

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Deliver Us from the Evil One



Current and past singers from Holy Trinity and the Chapel came together to sing at the “25 Years of Ministry” Celebration, which took place in October. Beginning this month, the Choir will make a simple, yet profound, change when singing the “Our Father” at Liturgy.

by Fr. John Reeves

A FEW WEEKS BACK, when I preached on “Halloween, the Devil, and the Synagogue Shooting,” I noted that one of our biggest problems in society is that we don’t take the Devil and, consequently, Evil seriously in our society. Thus, whenever a tremendous, obviously-evil event takes place—like the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh—we are often tongue-tied when called to speak about such a horror. We’ve either sanitized or made light of the Devil so that we don’t know what or how to converse about such an event.

Hatred, mental illness, and a host of other issues are involved. Yet, as Orthodox Christians, we have to come to terms that Evil doesn’t simply mean “bad” but that there is an Evil One who is still prowling over the face of the earth and seeking to devour. The Evil One is not a figure of speech, but a spiritual reality. If we fail to recognize this obstacle in our own lives, we won’t be able to confront the Enemy on our turf.

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

Archbishop Returns to Meet with Leadership, OCF, and the Chapel

Although here less than eight weeks ago for the “25 Years of Ministry” Celebration, our hierarch, His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh, returned late last month to reside in the parish. Over the course of five days, His Eminence met with the Transition Team and Parish Council to brief them on the search for a new rector, joined Penn State students at their weekly Orthodox Christian Fellowship meeting, visited the Chapel of the Holy Spirit for Great Vespers; and celebrated the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity. Because the search for a rector is ongoing, His Eminence did not dismiss the Transition Team as expected; rather, the group was tasked with a new charge: create a series of interview questions that will be submitted to each rector candidate prior to assignment. The team will gather in an open meeting at Trinity House on Thursday, December 13 at 7 p.m. ■

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
December 2	M. Leathers and A. Ashmore*/**	J. Cadman and J. Houser	G. Cartell and M. Stickle	Team B
December 9	H. Torbic and M. Thompson**	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	E. Ashmore and G. Cartell	Team A
December 16	Russian Ladies**	M. Fedkin and J. Frynko	M. Fedkin and B. Haupt	Team B
December 23	J. Cadman and L. Rush**	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	G. Cartell and H. Torbic	Team A
December 30	A. Swisher and C. Swisher	J. Cadman and J. Houser	E. Ashmore and TBA*	Team B
January 6	R. Schrauf and D. Patel	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	TBA	Team A

* Denotes scotch change
** Denotes fast

Team A: A. Byonskiy, Z. Cadman, B. Oleynik, N. Patel, C. Schrauf, J. Swisher, and J. Torbic.
Team B: J. Cadman, N. McFarland, S. Patel, D. Stickle, E. Swisher, and L. Torbic.

Captains: D. Torbic and S. Oleynik

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Deliver Us from the Evil One (continued from page 1)

Until society learns that Evil is much more than a series of “bad choices”—that we wrestle not (merely) against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness in high places—we won’t have the spiritual insight to understand what is happening around us or know how to respond when it manifests itself.

Hence, I mentioned in my sermon that day that the “deliver us from evil” petition in the *Our Father* was rather weak and off base. Scripture itself uses the definite article, “the” Evil (one): τοῦ πονηροῦ. Recognizing this, the Orthodox Church in America’s latest edition of the *Hieratikon* (Priest’s Service Book) officially endorsed this translation so it would only be a matter of time until we brought our liturgical practice up to date here in the parish. (Actually, the cantors have been doing this for a number of years, and our Chapel of the Holy Spirit has been singing “Evil One” for the last 5-6 years.) It won’t be strange to our ears but it will take a little time for us in State College to learn to sing it together with the choir.

So, here it is: beginning Sunday, December 9, the choir will sing “deliver us from the Evil One” at the

conclusion of the *Our Father*. And please, as you pray the *Our Father* throughout the day, meditate on the difference between a vague concept of “Evil” and the more dynamic “Evil One” against whom our Lord directs our attention. ■

From the Rector’s Desk,
Fr. John

THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

R. HOURS: Mon., Dec. 24, 10am

VIGIL: Mon., Dec. 24, 6pm
(A.T. Pelikan, Litiya)
(L. Rush, Icon)

LITURGY: Tues., Dec. 26, 10am
(P. Doty, Prospora)



Additional Liturgies:

DATE/TIME	FOR	PROSPHORA
Thurs., Dec. 6, 8am	St. Nicholas	I. Andrzhietskaya
Wed., Dec. 26, 10am	Synaxis of the Theotokos	P. Doty
Tues., Jan. 1, 10am	St. Basil	A. Stickles

Be Filled with Joy this Nativity Season

As in years past, there are several ways for you and your family to prepare for the Birth of our Redeemer this month—quietly, prayerfully, and intentionally redeeming time:

- **Children are especially encouraged** to bring their parents to Great Vespers on Wednesday, December 5 at the special time of 7 p.m. The customary evlogia from St. Nicholas will be passed out.
- **The Sunday School** will spread the news of Christ’s birth by caroling in the Holmes–Foster neighborhood and by performing their annual Nativity play. For more information, see page xxx.

