

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Renewal of the Universe

by John Sanidopoulos

*“Creation shall be delivered
from the bondage of corruption.”*

– Romans 8:21

*“But we, the pious, cry unto Thee,
O Comforter, in a God-inspired manner:
Blessed art Thou, O Renewer of the universe.”*

– Ode VII, Canon of Pentecost

THE GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST provides us with the opportunity to delve further into what is also a great Mystery of the last times: *the renewal of the universe.*

The Church was engendered on earth by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of transforming the earth into a *Church*—to baptize the earth in the waters of the Incarnation of the Word and in the fiery flames of Pentecost. The renewal of the universe began with the Incarnation and Pentecost; the Church of the Divine Comforter “is the innermost ontological mystery, the fiery seed hidden in the depths of the world—the seed of its eschatological transfiguration.”

Just as man, the king of creation, fell into corruption on account of his disobedience, so in the same manner was creation “made subject to vanity” and to the “bondage of corruption,” “not willingly, but by reason of Him Who hath subjected it.” (*cf. Romans 8:20, 21*)

(continued, see ON PENTECOST, page 6)



The Chapel of the Holy Spirit celebrated Pascha for the first time (their icon seen above). The community now awaits the fulfillment of its Paschal joy with services Pentecost for the first time.

Our First Pascha at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

by Evan (John) Kerstetter

CHRIST IS RISEN! Last month, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit observed her first cycle of Holy Week services, culminating in the celebration of Great and Holy Pascha in the early hours of Sunday morning. As one participating in these various services for the first time, I would like to offer a few words of reflection on this first Holy Week and Pascha celebrated at the Chapel.

(continued, see PASCHA AT THE CHAPEL, last page)

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
May 6	L. Georgiou and B. & N. Troyan	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	G. Cattell and R. Patel	Team B
May 13	<i>High School Class for Mother's Day</i>	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	E. Ashmore and M. Fedkin	Team A
May 20	E. George and K. Oleynik	A. Ashmore and E. Ashmore	B. Haupt and M. Stevens	Team B
May 27	PENTECOST (<i>Bagels & Coffee</i>)	M. Fedkin and J. & R. Cadman**	R. Patel and H. Torbic	Team A
June 3	P. Doty and D. Van Duin	J. Fryncko** and J. Houser	G. Cattell and M. Fedkin	Team B
June 10	I. Andrzhiwsky and L. Radomsky*	E. Miranda and B. Roberts	E. Ashmore and B. Haupt	Team A

* Denotes Fast

** Denotes switch change

Team A: A. Evans, D. Sticks, 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

Being a “Child-Friendly” Parish, Part III

We come to pray, not play. Some moments in our worship at Holy Trinity are not as salutary as others because of the nature of little children, especially as they enter “toddle-essence.” No longer bound as rigidly by physical limitations on mobility, toddlers pursue and test their limits and that of their care givers. They also test the limits of parental authority. They question, they talk-back, they resist. And, they disturb others when they do so.

Worship is especially a challenge during this period of self-definition, to parent, to child, and to other worshippers as well. The ultimate objective for having a child-friendly atmosphere at church, while at the same time attempting to reduce the disturbance of others, is to teach our children to pray while at liturgy.

Preparing children to pray begins at home. Parents must pray daily in front of the holy icons. There one teaches children how to make the sign of the cross, how to make bows, how to stand quietly, and how to sit respectfully. These should be norms in a pious home. Coming to church should not be a totally new learning experience, but a time to practice, to implement publicly what should be happening at home already. Expect and correct, in love.

Dress appropriately. There was a day when “Sunday best” meant just that, even though it could mean different things in different places. There was no thought for parents, much less their children coming to church in something less. Bringing children church in what might otherwise be considered “play clothes” sends the wrong message. Church clothes don’t have to be, and actually shouldn’t be, “fancy clothes.” They simply need to be set apart for worship.

Leave the toys at home. Come to church to pray, not to play. Toys are not allowed in Orthodox churches for people of all ages—wood, plastic, or electronic. There is

a time and place for everything and Orthodox worship is not for games. If a small child needs some type of security, blankets are the old standard. (They don’t make noise.) By extension, a small, stuffed animal might be acceptable, as long as children don’t use them to play *Animal Farm* with the other kids during liturgy. (Don’t forget the nursery downstairs.) And, be mindful of *your* toys as well. Sadly I have noticed adults checking emails and texting, both before and during our services. Can we expect better behavior of little ones in God’s house unless we exhibit this ourselves?

