

# THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Looking Ahead, Not Back by Fr. John Reeves



Fr. Mark Meholic leads the Transition Team in determining what characteristics our next rector should have to ensure the continuation and advancement of Holy Trinity's mission, vision, and core values. For more on this effort, see the article on the last page.

### Send Zach Back!

LAST YEAR, HOLY TRINITY CONTRIBUTED \$1,000 toward Zachariah Mandell's first year at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. (Zach is a former director of Holy Trinity's Choir and an alumnus of the Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship.)



Photo Credit: <http://www.svos.edu>

We need to continue our support for Zach this academic year. Use the envelopes in the Narthex marked "Send Zach Back" to contribute toward his education. Let's exceed last year's offering! ■

THE CHURCH YEAR BEGINS ANEW. As with all new year celebrations, secular or religious, emphasis is placed on looking ahead. At Holy Trinity, much is already on the docket as we look ahead: transition to a new rector's appointment, as well as re-evaluation of our existing ministries: our focus, our purpose, and our plans to keep moving forward.

This is not a time for nostalgia. The past is to inspire, reflecting on what God has done in our midst over the last quarter century. But the past must never be seen as a period in which we become ossified. It would be like saying that God acted once, but we won't move forward to see what He is doing and will continue to do. No, the God who has brought us thus far will continue to lead us.

*(continued, see FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK, page 2)*

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## Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
September 9	A.T. Peikhan and J. Miranda	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill*	B. Haupt and H. Torbic	Team B
September 16	H. Torbic and M. Thompson	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and M. Stickle	Team A
September 23	M. Leathers and A. Ashmore	E. Miranda and J. Cadman*	E. Ashmore and G. Cattell	Team B
September 30	Russian Ladies	J. Cadman and J. Houser	R. Patel and H. Torbic	Team A
October 7	L. Radomsky* and L. Rush	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	B. Haupt and M. Stickle	Team B
October 14	A. Legaspi and A. Swisher	M. Fedkin and J. Fyncko	E. Ashmore and M. Fedkin	Team A

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

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

# Looking Ahead to the Finish Line *(cont. from pg. 1)*

On October 6, we will celebrate God's actions here with a festive liturgy attended by many clergy and laity who are coming to join us. (Call 814-231-2855 or visit [holyltrinity-oca.org/25years](http://holyltrinity-oca.org/25years) to RSVP.) It's part of our transition from my pastorate to that of a new pastor.

I only accepted this appointment because I was convinced that God would do great things in our midst, if we were willing to discern his presence and his will. My chief preoccupation has been to guide you without getting in God's way.

Optimism about the future is a sure sign of Christian faith, not because God will give us what we ultimately want but what we desperately need. We look for Christ's coming again in glory. His work is not yet done on earth and we are still involved in its fulfillment.

As is written in the Epistle to the Hebrews:

*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses (to those things which God has already done), let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (12:1-2)*

In other words, we can never reach the finish line looking over our shoulders desiring the past, but only to the future where our Lord waits for us. God has acted in our midst to establish this parish. He acts in it. He strengthens us. He calls us forward to him. What is true for souls, it true as well for parishes. ■

God bless you all,  
*Fr. John*

## Ministries at Holy Trinity

*This summer, the parish's ministries were evaluated to determine effectiveness and adherence to Holy Trinity's vision and mission. The following offerings have a defined purpose and plan, and thus will be available for you to participate in this ecclesiastical year and during the transition to the new administration.*

### Outreach

- Chapel of the Holy Spirit
- Greeters
- Homeless Ministry
- Matthew 25

### Christian Education

- Bookstore
- Lending Library
- Orthodoxy 101 (*Inquirer's Class*)
- Orthodoxy 2.0 (*for catechumens*)
- Sunday School (*for children in grades K-12*)
- Vacation Bible School (*for children ages 4-14*)

### Fellowship

- Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Penn State
- Orthodox Youth Association (*grades 9-12*) and Jr. Orthodox Youth Association (*grades 5-8*)
- Young Adult Fellowship

### Liturgical

- Choir
- Altar Servers
- Altar Society
- Cantors/Readers

### Service

- Parish Council
- Coffee Hour
- Rides to Church
- Security Team (*coming soon*)
- TLC (*Tender Loving Care, i.e., visitation ministry*)
- TLC-2 (*for families of newborns*)

*A full description of each group can be found at [holyltrinity-oca.org/ministries](http://holyltrinity-oca.org/ministries).*

