

# THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Celebrating “25 Years of Ministry”



**H**OLY TRINITY was packed with more than 250 faithful last month—including 30 priests, deacons, missionaries, and monastics—who came to celebrate “25 Years of Ministry.” The event honored the ways that current and former members have contributed to the mission of **Building Up the Church Beyond the Parish**. In addition to acknowledging the national and local ministry of Fr. John who will be retiring in December, several current and alumni ministers—and the core values and ministries they represent—were also recognized: Evan Kerstetter was tonsured a Reader; Dn. Mark Oleyunik was awarded the double orarion; Dn. Alex Cadman received a gramota for diaconal service; Fr. David Smith and Penn State graduates Fr. Hector Firoglanis and Fr. John Diamantis presented on behalf of the Chapel and OCF, respectively, at the festive luncheon; and more than \$10,000 was raised for *Matthew 25*, the event’s beneficiary. For a full recap of the day’s events, and to view a gallery of more than 200 photos, visit [holytrinity-oca.org](http://holytrinity-oca.org).

### Chapel’s Successful Knitting Ministry Comes to Holy Trinity

The successful and popular “Hats and Blankets for Babies” outreach at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Beavertown is expanding to the mother church in State College! In October, Fr. John blessed the new ministry to begin this month. Therefore, co-ministry leaders Anne Swisher and Leslyn Radomsky are now inviting people of all ages and backgrounds who are willing to join them in knitting or crocheting hats and blankets for a good cause. Experience is helpful, but not a necessity, as they will gladly teach. And better yet, since the new ministry takes place on the *first* Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the lounge of Trinity House (beginning November 5), participants can continue to support the original Chapel outreach on *fourth* Mondays—truly a “win-win.” Call 814-231-2855 for details. ■

**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
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## Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
November 4	E. George and K. Oleyunik	J. Cadman and J. Houser	M. Fedkin and M. Stickle*	Team B
November 11	P. Doty and D. Van Duin	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	E. Ashmore and G. Cattell	Team A
November 18	L. Andzhiensky and L. Radomsky**	M. Fedkin and J. Frynko	B. Haupt and R. Patel	Team B
November 25	A.T. Pelikan and J. Miranda**	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and H. Torbic	Team A
December 2	M. Leathers and A. Ashmore*/**	J. Cadman and J. Houser	G. Cattell and M. Stickle	Team B
December 9	H. Torbic and M. Thompson**	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	E. Ashmore and G. Cattell	Team A

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

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

# The Vision, Mission, and Ongoing Reality

We celebrate God's action in our midst. A dream became a vision 25 years ago. There could be an Orthodox Church in Happy Valley. Others embraced that vision as time rolled on. Hard work ensued. The limits of faith were tested. God was faithful to us as we sought to be ever more faithful to him. The vision proved godly as we were blessed in so many ways; He added daily to the Church, such as were being saved (*Acts 2:42*).

This time of transition will be a further test of that vision. Was it built around a man and his personality, or will it endure once he retires? That is a critical issue. Leadership is always being tested. The first test on the horizon will be the adoption of the Parish Council's proposed budget for 2019.

The proposed budget continues the vision: **First**, it funds parish life, campus ministry, a seminarian in training, and it adds a budget category to support the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

**Second**, this budget also calls for an increase in stewardship by parishioners. In past years we have relied on "outside" income from parking lot rentals to fund operations, at total of \$7,200 this year. This is nothing new. We have rented parking spaces to students and others since the beginning.

However, in this budget, council proposes that the income from parking be allocated for capital projects, to begin funding future needs such as paving the parking lot, adding more ADA/accessibility features to the parish, and other major expenditures down the road. Thus, the call for an increase in pledges for 2019.

**Third**, stewardship at Holy Trinity—*sacrificial* stewardship, to quote from our core values—is part of who we are. Our approximately 80 giving units—families and single households—have contributed \$2,358 per unit from January 1 to October 31, 2018.