- **Vespers in preparation for the Nativity** begin Wednesday evening, December 19 and continue daily through December 24. Confessions will be heard following each service. The Nativity Fast is one of the four fasting periods during the church year when frequent communicants are expected to confess.
- **Our St. Nicholas Tree in the narthex** enables the disadvantaged in our community to receive gifts through Matthew 25’s partnership with Strawberry Fields. Please take as many tags as you are able. Each tag has the child’s age, sex, and wish. Return gifts to the narthex or Trinity House (open daily) by December 20 to spread Christ’s love to the poor. ■

■ NEWS AND NOTES

Holy Trinity’s Homeless Ministry Continues Growth

STATE COLLEGE — Holy Trinity’s Homeless Ministry, which provides ongoing support to Centre House, a residential homeless shelter here, grew by adding several new volunteers this year. Some of the new volunteers discovered this monthly meal preparation ministry through the Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship, which served dinner last month and welcomed Ministry Coordinator Samar Al Maalouf and Housing Transitions Director Morgan Wasikonis to speak at their “Fall Service Night.” New volunteers are always welcome; call (814) 231-2855 for details.

Register Today for College Conference Midwest

BROOKLINE, MA [*via ocf.net*] — Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is providing scholarships in the amount of \$200 to cover travel costs for any student wishing to attend College Conference Midwest 2018. The discounted tuition of \$125 includes food, lodging, fellowship activities, and engaging workshop sessions. Held from December 27-30, 2018 at the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville, WI, the theme is “Who Do You Say That I Am?” Priest Barnabas Powell, Pastor of Saints Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene Greek Orthodox Church, Cumming, GA, and editor of Faith Encouraged Ministries will serve as the keynote speaker. Visit *ocf.net* to learn more and to register.

Join the 2019 OCMC/ Project Mexico Team

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL [*via ocmc.org*] — Project Mexico and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) are teaming up next summer. “OCMC Missions Week” at Project Mexico will run from Thursday, July 18 to Wednesday, July 24. Over the course of that week, a short-term mission team will pray together, build a home together, and meet the family who will be moving into the house. The trip cost is \$670 (airfare not included). Visit *ocmc.org* to register.

■ MATTHEW 25



Dozens Receive Complete Meals

Last month, parishioners donated turkeys with all the fixings, sides, and desserts so that 21 struggling families (92 people in all) in our community could enjoy a complete Thanksgiving meal. It was made possible by an ongoing partnership between our Matthew 25 ministry (who collected the food and funds) and Strawberry Fields (who distributed the food). ■

■ ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOCIATION



Youth Groups Return for Fun

This fall, both the Orthodox Youth Association (OYA, for grades 9-12) and the Junior OYA (for grades 5-8, pictured above at the new GetAir Trampoline Park in State College) returned from a brief hiatus to provide age-appropriate, monthly activities for Holy Trinity’s kids. This month, OYA will meet for lunch after the December 16 Divine Liturgy and then travel to the Penn Stater to wrap gifts for charity; the Sunday before, Jr. OYA will meet at Trinity House at 5 p.m. for a night of fun, food, and fellowship. Thank you, parents and kids for your support of these critical ministries! ■

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Raising Kids Shows Us We Need Christ

by Joel J. Miller

If you're looking for a gauge to measure how un-Christlike you are, try raising kids. At least that works pretty well for me. In *The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis speaks of "the bad manners of parents to children." Ahem. Guilty...

When preaching through Paul's marriage advice, priests often make the comment that Paul has to instruct husbands to love and wives to respect because if they're prone to going off the rails, it'll be in those directions: men lacking kindness and wives losing respect.

Apply the same thinking to Paul's instruction to fathers. Twice he says, "Fathers, do not provoke your children." In his letter to the Colossians he adds, "lest they become discouraged" (3:21), and he warns the Ephesians about provoking children "to anger" (6:4). When I go wrong with my boys, that's exactly the direction I head: I drive them to discouragement and frustration... As dads, [we're] prone to exasperating [our] kids. Don't.