Handle showdowns effectively. As I mentioned before, toddlers love to test limits. When showdowns happen in church, don’t try to reason with your child on the spot. He doesn’t care. He knows that he will win the battle in most cases. So if your child won’t stop screaming, see what the matter is, outside of the temple, where you can give him your full attention. Encourage him to use his words in his “inside voice” without yelling or screaming. Remember, words distinguish us from God’s other creatures. Encouraging speech appropriately and lovingly is teaching them a powerful theological truth. *Think* about that one: *logos*, logic, theological. (*cf. Gen. 1:1,2; Jn. 1:1*) Of course, don’t expect better conduct in public than what is allowed at home.

Don’t run in church. Running is not only disruptive but potentially dangerous. Trips, falls, spills, are likely to happen, not only to the kids but to the adults. (And I’ve heard a number of concerns and near misses on this one.) So, clamp down on running indoors at home, and in public in general unless at a track meet.

Finally, sacrifice. A parent might think that doing all the above will take away from one’s own worship time. Let me share a secret: it will. That’s the price of parenting. If a parent is unwilling to sacrifice to help a child learn to pray, what does that really say about the parent?

■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

On the Chapel’s First Pascha (continued from page 1)

As someone coming out of the Protestant Christian tradition, I can say in all honesty and sincerity that never before, during my times of preparation for the celebration of Easter, had I been wrought with so many manifold emotions as I was during these services.

On Holy Thursday, I was momentarily and continuously reminded of my own sinfulness, my own, daily betrayal of Christ, my own need for repentance if I am to commune in good faith at the table of the Master. As we sang the odes of Nocturns, I was moved to tears, now no longer out of sadness in the light of my own sinfulness, but instead, in joyful anticipation of the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. As I heard Fr. David begin, “Come and receive the light from the Light, that is never overcome by night. Come and glorify the Christ, risen from the dead,” I felt in my heart of hearts that Pascha was upon us. I was filled with a divine and spiritual warmth. All of Lent had been leading to this, and it was so special to be standing there, in that dimly lit Chapel, with my wife and my still very “new-to-this-world” daughter, both of whom along with myself had been baptized into the Faith only a few months earlier.

As we moved outside to announce the resurrection of Christ to the world, singing boldly, cheerfully, and faithfully, one could see our small candles piercing the dark of night—just as the Light of Christ’s resurrection pierced our sin-sick world and the kingdom of the evil one, transforming it, liberating it, and re-possessing it for the glory of the Kingdom of God. It is a beautifully eerie and exhilarating thing to know that the resurrection of Christ moves us out of comfortability and out of our humdrum routine to worship Christ our Savior and to glorify his resurrection in the new day of the Kingdom. Truly, singing at midnight inspired in me the feeling of transcending time itself. We glorify Christ God and the fruits of his death, burial, and resurrection; it just so happens to be dark outside in this

In Other Chapel News...

COME KNIT AND CROCHET WITH US!

Join us for our Hat and Blankets for Babies project on the fourth Mondays (May excluded) from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Yarn and needles are provided, or you may bring your own. Over the past 2 years, we’ve sent about 265 hats and 60 blankets to 5 different hospitals! One does not need to have expertise, and men are welcome too.

— Margaret Lyter

CELEBRATE HOLY SPIRIT DAY AT THE CHAPEL

The Chapel’s patronal feast falls on Memorial Day (May 28), so there’s twice as many reasons to picnic! The day begins with the Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m., followed by an outing at the Chapel Rectory. Bring a covered dish; meat and drinks will be provided.

physical world, but in the realm of the Kingdom, we are transported to the bright and jubilant and very much awake and attentive throneroom of the resurrected King! As we processed, I could not help but take note of the darkened windows of the many homes that surround the Chapel. Missional in spirit and intent, the Chapel is always seeking ways of making this ancient and lifegiving faith known in the surrounding community. I thought to myself, seeing these many homes, “I pray that these good folks can hear our song of life and joy, and know: He is risen!”

Should this not be our stalwart prayer, all throughout the year, whether before, during, or after this Paschal season? That the light and life of Christ might shine in and through us, making known the Gospel of the Kingdom and its crucified King to those very much in need of it. It is my joy to share with you all my own experience, and the experience of my brethren, of this: our first wonderful Holy Week and Pascha. It is my hope and prayer that next year, around this same time, we will have even more faithful to share in our Paschal joy! Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! ■

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

On Pentecost: Universal Renewal (cont. from pg. 1)

At the end of the world, something analogous will happen: Not only will people be resurrected incorrupt by the power of the Holy Spirit, but also the whole world, namely, all of sensible Creation (the heavens, luminaries, stars, and the elements); and it is destined to come again to its ancient state of incorruptibility which it had before Adam fell through his disobedience. (Nicodemus the Hagorite, *Nea Klimas*)

It is a common teaching of the Holy Prophets, Apostles, and Fathers of our Church that the perpetual creative activity of the Holy Spirit, which continuously renews the earth and creation, will definitively free it in the last times from the bondage of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

For there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; we look for new heavens and a new earth, [in accordance with the Lord's promise], wherein dwelleth [holiness]; and I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.