## Meeting Information

*Holy Trinity will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 11 following the Divine Liturgy. Nominations are open for Council positions of President, Vice President, and Grounds Chair. All agenda items must be submitted in writing to the Parish Council for review prior to November 7. Nothing will be considered from the floor.*

*Parishioners in good standing who were registered with the parish as members at the end of the previous ecclesiastical year (August 31, 2018) and who have fulfilled their Lenten obligations of Confession and Communion may and should attend.*

## Agenda

- i. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King..."
- ii. Establishment of Quorum
- iii. Minutes of the 2017 Meeting
- iv. Priest's Report
- v. Treasurer's Report
- vi. Review and Approval of the 2019 Budget (*see next page*)
- vii. Election of Officers
- viii. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..."

I endorse the budget presented here and ask for your prayerful response in faith. ■

— Fr. John

### ENTRY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

VESPERS: Tues., Nov. 20, 7pm  
(*A. Stickles, Litiya Bread*)  
(*E. George, Icon*)

LITURGY: Wed., Nov. 21, 8am  
(*I. Andzhievskaya, Prospora*)



### Additional Liturgy:

DATE/TIME	FOR	PROSPORA
Thurs., Nov. 8, 8am	St. Michael	A.T. Pelikan

## Support Matthew 25 This Season

Even though it's darker outside, *Matthew 25* brings light to many who hiddenly suffer in our community. In **November**, the Thanksgiving appeal helps needy local families enjoy a complete dinner. To participate, please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex; collection will continue through November 18. Monetary donations (to cover the cost of the turkeys) are also appreciated. **December** is the eagerly anticipated St. Nicholas Tree event, with opportunities to share the love and joy of Christ's Nativity with those whose circumstances can make it hard to celebrate. We would love to have you join our team of volunteers that works behind the scenes to coordinate these drives. We are always hoping to expand our reach within and outside the parish, and with your help we could multiply the blessings. Phone (814) 231-2855 or email [matthew25@holyltrinity-oca.org](mailto:matthew25@holyltrinity-oca.org) if you have questions or would like to participate, whether for a single event or as part of the core team.

## Thank You, Yuri!

The beautiful stucco work adorning the south exterior wall of Holy Trinity was performed and fully donated by Yuri Khapilin and his talented crew. Thank you.

## Icon Drive Expanded, Completed

An observant donor at our recent "25 Years of Ministry" celebration noticed room for an additional double icon panel to finish the icons for the north, south, and west walls of the nave—Ss. John the Apostle and James the Great. Other icons already subscribed are Ss. Thekla and Photini; Blessed Matushka Olga Michael of Alaska; Ss. Maria of Paris and Grand Duchess Elisabeth; Ss. Stephen of Perm and Kosmas Aitolos; and St. Moses the Ethiopian. They will be installed in course as Fr Mark Meholick completes the series.

## FAQ: Prayer List During Services

If you have a living or newly departed friend or family member to be commemorated during the augmented litany of Vespers and Liturgy, see or email Deacon Mark at [dnmark@holyltrinity-oca.org](mailto:dnmark@holyltrinity-oca.org), who graciously maintains our prayer lists. Unless specifically indicated, names remain on each list for the traditional 40 days.

## ■ PARISH COUNCIL

### Council Responds to Growth

The Parish Council took action at its October meeting to address a serious issue that has been affecting all worshippers at Holy Trinity. As you may know or have experienced personally, several people have passed out or felt faint on Sundays because of a lack of air flow. It's not just at Pascha any more: We simply have outgrown the capacity for our HVAC system. The current 5-ton system—the largest available at the time—is designed for at most 120 people, not including the heat and oxygen consumption of candles and lamps. We surpass that capability on most Sundays now, even in the winter.

The critical issue is the need for more air flow since oxygen levels are becoming dangerously low. The solution is to install two ductless units in the rear corners of the nave. The inconspicuous and quiet blowers will throw fresh air through the entire nave, far above the heads of worshippers. Adding an additional 2- to 3-tons of capacity each, the new units are rated to maintain a consistent temperature for an attendance of 220, even with an external temperature of 100°F. (And when that number is consistently attained, other, structural, issues will have to be addressed.)

