018 Icon Project Update

Because of your generosity, this year's \$10,000 iconography project is more than 75% complete. As such, the icons of Ss. Stephen of Perm and Kosmas Aitolos, Ss. Thekla and Photini, Ss. Maria of Paris and Grand Duchess Elisabeth, Blessed Olga Michael of Alaska, and St. Moses the Ethiopian were officially commissioned last month with work expected to begin after Pentecost. If you would like to be a part of the effort, see Fr. John or visit the virtual tour on [holyltrinity-oca.org](http://holyltrinity-oca.org) (each icon available has a link to a special online form). Also, be sure to check *The Trisagion* each upcoming month for saint profiles and progress pictures.



## Students Bake Bread for Services

Last month, the second-and-third- and fourth-and-fifth-grade Sunday School classes baked prosphora, the leavened holy bread that becomes the Body and Blood of Christ. Their offerings will be made "on behalf of all and for all" and distributed at the Presanctified Liturgies this month. ■

## ■ NEWS AND NOTES

# Holy Synod Approves Liturgical Restorations

SYOSSET, NY [[oca.org](http://oca.org)] — The Holy Synod announced two decisions last month in regards to the Liturgies of St. Basil and Presanctified Gifts. While the latter simply clarifies the Church's ancient tradition that the wine in the chalice becomes the Blood of Christ when the presanctified lamb is placed in it, the former removes the interpolation "Making the change by the Holy Spirit" at the epiclesis and thus will be noticed by the faithful on Sundays this Lent. See the clergy for details. ■

## For the Record

### CATECHUMEN

➤ **Christopher Howe** was enrolled into the Holy Catechumenate on February 11 at Holy Trinity. May God grant him many years!

### DEATHS

➤ **Robert Aurand**, husband of **Elena Loukachkina**, fell asleep in the Lord on February 24 peacefully at home. He was 65. May his memory be eternal!

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

# When Death Visits Us

by Abbot Tryphon

One of the most rewarding and challenging aspects of the priesthood is comforting people in their darkest moments of sorrow. Do not be mistaken, and think that priests, monks and chaplains are exempt from the pain of those whom they try to comfort, or that we have magical words that somehow ease the pain or bring order to the chaos of grief. Platitudes are useless in dark days of mourning. Our loved one may very well be “in a better place,” but it is oddly of little comfort to say those words. In a powerful witness of human behavior, Christ “does not say, ‘Well, now he is in heaven, everything is well; he is separated from this difficult and tormented life.’ Christ does not say all those things we do in our pathetic and uncomfoting attempts to console. In fact he says nothing—he weeps.”

In grieving, we follow in the example of Jesus, who wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus [who we commemorate on March 31]. And as humans, we all, at one time or another, will suffer the loss of a loved one, and experience the process of grieving. The mystery of death itself will impact every one of us, either with the loss of someone we love, or in the loss of our own life...

Death can be a mystery precisely because the triumph over death is not a mystery. As the great Orthodox theologian Alexander Schmemmann once wrote, “in essence, Christianity is not concerned with coming to terms with death, but rather with the victory over it.” In the light of everlasting life, in the name of Jesus Christ, the dreadful threat and dark mystery that is death is transformed into a happy and victorious event for the believer, and “Death is swallowed up in victory.” (1 Cor. 15:54)

So mourning is an ancient ritual, one in which Jesus participated. For all of us, all people, death is a common element of humanity, the common trait that we share, and the common enemy of our loved ones. And like grief, victory over death binds people together in a larger, more powerful community, the community that

is found in the Christian faith. People accuse Christians of being members of a “death cult,” obsessed with a dying savior and focused on the afterlife to the exclusion of the present; but they are wrong. Christianity does not deny life, Christianity affirms life. Christianity affirms life even in death, because for Christians, death does not remove the relationship that exists. When death takes a loved one from us, it also provides us with the opportunity to live with the hope of one day joining them. And a life with hope is a good life.

So for us, death is the beginning of the true life that also awaits us beyond the grave, if indeed we have begun to live it here. Christ, “the resurrection and the life,” (Jn. 11:25) transformed death. Christ assumed human flesh, Christ was crucified, resurrected, ascended to heaven and waits for us there, and Christ ushers us into new life both now and after our death. Therefore, even as death exposes our frailty and our grief, death does not reveal our finiteness; instead it reveals our infiniteness, our eternity. To this end, the Christian does not ponder the mystery of death in a way that is paralyzing, negative and apathetic, but in a way that is productive, positive and dynamic.

