

See You in September

by Fr. John Reeves

Actually, it is September, the beginning of another Church year, and another school year. Things seem to get back to normal after summer, whatever normal is. Another cycle of life and worship starts anew; we settle back into routine.

Marking cycles of time has historically served two purposes for man: one, the obvious, immediate cycles of day and night, months, and seasons marked times for work and rest, the hunt and harvest—things needed for survival, day by day, week by week, month by month.



Yearly cycles began to mark something else, however, taking on deeper meaning, not merely the present and on-going but the past as well, recalling ancestors and their stories, their triumphs and their tragedies. In other words, the yearly festivals became ways to celebrate who a people were.

In the Old Testament, we find examples of both—Sabbaths and New Moons and Harvests, as well as new years, (annual) days of atonement, Passover, and the Giving of the Law. By keeping them all, weekly and yearly, the Jewish people gave a meaning to life which set them apart from that of their (heathen) neighbors.

God created Light and Darkness, labor and rest. As well, God continued to act in the midst of His people. The annual cycles and festivals tended to commemorate His ongoing actions, signs of hope for and His enduring presence with Israel. Time took on new meaning.

(continued—see SEE YOU IN SEPT., page 3)

Holy Days this Month

	NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS <i>Vespers:</i> Saturday, Sept. 7, 6 p.m. <i>Matins:</i> Sunday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m. <i>Liturgy:</i> Sunday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m.
	EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS <i>Vespers:</i> Friday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m. <i>Liturgy:</i> Saturday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m.

Welcome Zach!

by Fr. John Reeves

This fall and spring, Zach Mandell will serve as choir director-intern at Holy Trinity, directing on Sundays, workshopping choir members in vocal techniques, and developing directing and singing skills for our cantors. For the last three years, Zach has sung with the choir on Sundays and other occasions as his schedule permitted.

Zach is a member of the Blue Band. His dad Ray is band director at Clearfield High School and choir director at the Madera-Irvona parish. His mom Katya studied at the New England Conservatory of Music., and his brother Jacob is going to study choral directing at Messiah College this fall. To say that music is in his blood is an understatement.

During his internship, Zach will receive a stipend from the parish. Your additional support for his internship will be greatly appreciated. ■

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
119 S. Sparks Street
State College, PA 16801
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE COLLEGE, PA
PERMIT NO. 289

Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Tellers	Servers**
September 1	E. George and M. Stevens	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	G. Cattell and R. Patel	Team A
September 8	C. Strauss and P. Doty	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	L. Rush and S. Stevens	Team B
September 15	J. Miranda and L. Radomsky	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	M. Fedkin and R. Patel	Team A
September 22	J. Vaughan and B. Roberts	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team B
September 29	A. Swisher and C. Swisher	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	S. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team A
October 6	A. Cramer and H. Torbic	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	M. Stevens and L. Rush	Team B
* Denotes Fast ** Team A: M. Doty, A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, S. Oleynik, D. Stickle, Jo. Stickle, J. Torbic, and J. Swisher Team B: J. Cadman, P. Doty, N. McFarland, J. Miranda, B. Oleynik, S. Patel, L. Torbic, and Je. Stickle.				

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Staying On Course

by Dn. Mark Oleynik

During our family vacation this summer, much of our time was spent in ocean waters and also upon the bay waters near the ocean. The contrast between these two bodies of water was stark although there is a constant flow between them. The ocean was tumultuous and relentless with the pounding of waves upon the shore (and our bodies) while the bay was much calmer and peaceful.

Keeping Life’s Course

When boating and particularly sailing, it is practically impossible—if the winds are strong and the waves rough—to keep a boat on course. But the good sailor keeps bringing his boat back to the course—that is the essential thing. And so it is in life’s voyage. No one is able to go straight on in the Christian course without swerving at times to the left or right. Temptations assail and buffet us from the course; but we must keep bringing our boat back to the right direction. Peter was tempted and denied the Lord; David was tempted, sinned, and went astray but they both struggled back to the true course! It isn’t the never getting off the course, but the always getting back to it that characterizes the true sailor and the true Christian.

Fixed Steering Points

When sailing in a fog or unfamiliar waters, you cannot trust your own “feeling” as to the direction; you need to identify and focus on a fixed point. In like manner we need to have a fixed point that is like a lighthouse. That fixed point is God’s inspired Word and the unchanging truth of the scriptures.

Going Against the Current

Boating with wind and wave is comparatively easy work, but when the boat is driven into the eye of the wind and into the teeth of the waves, then the struggle begins. Water splashes over the boat, the wind beats back, and the force of the current can

EXTRA SCOOP: PARENTS’ MEETING/POT LUCK

*On Sunday, September 29 (5 p.m.) there will be an **All Parents** “pot luck” get together for fellowship and discussion about the upcoming year. See the weekly bulletin for more information.*

carry you away from the home port. So it is in life. It is easy enough to go with the current and the crowd, do as others are doing and follow a multitude in making poor choices and to do evil. But the tug of war comes when we face about and go the other way, and turn our course heavenward. Then the powers of the world and sin hurl themselves upon us to beat us back from the heavenly port. This is our time of testing.