I have been reading Elder Porphyrios' advice about parenting in the book *Wounded by Love*. It slays me. "[P]arents need to devote themselves to the love of God," he says. "They need to become saints in relation to their children through their mildness, patience, and love. They need to make a new start every day, with a fresh outlook, renewed enthusiasm and love for their children."

Do I really do that—or do I build a file on my children, one that tallies sins more than it forgives them? Children's behavior, says the elder, "is not improved by reprimands, disciplining, or strictness. If the parents do not pursue a life of holiness and if they don't engage in spiritual struggle, they make great mistakes and transmit the faults they have within them."

Extra Scoops...

Helping Victims. *As the fall charity activity of the Sunday School, students contributed their own monies to purchase and assemble 40 IOCC Health Kits. Each kit contains a variety of items (toothbrush, comb, towels, etc.) which are given to disaster victims in need.*

Joy to the World. *Families will Christmas carol around town on Friday, December 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We will begin with a light meal and end with some delicious hot chocolate. All are invited to share the Good News of Christ's birth. (Dress warmly and bring flashlights and bells if you have them.)*

Forefathers Sunday. *All parishioners with O.T. patrons (not just children!) are requested to bring their forefather/foremother icons for veneration during Vespers and Liturgy the weekend of December 15-16.*

Play Time! *After Liturgy on December 23, students will present the annual Nativity Play. A rehearsal will be conducted on December 22 at 4:45 p.m. Instrumentalists, please see Dn. Mark, and plan to arrive at 4:15.*

A parent must employ "disciplinary measures," admits Porphyrios but adds, "Above all, you need to pray." And it's in reading words like these that I realize how much grace I truly need.

There's a prayer in the Church for parents. "O Righteous Judge," it says, "who punishes children for the sins of their parents, punish not my children for my sins, but sprinkle them with the dew of Thy grace..."

I can correct my son all day, but if it's coming from a hard heart, I will only close his. I will, as the apostle warned, drive him to discouragement—or worse. To pray the prayer above is to ask God for mercy in their lives, to relieve the ill effects of my own sins, and instead to "sprinkle them with the dew of [God's] grace." As we say in the litany, "Grant this, O Lord." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This article is featured on blog.ancientfaith.com and is reprinted here with the author's permission.*

Father John and Matushka Linda invite you to an

OPEN HOUSE

Friday, December 28

3:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Parish Hall

Please no gifts or food. This is our treat to you.

KINDLY RSVP

ljr8ster@gmail.com • (814) 861-8020

(Dress: Smart Casual.)

Holy Supper

Everyone is invited (*including friends!*) to join our parish family in sharing a Lenten meal before the Christmas Eve Vigil. The dinner begins at 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. To participate, sign up in the Parish Hall, and if possible, bring one of the traditional foods called for (recipes will be posted next to the sign-up sheet).

December Bookstore Feature

Journey through the Old Testament with 40 wonderfully illustrated Bible readings, one for each day of the Nativity Lent, with *Welcoming the Christ Child*, now available in the Bookstore. These short, beloved stories from Scripture include questions and answers to encourage family discussion and can be used any of time of year. This book assists parents in their efforts to bring the Orthodox Faith to life in their homes, inspiring love for Christ and His Church, and to celebrate the feast of Christmas with greater understanding and inspiration.

Vandalism Incident at Holy Trinity

Last month, Laura Rush discovered that a rock had been thrown through a narthex window when she arrived at Holy Trinity. Deacon Alex was alerted, called the police, took pictures, and called the insurance agent. Centre Glass measured a replacement and installed it one week later. Please pray for the perpetrator.

Save the Date: March for Life

The 46th March for Life will take place Friday, January 18 in Washington, DC. The parish will provide free transportation to all interested in attending the peaceful demonstration. Check next month's issue for details.

■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fr. John Serves His Final Liturgy at the Chapel

On November 18, Fr. John joined the faithful of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit to serve his last Liturgy as Rector of Holy Trinity. Approximately 10 years ago, after many meetings and conversations with Fr. David Smith (who was a layman at the time), Fr. John had a vision of bringing Orthodoxy to Snyder County. This vision began with reader services and Orthodoxy 101 in a home and grew to include a building with a part-time priest with services being held weekly—and even our very first Pascha in 2018!

We thank our Lord and Savior for blessing Fr. John with this vision and for His faithfulness to the Chapel. We have been blessed by Father's guidance and love over the last 10 years. We will always remember and hold near to our hearts your guiding words to us, "God is with you". Many Years as you move on to the next stage in life! We love you!