The cost of this project is approximately \$13,000 which we have available in cash, although just barely—the expenditure will drain the property reserve and building funds. (*This is one of the reasons for reassigning parking income to capital outlay in the proposed budget; see the article on page 2.*) Therefore, it is imperative for all members to increase stewardship in 2019.

During the coming year, a special appeal will be made to restore the property reserve, but not before budget goals are met. In other words, we will not be using your tax-deductible donations to "rob Peter" in order to "pay Paul." Remember, practicing good stewardship means that supporting *any* appeal (*CHS, Seminarian, etc.*) is done so above and beyond—and not subtracting from—your weekly giving. Thank you. ■

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

# Our Money is Sacred Because We Are

by Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick

The Incarnation is a central doctrine for Christians. We must believe in it if we are Christians. We cannot deny that God became man and be Christians. And we cannot deny the place that material, physical reality has for us and be Christians. What we do with our bodies and with the material world is directly dependent on what we believe about Who Jesus Christ is.

Because the one, true God took on matter for Himself by giving Himself a human body, then that means that all creation becomes the vehicle for the divine presence. And it means that especially where we see that divinity manifest, we give honor. We worship God alone, but we honor and venerate those people and things in which He has shown His presence...

One of our problems as Christians living in the twenty-first century is that we have tried to push God into one place or another and leave Him there. We can visit Him, but that is where He remains... [For many of us] God basically has no presence in the material world. He may be “felt” or perceived in some sense, but He is not here or there in particular. He may be “everywhere,” but He is not present in [“everything”]... We are happy to welcome God into our temples, onto our altars, into our icons, etc., but when it comes to other elements of materiality, we expect Him not to be present... [Moreover,] when we do not generously return to Him what is already His own, we exile Him from our finances.

Money can be an uncomfortable topic, but that is why we need to discuss it. For many, it is a festering wound that we want to put a band-aid on but not cure. So it’s uncomfortable... [But let’s heal it: We must] acknowledge that He is present in our possessions, and that includes our most tightly-held possession, our money. And this presence is especially strong in those things that belong to the people of God. Why? It is because

our very presence as baptized and anointed members of the royal priesthood brings the blessing and presence of God wherever we are. Your possessions become holy because you are the one possessing them. Because you belong to God and bring with you the presence of God, then He is more present in the things that you own. The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof (*Ps. 24:1*), but He is especially manifest in us, His Church...

As Orthodox Christians, we do not believe in a theology in which God is separate from the material world and which therefore suggests that our possessions really are ours to do with what we please. What is in your home is sacred. What you wear on your body is sacred. What is in your checking account is sacred. It is sacred because we have been declared by Him to be sacred, and this sacredness is transmitted wherever we go because of our common priesthood.

It is for this reason that in the Holy Scriptures, God called upon His chosen people to tithe—to give 10% of their income to Him. This was the called-upon sacrifice that was proper to the royal priesthood of God. This was the appropriate way for them to show that they understood the sacred presence of God in their possessions by offering them back to Him for His blessing...

Let’s be clear: It’s not about a percentage [for New Testament Christians]. It’s about a mentality. If your mentality acts as though God’s presence in the material world is either false or doesn’t matter, then your offering will reflect that. But if your mentality is in alignment with Orthodox Christian theology of the Incarnation, then your offerings will reflect that... I challenge you to put it into practice by offering to God what is already His, in which He is already present, in a manner that is truly worthy of us, His creation-blessing royal priesthood. I challenge you to tithe. Will you join me and my family? Let us make this holy offering together. ■

## Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

	2017 ACTUAL	2018 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2018 BUDGET	2019 PROPOSED	% CHG.
<b>INCOME</b>					
Stewardship Offerings	\$257,017	\$184,581	<b>\$257,625</b>	<b>\$264,640</b>	2.7%
(Transfer from) Trinity House Phase II <sup>2</sup>	11,384	9,857	—	<b>10,800</b>	—
Parking Income	8,099	6,150	<b>7,200</b>	<b>7,200</b>	0.0%
Appeals Income (e.g., Chapel, Seminarian)	—	2,285	—	<b>5,200</b>	—
Candles and Flowers	3,217	2,323	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,800</b>	0.0%
Miscellaneous Income (e.g., Interest, Rewards)	1,009,128,847	1,112	—	<b>550</b>	—
<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$280,726</b>	<b>\$206,308</b>	<b>\$267,625</b>	<b>\$291,190</b>	<b>8.8%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$38,530</b>	<b>\$42,847</b>			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$319,256</b>	<b>\$249,155</b>			

