

# THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Fr. John Announces Retirement



**I**N A LETTER TO THE PARISH dated July 12, 2018, Father John Reeves announced his retirement as Holy Trinity Orthodox Church's rector effective on or before the end of the civil year (December 31, 2018). He is the parish's first rector and has been such for more than 20 years, having arrived in State College in 1996.

The parish will celebrate "25 Years of Mission" (1993-2018), including Fr. John's pastorate, with a 9 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity and a noon buffet luncheon at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel on Saturday, October 6. The festivities will also include a reunion of Penn State University Orthodox Christian Fellowship alumni at an ice cream reception. More details will be forthcoming by mail and in future bulletins and newsletters. **Save the date!** ■

## Why We Fast for the Dormition

by Daniel Manzuk

**I**N A CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY, word that its matriarch is on her deathbed brings normal life to a halt. Otherwise important things (parties, TV, luxuries, personal desires) become unimportant; life comes to revolve around the dying matriarch. It is the same with the Orthodox family; word that our matriarch is on her deathbed, could not (or at least should not) have any different effect than the one just mentioned.

*(continued, see ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY, page 6)*

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## Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
August 5	R. Schrauf and D. Patel**	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky*	A. Ashmore and M. Stickle	Team A
August 12	L. Georgiou and B. & N. Troyan**	M. Fedkin and J. Fryncko*	B. Haupt and R. Patel	Team B
August 19	E. George and K. Oleynik	E. Miranda and S. Al Maalouf	M. Fedkin and H. Torbic	Team A
August 26	P. Doty and D. Van Duin	J. Cadman and J. Houser*	G. Cattell and M. Stickle	Team B
September 2	I. Andrzhievsky and L. Radomsky	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	E. Ashmore and R. Patel	Team A
September 9	A.T. Pelikan and J. Miranda	M. Fedkin and J. Fryncko	B. Haupt and H. Torbic	Team B

\* Denotes switch/change      Team A: Z. Cadman, B. Oleynik, J. Torbic, C. Schrauf, E. Scisber, and J. Scisber.  
 \*\* Denotes fast                      Team B: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, S. Patel, D. Stickle, and I. Torbic.      Captains: D. Torbic and S. Oleynik

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

# I Watered, But God Has Given the Increase

In what has been arguably the most difficult decision of my life, I have asked Archbishop Melchisedek to grant me retirement as your rector by year's end. He has acceded to my request.

No other assignment in my ministry has brought me such joy. I have seen young families form, children born, others grow spiritually—both young and old—and many converts made. Through our campus ministry, I have witnessed the formation of vocations and rejoiced to see numerous Penn State students enter the priesthood and other ministries. Holy Trinity has taken seriously the vision to build up the Church beyond the parish.

Consequently, from a nascent group of sixteen Orthodox Christians in 1993, the parish has grown to a community of more than 200 souls, with a missionary outreach in Snyder County, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. To paraphrase St. Paul: *"They planted, I have watered, but God has given the increase."*

You will have many questions and many concerns. This is understandable. Not the least of these questions will be the appointment of a successor by the Archbishop. A transition team consisting of representatives from Holy Trinity and the Chapel, under the pastoral direction of our dean, Fr. Mark Meholick, will coordinate the development of a "candidate profile" to aid Archbishop Melchisedek in his decision. If you have any questions or comments about this process, you may email [transitionteam@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:transitionteam@holytrinity-oca.org) or call the Parish Office at (814) 231-2855.

In the meantime, pray for me. If you believe that there is an unsettled issue between you and me, please speak to me. Laura will be happy to make an appointment. ■

You remain forever in my prayers,  
*Fr. John*

## Feast Days this Month

### THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

VESPERS: Friday, Aug. 5, 7pm  
(P. Doty, Litiya)  
(E. George, Icon)

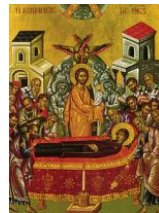
LITURGY: Saturday, Aug. 6, 9am  
(P. Doty, Prospora)



### THE DORMITION (FALLING ASLEEP) OF THE MOST-HOLY MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

VESPERS: Sunday, Aug. 14, 7pm  
(A.T. Pelikan, Litiya)  
(TBD, Icon)

LITURGY: Monday, Aug. 15, 8am  
(A. Stickles, Prospora)