God, to whom we have entrusted our soul, is a good and perfect God. This God will do what is right with our child, what is just with our brother, and what is honorable with our friend. There is no saying, no claim, no scripture that will give us peace in our immediate loss, or even calm our troubled souls; but we can find comfort and peace in God who is present with us, and in us and through us in the intimacy of death. And we can say with all confidence and assurance, our own death will not be final, but only the beginning of an eternal life, one that will be far better than we could ever expect in this present life. Our own death will open wide the gates of the Eternal Kingdom, where we will forever worship the Holy Trinity, and participate in the ongoing Heavenly Banquet, the eternal Liturgy. ■

■ LENTEN DRIVE 2018

# A New Partnership for the Homeless

Did you know that over 80 people have passed through the doors of Centre County’s emergency homeless shelter this winter? Homelessness in our area is hidden, but it’s a definite reality.

Every Lent, Holy Trinity’s *Matthew 25* outreach conducts a special drive to help others according to our Lord’s commandment to minister to the hungry, naked, homeless, and imprisoned. And each year, the Sunday School coordinates an annual “*Soup-er* Sunday Charity Luncheon,” a meal prepared and served by our youth. Both outreaches are teaming up this year to help address this stark reality.

Out of the Cold: Centre County (OOTC<sup>3</sup>) is in its seventh season of service to our local homeless population. It was founded in response to the death of a man who was spending the cold winter months in a tent in Bellefonte. OOTC<sup>3</sup> currently partners with 15 local churches and 7 local agencies, including Housing Transitions. Each evening the ministry’s guests receive a cot, blankets, warm dinner and breakfast. The season runs from October to May.

Holy Trinity was approached last fall by the organization’s director, Kendra Gettig, to be a possible host location. (Only a few downtown churches participate, and none here on the West End.) Council has begun exploring issues concerning parish security and suitability, and Deacon Alexander Cadman was able to tour a facility and volunteer one evening. While the parish is not in a position to host yet, the *Matthew 25* steering committee and Sunday School unanimously opted to raise funds for and increase awareness of OOTC<sup>3</sup>’s mission, and to see where God takes us.

If you would like to join the parish in helping the homeless this Lent, there are several ways you can participate. CATA bus tokens; gift cards for Walmart, Sheetz, Subway, McDonalds; simple food items

(pasta, sauce, canned goods); and household items such as disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and toilet paper will be collected in specially marked bins placed in the Parish Hall in Narthex.

If you wish to give alms in the form of monetary donations, the funds will be used to purchase cots in the host churches, transport guests from being “out in the cold” to the shelters, and help the agency expand staffing in preparation for the 2018-2019 season.

In addition, make plans to attend the Sunday School’s annual *Soup-er Sunday* luncheon. The dinner will be on Sunday, March 18 at noon in the Parish Hall, with food prep taking place the day before at 4 p.m. All children are invited to offer their time and talents to the effort. ■

## Holy Days this Month

### THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

*Vespers:* Saturday, Mar. 24, 6pm  
(S. Pettengill, Icon)  
(P. Doty, Litiya Bread)

*Liturgy:* Sunday, Mar. 25, 6pm



### Additional Liturgies:

DATE	TYPE	PROSPHORA
Fri., Mar. 2, 6pm	Presanctified	A.T. Pelikan
Sat., Mar. 3, 9am	Memorial	Sunday School
Wed., Mar. 7, 6pm	Presanctified	Sunday School
Fri., Mar. 9, 6pm	Presanctified	Sunday School
Wed., Mar. 14, 6pm	Presanctified	P. Doty
Fri., Mar. 16, 6pm	Presanctified	P. Doty
Sat., Mar. 17, 9am	Memorial	P. Doty
Wed., Mar. 21, 6pm	Presanctified	P. Doty
Fri., Mar. 23, 6pm	Presanctified	P. Doty
Wed., Mar. 28, 6pm	Presanctified	I. Andrzhievsky
Fri., Mar. 30, 6pm	Presanctified	I. Andrzhievsky
Sat., Mar. 31, 9am	Lazarus Sat.	A.T. Pelikan