— *The Faithful of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit*



For the Record

ELECTION

- *Elected to the Parish Council for two-year terms at the 2018 Annual Meeting were **Justin Houser**, President; **Jay Rush**, Vice President; and **Bruce Haupt**, Grounds Chair.*

BIRTH

- ***Amelia Jane Rinard**, daughter of **Matthew and Rebekah (Cattell) Rinard**, born October 9, measuring 6 lbs. 11 oz., and 19½ inches. **Many years!***

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
25 <i>(No Sunday School— Thanksgiving Recess)</i> Sunday School, 9am Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	26	27 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm	28 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Combined Parish Council and Transition Team Meeting w/ Archbishop Melchisedek, 7pm @ <i>Parish Hall</i>	29 Penn State OCF: “Stump the Archbishop” Night, 7pm @ <i>124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</i>	30 Apostle Andrew the First-Called	December 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
2 <u><i>Mt. 25 “St. Nicholas Tree” Drive Begins</i></u> Sunday School, 9am <i>(All classes begin in the Parish Hall.)</i> Matins, 9am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 10am Parents Meeting, 12pm	3 Knitting/Crocheting Ministry, 6:30pm @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i>	4	5 Great Vespers with <i>Evlogia</i> (Gifts) for Children, 7pm Confessions	6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Divine Liturgy, 8am <i>(Hours, 7:40am)</i> Penn State OCF: Christmas Party, 7pm @ <i>124 Pasquerilla Center</i>	7	8 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
9 Conception of the Theotokos Sunday School, 9am Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Jr. Orthodox Youth Association (Jr.OYA) Meeting <i>(for grades 5-8), 5pm @ Trinity House</i>	10 <i>(Trinity House Open Late for Students during Finals Week, 7pm-12am)</i>	11 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave. Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-12am)</i>	12 <i>(Last Day for Appointments with Fr. John)</i> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Mtg, 7pm <i>(Trinity House Open Late)</i>	13 St. Herman of Alaska Choir Rehearsal, 7pm Transition Team Meeting, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House— Atty Lounge</i>	14 Church School Dinner and Christmas Caroling, 5:30pm @ <i>Parish Hall</i>	15 Altar Society Nativity Decorating, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
16 Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Memorial for Estelle Pastorelle (40-Day) and Mariam Sherman (+2012), 12pm OYA <i>(gr. 9-12)</i> Lunch and Gift- Wrapping Activity, 12:30pm-4pm	17	18	19 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	20 <u><i>Matt. 25 “St. Nicholas Tree” Drive Concludes</i></u> Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Choir Rehearsal, 7pm	21 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	22 Baptism of David Witmer, 10am Church School Christmas Play Practice, 4:45pm @ <i>Parish Hall</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
23 Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ Sunday School, 9am Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Church School Christmas Play, 12pm Vespers/Confessions, 7pm	24 Eve of the Nativity of Christ Royal Hours, 10am Holy Supper, 4:30pm Nativity Vigil: Great Vespers, Litiya, and Matins, 6pm	25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours 9:40am)</i> Great Vespers, 7pm	26 Synaxis of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours 9:40am)</i> Vespers, 5:30pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>	27 Archdeacon Stephen National OCF College Conferences <i>(thru. Dec. 30) @ Antiochian Village (PA) & St. Iakovos Retreat Center (WI)</i>	28 Reeves Family Open House, 3pm-5pm @ <i>Parish Hall</i>	29 Great Vespers, 6pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>
30 Sunday After the Nativity and Before the Theophany Matins, 9am <i>(No Sunday School)</i> Divine Liturgy, 10am Oleynik Family Open House, 2pm-5:30pm @ <i>125 Wildernest Ln., Port Matilda, PA 16870</i>	31 Great Vespers, 7pm	January 1, 2019 Circumcision of our Lord St. Basil the Great Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours 9:40am)</i>	2 Vespers, 5:30pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>	3	4 Royal Hours of Theophany, 10am	5 Eve of the Theophany Great Vespers/Litiya/ Blessing of Water, 6pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>

Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Tuesday 18 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Sunday 2 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study of the Fathers, following	Saturday 22 Great Vespers, 6pm
Tuesday 4 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Sunday 23 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship/Study, following Vespers, 6pm
Saturday 8 Great Vespers, 6pm	Monday 24 Christmas Eve Vigil for the Nativity, 6pm
Sunday 9 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study of the Fathers, following Chapel Family Fun Night, 5pm @ <i>Middlecreek Area Community Center (MACC)</i>	Tuesday 25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>
Tuesday 11 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Saturday 29 Great Vespers, 6pm Akathist to Christ, 6:45pm
Saturday 15 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Sunday 30 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study of the Fathers, following
Sunday 16 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship/Study, following Caroling with Refreshments following, 6pm	Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Molieben for the New Year, following

December 2018