## Transition Team Drafts Profile

The first meeting of the Transition Team took place on August 22 at 7 p.m. in Trinity House. The team discussed which characteristics the next rector should have in order to ensure the continuation and advancement of Holy Trinity's core values—the six “-ships” of Apostleship, Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Stewardship, and Partnership—and mailed a draft clergy profile to the parish membership for feedback. Comments received by the team in person and via [holyltrinity-oca.org/transition](http://holyltrinity-oca.org/transition) will be used to create a final profile in an open meeting on Wednesday, September 19 at 7 p.m., also at Trinity House. The chairman, Fr. Mark Meholick, will give the final product to Archbishop Melchisedek to aid him in his selection of our next rector. Thank you to all who will have contributed to this solemn and crucial process.

## Dr. Rossi to Speak at Holy Trinity

Dr. Albert Rossi, Director of Psychological Services at St. Vladimir's Seminary, will offer a public talk entitled *Remaining Sane at Penn State* on Wednesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity. Refreshments and a time of Q&A will follow the free presentation sponsored by the Penn State OCF. See you there.

## Thanks from the Reeves Family

Matushka Linda and Father John wish to thank all the parishioners who have ministered to them during her surgery and recovery. The meals, the assistance, the prayers, and all the other kindnesses shown her have been part of her good progress and healing. At this time, they need to ask, please, that no more foodstuffs be sent to the house. The freezer is now having a hard time accommodating your generosity!

## September Bookstore Feature

*Cancer, My Love* is a memoir of personal transformation that has changed countless lives in Romania since it was first published there in 2014. In the agony of her cross-bearing, author Mioara Grigore found what it means, at the deepest level, to love and be loved by others and by God. Ultimately, hers is a story not only of growth but of indomitable joy and triumph.

## ■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

# It's Been—and Will Be—Busy at the Chapel!

The week of July 17, 2018, the Chapel spent four days at the Richfield Dutch Days, a local fair in Richfield (Juniata County), “on the other side of the mountain,” as we say. It was a first for the Chapel in an effort to expand our presence, especially since half of our families come from that county. We put up a tent and handed out literature, along with pens and pads. Several good conversations ensued with curious folks inquiring into this “new” addition to the fair. On July 29, our annual picnic was held on the lot with our Chapel family and some guests from the community. The food was delicious and plentiful as was the fun. It was a joy to see the kids and adults having such a wonderful time together as they engaged in games.

Now, September has arrived and lots of events and activities planned for this month, including a family miniature golf and ice cream outing (Sept. 9), hosting an information both at the Beaver Fair (Sept. 17-21), the annual Selinsgrove Street Fair outreach (Sept. 22), our monthly “Hats and Blankets” Ministry (Sept. 24), and an end-of-summer picnic (Sept. 30). All are invited to come and see! ■ —*Mka. Brenda Smith*

## For the Record

### BAPTISM

- **Ksenia Abigail Cattell**, daughter of Josh and Sarah (Rauterkus) Cattell, was baptized at Holy Trinity on August 25, sponsored by Fr. Matthew Fuhrman. *Many years!*

### CATECHUMEN

- **Isaiah Gerber** was enrolled into the ranks of the Holy Catechuminate last month. *Many years!*

### YOUR GENEROSITY

- **\$1,157** was raised through **Matthew 25** to purchase hundreds of school supplies for more than 40 disadvantaged children in our area. *Thank you for continuing to support Matt. 25.*

# On Paradise and Hell

by Fr. John Romanides

All human beings will see the glory of God, and from this point of view they have the same end. Everyone will certainly see the glory of God, the difference being that, whereas the saved will see the glory of God as sweetest light without evening, the damned will see the same glory of God as consuming fire, as fire that will burn them. It is a true and predictable fact that we shall all see the glory of God. Seeing God, that is to say, His glory and His Light, is something that will happen whether we want it or not. The experience of this Light, however, will be different for the two categories.

The work of the Church and the priests is not to help us to see this glory, because that will happen in any case. The work of the Church centers on how each one will see God, not on whether he will see God. In other words, the task of the Church is to preach to people that the true God exists, that God is revealed either as light or as consuming fire, and that at the Second Coming of Christ all of us will see God. And it must prepare its members so that they see God not as fire but as light.

The Church does not send anyone to Paradise or to Hell, but it prepares the faithful for the vision of Christ in glory, which everyone will have. God loves the damned as much as the Saints. He wants all to be cured, but not all accept the cure that He offers.