### Additional Liturgies:

DATE/TIME	FOR	PROSPORA
Wed., Aug. 1, 8am	Procession of the Cross	—
Tues., Aug. 9, 8am	St. Herman of Alaska	P. Doty
Mon., Aug. 29, 8am	Beheading of St. John	A Stickles

## Transition Team Formed; Will Meet

According to canon and best practices, neither the outgoing rector nor the Parish Council selects his replacement. However, the parish should and will have input on the characteristics and qualities needed in Fr. John's successor. To accomplish this goal, a team consisting of Justin Houser, Samar Al Maalouf, Katya Fedkin, Evan Kerstetter, Ravi Patel, Mark Radomsky, David Swisher, Melody Thompson, and Holly Torbic has been formed. Our dean, Fr. Mark Meholick, will serve as chairman. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 22 at 7 p.m. in Trinity House. Please keep each member of the Transition Team in your prayers. ■

## Support Our Back to School Drive

Each year, Holy Trinity provides school supplies for dozens of children in need through our *Matthew 25* ministry. To learn more about what items are needed, email [info@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:info@holytrinity-oca.org) or look in the Sunday bulletin. (Monetary donations are especially appreciated since outstanding items are purchased.) Your gifts will be collected through Sunday, August 20.

## Paving Options Explored

At its July meeting, Parish Council members reviewed quotes from area engineering firms. These firms were bidding on two important projects: 1) survey the land surrounding Holy Trinity and Trinity House, and 2) design a site plan, including more green space, a rock/water retention garden, and a new, completely paved parking lot. The council affirmed the need to improve accessibility for all on our grounds and resolved to bring the project before the entire congregation for feedback and consensus. If you have suggestions on parking lot improvements, please see Brandon Stodart or email [b.stodart@yahoo.com](mailto:b.stodart@yahoo.com).

## Let's "Send Zach Back" to Seminary

Last year, Holy Trinity contributed \$1,000 toward Zach Mandell's first year at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. (Zach is a former director of Holy Trinity's Choir and an alum of the Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship.) We need to help send Zach back for this coming academic year. Use the specially-marked envelopes in the Narthex to contribute to his education. Let's exceed last year's offering!

## August Bookstore Feature

Recommended for sale in the Bookstore is *Ascetics in the World*. In his review, blogger Steven Christoforou, writes "It's a collection of short biographies of regular people living remarkable lives of prayer and asceticism in the world. We sometimes associate prayer and asceticism with monasteries, but this book gives us insight to the lives of regular men and women, living in towns and cities, just like you or I, worked hard to live Orthodoxly and unite themselves to Christ."

■ NEWS AND NOTES

## Archdiocesan Cathedral to Host Bioethics Talk

ALLISON PARK, PA [*via ocadwpa.org*] — First comes love and then comes marriage, but what happens when there is no baby carriage? The grief and sadness of the barren womb, infertility, has been with us since the beginning of time. With the advent of new, assisted reproductive technologies, how are we to view them in light of Orthodox Christian beliefs and ethics? A panel consisting of Jennifer Lahl, President of the Center for Bioethics and Culture Network, Dr. Albert Rossi, Director of Psychological Services at St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Fr. George Johnson, Rector of St. John's Church in Conemaugh will explore these issues on Thursday, September 27 at 7 p.m. here at Nevsky Cathedral. For more information, visit [sanocpgh.org](http://sanocpgh.org). On his way to Pittsburgh, Dr. Rossi will speak here on September 26. Details on his public talk, *Remaining Sane on Campus*, will be in next month's *Trisagion*.

## Positions Still Open for Fall 2018 Mission Teams

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL [*via ocmc.org*] — Though some of our short-term mission teams have already gone and returned this year, opportunities for 2018 mission teams still exist. Orthodox women are especially needed for teams to Albania (September 17-27,) and Kenya (November 19-28) this year. Two additional teams to Kenya (both from November 28-December 8) are geared for volunteers interested in ministering to youth at a conference in Nyeri and a school in Nairobi, respectively. For details or to register, visit [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org).