We Need the Holy Spirit

A sailboat stuck cannot go; it drifts idly and helplessly upon the face of the waters. It is easy for the sailor to become discouraged since nothing is accomplished. But when the wind blows, the boat moves and sails to its appointed haven. The scriptures use wind as the symbol of the Holy Spirit; and a person without the power of the Holy Spirit is as a sailboat without a breeze, accomplishing nothing, getting nowhere. Let the Holy Spirit come with gracious, divine power.

As we begin another school year, we are reminded that all education is not confined to the classroom and teachers are not the only educators. A child’s education begins and is foremost in the family but also the entire community is educator. As such, on Sunday, September 8 our community will begin the new school with special prayers offered so the beginning of wisdom may be imparted fruitfully to our students. Your prayers for our children throughout the coming year are also asked of you so that they may be properly prepared to “stay on course” when they come upon troubled waters. ■

Parish Schedules Photo Days and Shoots for In-House Directory

Several days have been scheduled at Holy Trinity and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit this month for group and individual photographs to be taken for a new parish directory. A group picture will be taken at Holy Trinity on Sunday, September 15 following Liturgy with individual photo sessions scheduled for Monday, September 9 and Thursday, September 12 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served each night. Chapel of the Holy Spirit group and individual photographs will take place Sunday, September 8 in Beavertown. (A make-up session for both locations will follow Vespers on the 18th.) To save costs, Holy Trinity will produce the directory and take the photos. Please inform the Parish Office (parishoffice@holytrinity-oca.org) if any of your personal information (home address, phone, or email) has recently changed or should not be listed.

Lending Library Update

The Lending Library has many Orthodox books on the Faith, hagiography, Christian living, church history, liturgics, and patristic theology. In addition there are back copies of two Orthodox journals, *The Orthodox Word* and the *Road to Emmaus* as well as books and videos for children. For a complete listing, visit holytrinity-oca.org (find the "Ministries" tab and click on "Lending Library"). To check out a book see Anna Stickles or email the book’s title and your contact info. to library@holytrinity-oca.org. Books can be checked out for six weeks and renewed three times. Happy reading!

Bridge of Hope Benefit Dinner

On September 10 at 6 p.m., **Bridge of Hope**, Holy Trinity’s partner ministry for single mothers, will hold a benefit dinner at the newly renovated and expanded Home D Pizzeria in State College. For just \$75 you will get five fantastic gourmet courses, two wine courses, and coffee and soda (all other drinks are extra). Seating is limited, so please reserve your spot by calling their office at (814) 237-4673.

■ NEWS AND NOTES

Patriarch Tikhon Choir to Perform in Pittsburgh

The Patriarch Tikhon Choir, an American professional choir dedicated to the performance of Orthodox Christian sacred music, will perform at Pittsburgh’s First Baptist Church on Tuesday, September 17 at 7 p.m. Conducted by renowned Moscow choirmaster Vladimir Gorbik, the program entitled “Their Sound Hath Gone Forth” will include works by Rachmaninov, Chesnokov, Kastalsky, Dinev, Trubachev, and Bortniansky, as well as more recent works by American Orthodox composers Kurt Sander, Nicholas Reeves, Nazo Zakkak, and Benedict Sheehan. Tickets are only \$15 and may be purchased online at patriarchtikhonchoir.com.

MISSIONARIES RETURN FROM THE FIELD

OCMC missionary Christina Semon has completed missionary service in Romania and Moldova. She was instrumental in helping the Church in Moldova to establish a vibrant self-sustaining youth ministry. Maria Roeber also recently returned from her term of service in Tanzania. She played a vital role in helping to re-open the Orthodox Resurrection Health Centre in Bukoba, and she helped many mothers welcome their babies into the world. She hopes to pursue graduate studies for midwifery to better equip herself for career service in her chosen profession. While stateside, she will also be working for OCMC’s Missionary Department on a part-time basis, assisting primarily in recruiting and training.

CATECHETICAL PROGRAM RETURNS

The Archdiocesan Catechetical Program will resume this Fall. The eleven week, four year program is scheduled to begin Tuesday, September 17, 7 p.m. and continue every Tuesday through November 26. Lectures will be delivered by Fr. Paul Ziatyk at the Archdiocesan Center in Cranberry Twp. Tuition for each semester is \$125, payable to the Archdiocese. The program is open to the public.

■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Planting Christ’s Cross in Beavertown

“We praise Thee, O Lord God of Hosts, our Savior, that because of the great multitude of Thy goodness and love for mankind, Thou hast chosen and sanctified this place.... Be well-pleased that there be founded on this place an altar for the offering upon it of the Bloodless Sacrifice of the most-holy Body and precious Blood of Thy Christ, to Thy glory and to the salvation of our souls.”