Paradise and Hell do not exist from the point of view of God, but from the point of view of human beings. God will love everyone equally. He will send His grace to all, in the same way as He will send His grace to all, in the same way as He “makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:45). But everyone will not accept God's grace in the same way. Some will see God as Light and other as fire. The same will happen as with Holy Communion.

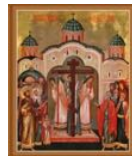
## Holy Days this Month



### NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

VESPERS: Fri., Sept. 7, 7pm  
(A.T. Pelikan, *Litiya Bread*)  
(P. Doty, *Icon*)

LITURGY: Sat., Sept. 8, 9am  
(I. Andrzhievskaya, *Prospora*)



### EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

VESPERS: Thurs., Sept. 13, 7pm  
(A.T. Pelikan, *Litiya Bread*)  
(L. Radomsky, *Icon*)

LITURGY: Fri., Sept. 14, 8am  
(I. Andrzhievskaya, *Prospora*)

For those who prepare themselves appropriately, Holy Communion is “for eternal life,” but for those who have “not been purified, Holy Communion is for judgment and condemnation... When someone reaches the point of seeing the glory of God after having gone through purification of the heart and reaching illumination, this illuminated human being sees the glory of God as light. But when someone who has not reached this Light, he sees it as consuming fire... Contrary to Augustine’s ideas about Paradise and Hell, according to the other Fathers of the Church in both East and West, Hell and Paradise are the same thing. There is no difference at all. When someone sees God’s glory with unselfish love, he sees God as paradise, and this is paradise...

The uncreated glory, which Christ has by nature from the Father, is paradise for those who self-centered and selfish love has been cured and transformed into unselfish love. However, the same glory is uncreated eternal fire and hell for those who have chosen to remain uncured in their selfishness. ■

SOURCE: *Empirical Dogmatics of the Orthodox Church According to the Teachings of Father John Romanides* (Met. Hierotheos, 2011).

# The Education of Children

by St. Sebastian (Dabovich)

To learn to read and write you send your children to school. You know that you must do it. But how many of you think of the serious obligation of rightly and thoroughly preparing your children for the life which they must live after only a few years?... If you are truly interested in the welfare of your children, why do you not watch as strictly, but once a week, how they attend to their lessons in the study of the Law of God, as you do in some homework, which the children seemed to be forced to have prepared within the next twelve hours for their public school? You must obey God, above the public and all other masters, or lose your souls for the responsibility which rests upon you for the present and future welfare of your children...

If you do not train the child’s will, in order not only to please you, his parents, but to bend before the holy will of Him, who is the only just rewarder of good and evil, then you are a failure as a Christian. Where there is no discipline, there is no constancy. Where there is no law, there is no order, no peace, no everlasting happiness...

However regular athletic exercises are attended to, no matter how carefully the lessons in physiology are prepared, little indeed, will they profit your children, if they know not the steps, up which they must climb to seek the Highest. If you, fathers and mothers [teach your children to pray you may rest in quiet hope...], [b]ut if your children do not invoke their Guardian-Angel, if they do not bless the most pure Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and fall down in humble devotion, supplicating for the grace of our Heavenly Father, then you are not Christians...

Beloved Christians! we need your co-operation. We may sow the seed, but—remember—the influence of your home is the sunshine which heats the ground. So then ask yourselves, is not the wind too chilly, and the sun too low to strike its rays direct? [Clergy] may trim the plant, but it is your duty to keep watering it...

It is the duty especially of parents to see that their children pray correctly, and also to pray with them in an audible voice themselves. Let this not be an act of routine. Do not for a moment think that it will become a daily routine. This reasonable discipline, when you kneel by the side of tender childhood and see the little ones pray, will lighten in your own heart—at the same time that it does in theirs—the fire of heavenly love. Moreover, your prayers must be the prayers of the Orthodox Church of Christ. Our [Church] has but one infallible model of prayer—given to her by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is an invocation, petitions, and a doxology; in other words, a call, a request, and a praise. If you will concentrate your minds upon the subject of each one of these divisions, then your prayer will not be a “saying,” but an “offering.”