<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Personnel	\$145,129	\$128,847	<b>\$154,578</b>	<b>\$158,464</b>	2.5%
Mortgage Outlay <sup>3</sup>	28,572	23,810	<b>28,572</b>	<b>28,572</b>	0.0%
Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments	20,026	19,383	<b>23,469</b>	<b>25,399</b>	8.2%
Outreach and Fellowship	11,360	13,370	<b>10,750</b>	<b>18,300</b>	70.2%
Utilities	11,974	10,142	<b>12,650</b>	<b>12,330</b>	-2.5%
Physical Plant	6,899	4,226	<b>10,300</b>	<b>9,000</b>	-12.6%
Liturgical	6,367	7,944	<b>7,350</b>	<b>7,350</b>	0.0%
(Transfer to) Capital Projects Fund	—	—	—	<b>7,200</b>	—
(Transfer to) Property Reserve Fund <sup>4</sup>	5,000	3,750	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	0.0%
Office Administration	3,951	5,013	<b>4,100</b>	<b>4,875</b>	18.9%
Insurance	3,339	3,765	<b>3,339</b>	<b>4,200</b>	25.8%
Christian Education	2,897	1,585	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,250</b>	-9.7%
Licenses/Fees/Service Charges <sup>5</sup>	1,711	1,558	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,250</b>	-22.4%
(Transfer to) All-American Council Fund <sup>7</sup>	1,000	750	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	100.0%
(Transfer to) Discretionary Funds <sup>6</sup>	1,500	1,125	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	0.0%
Refurnishings	415	84	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	0.0%
Accessibility Improvements	1,482	784	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	0.0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	—	30	—	—	0.0%
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$251,743</b>	<b>\$226,165</b>	<b>\$270,608</b>	<b>\$291,190</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,052</b>	<b>\$38,495</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$266,795</b>	<b>\$264,660</b>			

## Chapel of the Holy Spirit

<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Total Budgeted Income<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>\$23,907</b>	<b>\$22,970</b>	<b>\$23,400</b>	<b>\$31,700</b>	<b>35.5%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$2,683</b>	<b>\$1,138</b>			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$26,589</b>	<b>\$24,108</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Personnel	\$6,150	\$7,250	<b>9,900</b>	<b>\$17,100</b>	72.7%
Outreach and Fellowship	1,707	1,603	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,500</b>	12.5%
Property/Mortgage <sup>9</sup>	3,682	3,254	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	0.0%
Operating Expenses	1,970	2,751	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,500</b>	16.7%
Utilities	1,849	1,526	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,100</b>	5.0%
Insurance	—	—	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	0.0%
Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments	—	—	—	—	0.0%
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,358</b>	<b>\$16,384</b>	<b>\$23,400</b>	<b>\$31,700</b>	<b>35.5%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$375</b>	<b>\$240</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$15,733</b>	<b>\$16,624</b>			

**FOOTNOTES**

- 1 through October 31.
- 2 Phase II funds are transferred into the Operating Account to offset mortgage payment.
- 3 includes both interest and principal payments. Principal is now paid from the Trinity House Phase II as of Jan. 1, 2016. The mortgage balance as of Oct. 31 was \$402,512.
- 4 indicates contributions to the Property Reserve Fund. As of Oct. 31, 2018, the account balance was \$9,951.
- 5 includes background check fees.
- 6 indicates contributions to the respective discretionary accounts.
- 7 indicates savings for the triennial Sabor (next held in 2021). As of Oct. 31, the balance was -\$2,688.
- 8 includes \$3,200 of support from the HTOC operating account, offset by a Holy Spirit Day appeal.
- 9 The Chapel’s mortgage balance as of Oct. 31 was \$66,250.