The Saints particularly emphasize that the renewal and the rendering incorruptible of creation depend directly on man: First people will be renewed and will be rendered incorrupt through the Resurrection, and then all of the elements and creation. As indeed man first fell into corruption, and then creation, through man, so must man again first be rendered incorrupt and then, through man, creation be rendered incorrupt. (Nicodemus the Hagorite, *2 Pet. 3:13*)

Then, at the end of the world, the renewal of the universe will constitute an expression of the love of the heavenly Father for His children: Just as a father, at the time of the glory and joy of his sons, adorns even his servants for the greater glory of his sons, in the same manner does God, at the time of the glory, joy, and incorruptibility of us, His sons, adorn also this enslaved world with the beauty of incorruptibility.

Feast Days this Month

Midfeast of Pentecost

VESPERS: Tues., May 1, 5:30pm

LITURGY: Wed., May 2, 8am

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

GR. VESPERS: Wed., May 16, 7pm
(*AT Pelikan, Litya Br. & Icon*)

LITURGY: Thu., May 17, 8am
(*A. Stickles, Prospora*)



PENTECOST

SOUL SATURDAY...

VESPERS: Fri., May 25, 7pm

LITURGY: Sat., May 26, 9am

(*I. Andrzhevsky, Prospora*)



GR. VESPERS: Sat., May 26, 6pm
(*A. Stickles, Litya Bread & Icon*)

MATINS/LITURGY/"KNEELING" VESPERS:
Sun., May 27, 8:50am

SPIRIT DAY: Mon., May 28, 10am @ CHS

After this wondrous renewal and the just judgment, our much-desired and sweetest Master Jesus Christ will bestow on the Righteous—in accordance with the worthiness and radiance of each one's works—the appropriate abode in the one Kingdom of Heaven for all. There, in the Glory of the Kingdom, everyone will see Christ, "Who will be present with each one, and each one will be with Him; and He will be shining in each one, and each one will be shining in Him; and woe to those who will then be found outside of His House" (*Ode VII, Canon of Pentecost*).

O Divine Comforter, renewer of our sinful nature and of the world, come and dwell in us permanently, free us from the bondage of corruption, cleanse us in the flames of the Pentecost of the Mysteries of the Church, and vouchsafe us the eschatological radiance! ■

Children cannot be raised effectively, much less piously, unless sacrifice sets the tone of the relationship at home and then in worship. In other words, you might have to spend more time outside of liturgy than inside for a while.

For God (the parent) so loved the world (us) that he gave (sacrificed) his only-begotten Son (*John 3:16*). We

Thank You, Choir

"Trial by fire" is defined as a test of one's abilities to perform well under pressure. And there is no pressure greater than a choir and choir director's first Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha. So, with gratitude, I would like to thank the entire choir for their efforts. Their commitment to serving the parish at Holy Trinity inspires me to work even harder. Looking back over all the services, there is much for which to be thankful.

Did you know that new books were made for St. Andrew's Canon and the presanctified liturgies? Or that the Akathist to the Mother of God was set to music for the first time? Did you know that a new Pascha book was made just in time to be used that evening? Or that there were seven new choir members celebrating their first Pascha in the choir? Did you know that 11 choir members rehearsed and sang specific pieces of music? Or that there were 12 hours of rehearsals besides all the scheduled services? Did you know that the choir pulled together as a team to get all this hard work done? I did, and as their director, I am so thankful to each and every one for all their hard work and sacrifices! I was honored to work with these talented people. To God be all the glory!

—Karen Cattell

The Altar Society Needs You

The Altar Society serves God through the beautification of the church, its vestments, and altar covers; and baking of prospora throughout each of the changing liturgical seasons. We need more ladies (and girls) to help us get together and achieve all this. Please consider doing your part to help. See Joanne Takarchek for details.

all sacrifice for the sake of having children in worship. This is what teaching a child to pray by having a child-friendly church is all about.