Again we ask you to give us your dutiful attention and assistance in the work of teaching our children... [F]or the sake of their Almighty Father in Heaven, and our Judge, awaken in their hearts the love for that which is holy and truly beautiful. Amen. ■

## Extra Scoops

### New School Year

*Sunday School begins on September 9. We look forward to sharing the teachings and Tradition of the Church to build a firm foundation for our students to lead a life in God’s image.*

### Sunday School Picnic

*Our annual Sunday School picnic is planned for September 23, 4:30 p.m., at Circleville Park. All families are encouraged to join in fellowship.*

### Save the Date!

*Save Friday, October 19 for a Sunday School trip Lancaster to see the show “Jesus” at Sight and Sound Theatres. (There is no school that day for State College and Bellefonte students.)*

# 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
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	29 <b>Beheading of St. John</b> Hours/Div. Liturgy, 7:40am Vespers, 5:30pm/Conf. S.S. Teacher Mtg., 6:15 @ T.H. Conference Room Transition Subcommittee Mtg., 7pm @ Atty Lounge	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 <i>Labor Day</i> (Parish Offices Closed)	4 Penn State OCF: New Student Social, 8pm- @ Berkey Creamery	5 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
9 <b>Sunday Before the Elevation</b> First Day of Sunday School, 9am (All classes begin in the Parish Hall.) Matins, 9am/Divine Liturgy, 10am Memorial for 9/11 Victims, 11:45am Sunday School Picture Day, 12pm Penn State OCF: Penn's Cave Outing, (departs 2pm from Holy Trinity)	10 Orthodoxy 101, 7:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	11 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave. Choir Rehearsal, 7pm	12 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	13 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Prayer Night at Holy Trinity, 6pm Great Vespers with Litiya, 7pm	14 <b>ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am)	15 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
16 <b>Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross</b> Matins, 9am Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	17 Young Adult Fellowship Potluck, Campfire, and Game Night, 5pm @ Leathers' Home, 4817 W. Whitehall Rd. Orthodoxy 101, 7:30pm @ Trinity House Conf. Rm.	18	19 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Transition Team Follow-up Meeting, 7pm @ Trinity House Atty Lounge	20 Penn State OCF Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	21 Orthodox Christian Fellowship Mid-Atlantic Region Retreat (through Sat. 9/22, departs 5pm from Holy Trinity.)	22 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
23 <b>Conception of St. John the Forerunner</b> Matins, 9am Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Sunday School Family Picnic, 4:30pm @ Circleville Park—Pavilion 2	24 <b>New Martyrs of Alaska: Ss. Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut</b> Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Orthodoxy 101, 7:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	25	26 <b>St. John the Theologian</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Dr. Albert Rossi: "Remaining Sane on Campus" Presentation 7pm @ Holy Trinity Nave	27 Penn State OCF: "Stump the Priest" Night, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, Univ. Pk.	28	29 Baptism of Brad and Melissa Kerstetter, 10am @ Chapel of the Holy Spirit, 145 N. Kern St., Beavertown Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
30 Matins, 9am Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	October 1 <b>Protection of the Theotokos</b> Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Orthodoxy 101, 7:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	2	3 Great Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 6:15pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	4 Penn State OCF Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	5 Great Vespers, 5:30pm Anniversary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15pm	6 <b>St. Innocent of Alaska</b> Hours/Tonsuring/Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 9am 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, 12pm @ Penn Stater OCF Alumni Ice Cream Social, 2pm @ Penn Stater Vespers/Confessions, 6pm

# Chapel Calendar

All events take place at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, 145 North Kern Street in Beavertown, unless where noted.

Saturday 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	<b>Sunday 16</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship & Catechesis
<b>Sunday 2</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following	Monday-Friday 17-21 CHS Outreach @ Beaver Community Fair, Bvr. Spgs.
Tuesday 4 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Tuesday 18 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Friday 7 Great Vespers and Litiya, for the Theotokos, 6pm	Saturday 22 Selinsgrove Market Street Festival Outreach, 8am-4pm Great Vespers, 6pm
Saturday 8 Great Vespers, 6pm	<b>Sunday 23</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship & Catechesis
<b>Sunday 9</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship and Catechesis (Study of Sacred Time & Space), following Miniature Golf/Ice Cream Outing, 3pm @ TBA	Monday 24 "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Outreach, 6:30pm
Tuesday 11 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Tuesday 25 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Tuesday 13 Great Vespers and Litiya, for the Elevation, 6pm	Saturday 29 Baptism of Brad and Melissa Kerstetter, 10am Great Vespers, 6pm
Saturday 15 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	<b>Sunday 30</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Cookout follows @ Rectory

September 2018