# 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
28 <i>Matt. 25 Thanksgiving Drive Begins</i> Matins, 9am Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	29 Orthodoxy 101, 7:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	30	31 <b>St. John (Kochurov) of Chicago</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	November 1 Penn State OCF: "Dinner on the Town" 7pm @ Corner Room, State College (We'll meet at Pasquerilla at 6:45pm and walk to Downtown.)	2	3 Archdiocesan Assembly (all day) @ Belle Vernon, PA. (Our delegation will depart 6pm from HTOC on Friday.) Reader Vespers, 6pm
4 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am (turn clocks back one hour) Sunday School, 9am EST (All classes begin in the Parish Hall) Matins, 9am EST Divine Liturgy, 10am EST	5 Knitting/Crocheting Ministry, 6:30pm <b>NEW</b> @ Trinity House Atty Lounge Orthodoxy 101, 7:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	6 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm	7 Great Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 6:15pm @ T.H. Atty Lounge Parish Council Mtg., 7pm @ T.H. Conference Room	8 <b>Archangel Michael</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Penn State OCF: Dinner and Service Night, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	9	10 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
11 Sunday School, 9am Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parish Annual Meeting, 12pm	12 Young Adult Fellowship Potluck and Game Night, 5:30pm @ Trinity House Orthodoxy 101, 7:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	13 <b>St. John Chrysostom</b> Penn State OCF at Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.	14 <b>Apostle Philip</b> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	15 <i>Nativity Fast Begins: Omit meat &amp; dairy (all days), and fish (most Mondays through Fridays, and Dec. 20-24).</i> Penn State OCF: Stump the Priest Night, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	16 <b>Apostle and Evangelist Matthew</b>	17 Sunday School/IOCC Health Kits Assembly, 5pm @ Parish Hall Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
18 <i>Matt. 25 Thanksgiving Drive Concludes</i> Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Orthodox Youth Association Mtg., 6pm @ Holly Torbic's Home (2332 Raven Hollow Rd., State College)	19 <b>Matthew 25</b> Thanksgiving Drive Inventory, 2pm @ Parish Hall <b>Matthew 25</b> Thanksgiving Drive Purchasing, 3pm @ Walmart Supercenter, 1665 N. Atherton St.	20 Great Vespers with Litiya, 7pm	21 <b>ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	22 <b>National Day of Thanksgiving</b>	23	24 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
25 (No Sunday School—Thanksgiving Recess) Sunday School, 9am Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	26	27 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm	28 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	29 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	30 <b>Apostle Andrew the First-Called</b>	December 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
2 <i>"St. Nicholas Tree" Drive Begins</i> Sunday School, 9am Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parents Meeting, 12pm	3	4	5 Great Vespers, 7pm Confessions	6 <b>St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Penn State OCF: Christmas Party, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	7	8 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

# Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 3 Archdiocesan Assembly (all day) @ Belle Vernon Reader Vespers, 6pm	<b>Sunday 18</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Memorial Service and Fellowship, following
<b>Sunday 4</b> Daylight Saving Time Ends, (turn clocks back one hour) Divine Liturgy, 10am EST (Hours, 9:40am EST) Fellowship and Study of the Apostolic Fathers, following	Tuesday 20 Great Vespers with Litiya for the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos, 6pm
Tuesday 6 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Wednesday 21 Vespers with the Prayers of Thanksgiving, 6pm
Saturday 10 Great Vespers, 6pm	Saturday 24 Great Vespers, 6pm
<b>Sunday 11</b> Divine Liturgy, 9am <b>ONE HOUR EARLIER</b> (Hours, 8:40am) Parish Annual Meeting, 12pm @ Holy Trinity, 119 S. Sparks St., State College	<b>Sunday 25</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship and Study of the Apostolic Fathers, following
Tuesday 13 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Monday 26 "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Knitting/Crocheting Outreach, 6:30pm
Saturday 17 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Tuesday 28 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
	Saturday Dec. 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

**November 2018**