## For the Record

### BIRTH

➤ **Ksenia Abigail Cattell**, daughter of Josh and Sarah (Rauterkus) Cattell, granddaughter of Gary and Karen Cattell, born July 3, measuring 5 lbs. 12 oz., and 18 inches long. *Many years!*

## ■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

# If Sundays Were Church Days...

People may not actually have attended church more, but there was once a time when organizations wouldn't actively compete with it for our Sunday morning allegiance. Such disregard is now a matter of course. Sporting events, music lessons, academic field trips, birthday parties—kids today have a ton of commitments expected of them on a day once set aside for God. What's a faithful parent to do? These activities are more fun than church, and let's not forget how much more important they are to building our little ones' portfolios.

The quality of our parenting these days is measured by how many activities we have our kids enrolled in. This model implies that we'd be abusing them, crippling them for life, by making them skip *taekwondo* for some church service. So we say, "Just this once," which becomes, "Just this twice." Rather than activities being the rare exception to our churchly rule, church becomes the rare event—now possible "if there's time." Since school and the gym are closed for Christmas anyway, why not go then? That is, if we get the shopping and baking done.

What do we create by dispensing with our children's spiritual formation to build their competitive advantage? Will they be worldly wise and successful, with a thin veneer of religion barely concealing a heart that doesn't have time to contemplate things eternal? There's a subtle form of indoctrination taking place here. As we drive our kids to soccer practice on Sunday morning, might we also be taking them to spiritual "re-education" camp?

I don't expect the world around me to accommodate my beliefs. If it ceases paying lip service to Sunday morning, I can't blame it for being consistent. I'd like to see similar consistency from those who profess that any suffering for Christ's sake will be rewarded. Opting out of activities considered "vital" for our

financial success and social status are small prices compared to martyrdom in blood.

I got some disgusted looks when I walked away from [childhood activities], but if I hadn't done that, I might not be where I am now. I might be gainfully employed. Heck, I might be in Congress. And no one's child should suffer that fate. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Fr. Barnabas Powell is the priest at Ss. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene Greek Orthodox Church in Cumming, Georgia.*

## Why Fast for the Dormition? *(cont. from pg. 1)*

The Church...gives us the opportunity to come to [the Theotokos'] deathbed and eulogize and entreat the woman who bore God, the vessel of our salvation and our chief advocate at His divine throne. And as, in the earthly family, daily routines and the indulgence in personal wants should come to a halt.

Fasting, in its full sense (abstaining from food and desires) accomplishes this. Less time in leisure or other pursuits leaves more time for prayer and reflection on she who gave us Christ and became the first and greatest Christian. In reflecting on her and her incomparable life, we see a model Christian life, embodying Christ's retort to the woman who stated that Mary was blessed because she bore Him: blessed rather are those who hear His word and keep it.

Mary did this better than anyone. As Fr. Thomas Hopko has stated, she heard the word of God and kept it so well, that she of all women in history was chosen not only to hear His Word but give birth to it (Him). So while we fast in contemplation of her life, we are simultaneously preparing ourselves to live a life in imitation of her. That is the purpose of the Dormition Fast. ■

## ■ 19<sup>th</sup> ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL: "FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD"

# Parish Represented at All-American Council

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in State College and its outreach, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Beavertown, was represented at the Nineteenth All-American Council (AAC) of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) in St. Louis last month. The parish was awarded five delegates to the triennial assembly of the Church's parishes, monasteries, and institutions. Mark and Leslyn Radomsky attended as lay delegates, and Dn. Alexander Cadman attended the Council for the first time as a clergy delegate under a new provision of the OCA Statute, which was revised at the last council. According to the Statute, the All-American Council, as the highest deliberative and administrative authority within the Church, meets in order to bear witness to her identity, unity, and mission. In addition to hearing reports on the OCA's various departments and holding elections for the Metropolitan Council and Pension Board, various governing bodies, here were some of additional highlights:

## Metropolitan Unveils His Vision for the Church

While the theme of the Council centered around *For the Life of the World*—the late Fr. Alexander Schmemmann's masterpiece on using the Church's sacraments to define the Christian's worldview—one of the main objectives of the All-American Council was to introduce and unpack the "Four Pillars" in *Of What Life Do We Speak?*, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon's visionary work to guide the OCA. Conversations were fostered in forums facilitated by panels of speakers on the topics of spiritual life, clergy care, stewardship, missions, community, and external affairs. Copies of His Beatitude's text are available at [oca.org](http://oca.org) as well as on the parish's AAC display in the Parish Hall.