# Holy Trinity Calendar

All events take place at 119 South Sparks Street in State College, unless where noted.  
Events listed at **Trinity House** (T.H.) take place at 123 South Sparks Street, in State College.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25 <b>Sunday of Orthodoxy</b> Matins, 8:50am Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am Children's Icon Procession, 11:45am Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers, 7pm @ Holy Trinity	26 Men's Chorus Rehearsal, 5pm Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	27 <b>St. Raphael of Brooklyn</b>	28 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	March 1 Visitation and Funeral for Robert Aurand, 10am @ Koch Funeral Home, 2401 S. Atherton St. Penn State OCF: Dinner and Game Night, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	2 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	3 <b>Memorial Saturday</b> Memorial Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours 8:40am) Men's Chorus Rehearsal, 5pm Great Vespers., 6pm Confessions
4 <b>St. Gregory Palamas</b> (No Sunday School) Matins, 8:50am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am	5 Men's Chorus Rehearsal, 5pm	6 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	7 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	8	9 <b>Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste</b> Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	10 Orthodoxy 2.0, 10am @ Trinity House Conf. Rm. Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
11 <b>Veneration of the Precious Cross</b> (Daylight Saving Time begins 2am) Matins, 8:50am Sunday School, 9am EDT Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am EDT Archdiocesan Lenten Vespers, 5pm @ Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park	12	13 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.	14 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	15 Parish Council Meeting, 6:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	16 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	17 Mem. Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours 8:40am) Men's Brunch, 10:30am Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Church School "Soup-er Sunday" Food Prep., 4pm Great Vespers/Conf., 6pm
18 <b>St. John of The Ladder (Climacus)</b> Matins, 8:50am Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am Annual "Soup-er Sunday" Charity Luncheon, 12pm	19	20 Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm @ Trinity House	21 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	22 Penn State OCF: "Stump the Priest Night", 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	23 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Akathist to the Theotokos, 7:30pm	24 Parish Work Day, 9am-1pm Orthodoxy 2.0, 10am @ Trinity House Conf. Rm. Sun. Sch. Teacher Meeting, 5:15pm @ T.H. Conf. Rm. Great Vespers w/Litiya, 6pm Confessions
25 <b>ANNUNCIATION OF THEOTOKOS St. Mary of Egypt</b> Jr. OYA Monthly Activity: Trip to CHS (departs 8am from HTOC lot) Matins, 8:50am/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am "Mission" Vespers, 3pm @ CHS	26 <b>Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel</b> Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	27 Parish Council Strategic Planning Session II, 7pm-9pm @ Trinity House Atty Lounge	28 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	29 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	30 Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	31 <b>Lazarus Saturday</b> <b>St. Innocent of America</b> Hours/Div. Liturgy, 8:40am Altar Soc. Decor'ing, 11am First Confessions, 3:30pm Youth Pascha Wksp., 4pm Vespers/Litiya/Conf., 6pm
April 1 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Matins w/Palm Procession, 8:50am Sunday School/Palm Prep., 9am Divine Liturgy, 10:15am Myrrhophores Practice, 12pm Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday, 7pm	2 <b>HOLY MONDAY</b> Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday, 7pm	3 <b>HOLY TUESDAY</b> Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ 217 E. Nittany Ave. Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday, 7pm	4 <b>HOLY WEDNESDAY</b> Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9am Matins of Holy Thursday/ Holy Unction, 7pm	5 <b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am Penn State OCF: Dinner at Holy Trinity, 6pm Matins of Holy Friday (12 Passion Gospels), 7pm	6 <b>HOLY FRIDAY</b> Royal Hours, 10am Altar Soc. Decor'ing, 12pm (Unnailing) Vespers of Holy Friday, 4pm Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations), 7pm	7 <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10am Baptisms/Chrismations of Chris Howe and Kyra Quinn, 1pm <b>Paschal Vigil, 11:30pm</b>

# Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 3 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	<b>Sunday 25</b> <b>ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> <b>St. Mary of Egypt</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) "Mission" Lenten Sunday Vespers, 3pm
<b>Sunday 4</b> <b>St. Gregory Palamas</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship and Study of <i>The Orthodox Faith</i> , following	Monday 26 "Hats & Blankets for Babies" Knitting Outreach, 6:30pm
Tuesday 6 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Tuesday 27 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Saturday 10 Great Vespers, 6pm	Saturday 31 Great Vespers, 6pm
<b>Sunday 11</b> <b>Veneration of the Cross</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship and Study of <i>The Orthodox Faith</i> , following	<b>Sunday 1</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Divine Liturgy with Palm Procession, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)
Tuesday 13 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Thursday 5 <b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 6pm
Saturday 17 Great Vespers, 6pm	Friday 6 <b>HOLY FRIDAY</b> Vespers of Holy Friday, 6pm
<b>Sunday 18</b> <b>St. John Climacus</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship and Study of <i>The Orthodox Faith</i> , following	Saturday 7 <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> Nocturns and Paschal Divine Liturgy, 11:30pm
Tuesday 20 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	

March 2018