(TO BE CONTINUED...) ■

From the Rector's Desk,
Fr. John

For the Record

BAPTISMS

- **Christopher Howe** was baptized April 7 at Holy Trinity. He was sponsored by **Alex Listvinsky. Many years!**
- **Kyra Quinn** was baptized April 7 at Holy Trinity. She was sponsored by **John and Susan Pettengill. Many years!**

FIRST CONFESSIONS

- On Lazarus Saturday (Mar. 31) **Elena Stevens, Lucia Swisher, Nita Burkadze, and Zachariah Cadman** entered into the sacrament of confession for the first time. **Remember them in your prayers.**

ELECTION

- **Christina Sartalis, Alexey Listvinsky, Joseph Korba, Hannah Oleynik, and Charissa Skoutelas** were elected as officers of the Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship for 2018-19.

GRADUATIONS

- OCF Vice-President **Michael Mavrides** (*Actuarial Science/Statistics*), OCF Treasurer **Christian Bowser** (*Energy Engineering/Environmental Eng.*), former OCF Secretary **Elaina Lioudis** (*Toxicology*), **Alexandros Mathews** (*Biomedical Engineering/Mathematics/Engineering Mechanics*), and **Victoria Schmidt** (*Early Childhood Education/Special Ed.*), graduate this month from Penn State. OCF President **Timothy Daly** (*Master's: Human Resources/Employment Relations; Bachelor's: Management/Labor & Employment Relations/Human Resources & Employment Relations*) will graduate in August. **Congratulations!**

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
29 Sunday of the Paralytic Matins, 8:50am Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Orthodox Youth Association (OYA, gr. 9-12) Lunch Outing, 12pm-2pm Choir Social, 6pm @ <i>Trinity House</i>	30 Apostle James, brother of St. John	May 1 Vespers, 5:30pm	2 Midfeast of Pentecost Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Vespers, 5:30pm All Ministry Leaders' Strategic Planning Mtg., 7pm @ <i>Trinity House</i>	3	4	5 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
May 6 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Matins, 8:50am Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Sunday School Pool Party, 2pm @ <i>Ramada Inn, 1450 S. Atherton St</i>	7 St. Alexis Toth	8 St. John the Theologian Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Housing Transitions, 217 E. Nittany Ave.</i> Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	9 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Mtg., 7pm @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i>	10	11 Ss. Cyril and Methodius	12 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
13 Sunday of the Blind Man Matins, 8:50am Sunday School, 9am @ <i>Trinity House and Holy Trinity Nursery (all classes open with prayer in the Parish Hall)</i> Divine Liturgy, 10am	14	15	16 Leavetaking of Pascha Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 6:15pm @ <i>Trinity House Conf. Rm.</i> Great Vespers with Litya for Ascension, 7pm	17 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours 7:40am)	18	19 Parish Outdoor Work Day for Pentecost, 9am (<i>Breakfast served by Men's Fellowship</i>) Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
20 Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Matins, 8:50am Last Day of Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am High School Graduate & S.S. Teacher Appreciation, 11:45am	21 Ss. Constantine and Helen	22 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	23 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	24	25 Vespers, 7pm	26 Memorial Saturday Mem. Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Altar Society Decoration for Pentecost, 4:30pm Great Vespers w/Litya, 6pm Confessions
27 PENTECOST: FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY Festal Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am "Kneeling" Vespers of Pentecost, 12pm Annual Parish Picnic/Patronal Feast 1pm-4pm @ <i>Holmes-Foster Park</i>	28 Day of the Holy Spirit (<i>Divine Liturgy at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, 10am; Patronal Picnic follows at the Rectory.</i>)	29	30 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	31	June 1	2 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
3 All Saints Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	4	5	6 Vespers, 5:30pm (<i>No Confessions</i>)	7	8	9 Great Vespers, 6pm (<i>No Confessions</i>)

Chapel Calendar

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

Tuesday 1 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Saturday 19 Great Vespers, 6pm
Saturday 5 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Sunday 20 Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) One-Year Trisagion for Mary Laboda, following Fellowship and Study of "Our Life in Christ" Podcast #7, following
Sunday 6 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship and Study of "Our Life in Christ" Podcast #5, following	Tuesday 22 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Tuesday 8 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Saturday 26 Pentecost Eve Great Vespers with Litya, 6pm
Saturday 12 Great Vespers, 6pm	Sunday 27 PENTECOST: FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) (<i>Light Coffee Hour following so we can attend Holy Trinity's Feast Day Picnic</i>)
Sunday 13 Sunday of the Blind Man Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship and Study of "Our Life in Christ" Podcast #6, following	Monday 28 Day of the Holy Spirit Feast Day Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Covered-Dish Patronal Picnic, following @ <i>Rectory, 140 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown</i>
Tuesday 15 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	
Wednesday 16 Ascension Eve Great Vespers with Litya, 6pm	

May 2018