## Funding Resolution Passed

Since moving to proportional giving at the 18th All-American Council, the OCA Central Administration now receives a percentage of each territorial diocese's income as opposed to a "head tax" based on census. Delegates overwhelmingly voted to continue this system of tithing to fund the work of the Church.

## Council Delegates Call for More Dialogue

Although the Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA motioned for a statute change that would change the time between councils from three years to four years. However, delegates strongly agreed that the frequency of gatherings should not be limited. One delegate in particular, Mr. Gregg Nescott from St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, affirmed the need for participants to be able to voice questions and concerns to their bishops. He called upon future organizers to restrict the time allotted to presenting reports in favor of increased participation from the body as a whole.

## Youth Inspire Spontaneous Drive to Fund Director

Children participating in the Council's youth program delighted participants at the final plenary session by performing musical selections they had learned, and by sharing insights into their role in the Church—present and future. Their presentation inspired an impromptu campaign among delegates to raise funds for a full time Youth Director for the OCA. Within a matter of ten minutes, commitments totaling \$87,000 had been made by some 60 delegates and their parishes in the spontaneous floor drive, which will supplement the \$50,000 pledged by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA). Other delegates stated their intention to "spread the word" upon their return home. Still other clergy called upon the Church to ensure these funds have appropriate oversight, that the right hire is made, and that the position can be sustained. ■

# 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 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	30	31 Vespers, 7pm	August 1 <b>Procession of the Life-giving Cross</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	2 Orthodoxy 101/2.0, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	3	4 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
5 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Four-Year Memorial for Elli Michael, 11:45am Great Vespers, Litiya, and Blessing of Fruit for the Transfiguration, 7pm	6 <b>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am)	7 Women's Dinner and Planning Meeting, 5pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	8 Great Vespers, 7pm Confessions	9 <b>St. Herman of Alaska</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Parish Council Meeting, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	10	11 Altar Society Planning Meeting, 10am @ Trinity House Conference Room Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
12 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	13 <b>St. Tikhon of Zadonsk</b> Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm Orthodoxy 101/2.0, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	14 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave. Great Vespers, Litiya, and Blessing of Flowers for the Dormition, 7pm	15 <b>DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Vespers, 5:30pm 40-Day Memorial for Bill Tatcher / Confessions	16	17	18 Archdiocesan Family Day, 11am-4pm @ Chancery, 8641 Peters Rd., Cranberry Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
19 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) Executive Board Mtg., 7pm @ HUB-Robeson Center	20 Orthodoxy 101/2.0, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	21 Clergy Staff Meeting, 5pm @ Trinity House Conf. Rm.	22 Penn State OCF at Involvement Fair, 11am-4pm @ HUB Lawn Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Transition Team Meeting, 7pm @ T.H. Conf. Rm.	23 Penn State OCF Welcome Back Dinner, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Ctr.	24	25 Baptism of Ksenia Cattell, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
26 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) BBQ, 2pm-6pm @ Spring Creek Park, Houserville (Rides depart from HUB at 1:45pm.)	27 Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm Orthodoxy 101/2.0, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	28 Great Vespers, 7pm Penn State OCF Freshman Social, 8pm-10pm @ Berkey Creamery	29 <b>Beheading of St. John the Forerunner</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	30 Penn State OCF Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	31	September 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
2 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	3 <u>Labor Day</u> (Parish Offices Closed)	4	5 Great Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	6 Penn State OCF: Mount Nittany Hike (departs 6pm from Pasquerilla Spiritual Center)	7 Great Vespers with Litiya, 7pm	8 <b>NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

# Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 4 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	<b>Sunday 19</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following
<b>Sunday 5</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following Great Vespers, Litiya, and the Blessing of Fruit for the Transfiguration, 6pm	Tuesday 21 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Tuesday 7 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Saturday 25 Great Vespers, 6pm
Saturday 11 Great Vespers, 6pm	<b>Sunday 26</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following
<b>Sunday 12</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following	Tuesday 28 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Tuesday 14 Great Vespers, Litiya, and the Blessing of Flowers for the Dormition, 6pm	Saturday September 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
Thursday 16 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	<b>Sunday 2</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following
Saturday 18 Great Vespers, 6pm	Tuesday 4 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
	Friday 7 Great Vespers with Litiya, 6pm

**August 2018**