The preceding is the last prayer said by the bishop in the Church’s service for the planting of a Cross, which is done shortly before construction begins. During that service, a cornerstone is placed, blessed, and anointed, and a cross is erected where the Holy Table will be located in the finished temple.

The cornerstone endures with the temple. The Cross is eventually removed to elsewhere on the property, supplanted by its fulfillment: the Holy Table upon which the Mysteries, “the Bloodless Sacrifice” in the prayer, will be offered to God, and then returned to us as life-giving food for the faithful.

This is the primary reason we build a church. It is for the purpose of establishing an altar, whereupon is offered “the Bloodless Sacrifice” of the Body and Blood of Christ, “to Thy glory and to the salvation of our souls.”

To the glory of God? Sometimes this is understood as a reason for us to overbuild our churches, to construct them with a magnificence that exceeds our actual resources. But the glory of God far exceeds anything we would build with human hands. Indeed, the “glory of God” is only mentioned twice in the Gospel, both in conjunction with the raising of Lazarus: “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified in it” and “Jesus said to [Martha], ‘Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?’” (*John 11:4, 40*)

The glory of God exceeds our comprehension, but there is one primary place we see it: the Resurrection from the dead. The glory of God is manifested when death is revealed to be powerless, when Christ descends to it in order to proclaim release to those in death’s chains, shatters them, and then walks with his disciples once again. The glory of God is manifested when we know that all those walking to the tomb will not dwell in it forever.

To construct a temple to the glory of God is to make this proclamation of the Resurrection that much more visible to all those who would see that building, no matter its size or appointment.

Which brings us to the second reason: for the salvation of our souls. Our salvation is intertwined with the proclamation of the Resurrection. Perhaps more importantly, the salvation of those around us is intertwined with the proclamation of the Resurrection.

St. Paul himself emphasizes the need for salvation to be preached to all: “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (*Romans 10:14*)

The purpose of the church building, then, is to be for God’s glory through the salvation of those who encounter it. In that building, those who see it, come inside, and encounter our members both hear and see the testimony of the Resurrection. And, too, having become members of Christ’s Body (the Church), they come to partake of that Bloodless Sacrifice “for the remission of sins and unto life everlasting.”

Our Chapel continues to press toward the construction of a temple in Snyder County. We eagerly look forward to praying this service of the planting of a Cross very soon, that God’s Word would be heard more fully by those around us.

Please continue to remember the faithful of the Chapel, and all those in the neighboring community, in your prayers. ■

■ RECTOR’S KEYNOTE

See You in Sept. *(from cover)*

So it is with the Church. Weekly cycles combine with annual ones. God’s providence in our lives and His activity in our history gives us meaning, hope and purpose. We are not merely ambling through time, but God is moving and acting in our midst. This is precisely why we celebrate Holy Days: the Twelve Great Feasts, the other major Holy Days in the lives of Our Lord, His Mother, and the Forerunner, together with all the Saints’ days throughout the year. They are annual memorials of historical events: God has acted in our midst and is wondrous in His Saints.

The days of the Church calendar give meaning, hope and purpose to our lives as Orthodox Christians which the world does not know and cannot comprehend. That is, they give meaning, hope and purpose if we keep them. Otherwise, one day will be as the next and all that is portended by their observances will pass us by. Life dwindles away and time loses its potential for transformation, both of our lives and that of the cosmos.

So, see you in September: Nativity of the Theotokos, (September 7-8); and Exaltation of the Holy Cross, (September 13-14). ■

For the Record

BAPTISM

➤ **Maya Lungeanu**, daughter of Razvan and Alina Ionica Lungeanu, baptized August 10, sponsored by Zeina Leong. Many years!

WEDDING

➤ **Matthew Fuhrman** was crowned in marriage to **Jessica Linke** August 18, sponsored by **Jesse Dominick** and **Katy Fuhrman**. Many years!

YOUR GENEROSITY

➤ **\$266** was raised by the Chapel of the Holy Spirit for the Wounded Warrior Project. **Thank you!**

■ RETURNING FALL MINISTRIES

Study Group to Examine the Humanity of Christ

Holy Trinity’s Adult Study Group returns for second and fourth Tuesdays this Fall. Fr. John will lead an examination of *The Jesus We Missed* by Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon. The book offers insights into the humanity of Jesus Christ drawn from the Gospels so we can know God’s Son as He really is—a real man who came to redeem and sanctify every aspect of our lives. Participants will find the “historical Jesus,” not through biblical criticism but through the writings of the apostles who knew Him best. Intended for those already Orthodox but open to all adults, this bimonthly educational opportunity resumes on September 10 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Books will be available to purchase or to borrow.

HIGH SCHOOL GROUP TO HOLD LUNCH SUMMIT TO PLAN ACTIVITIES FOR FALL

Following Liturgy on Sunday, September 15 all high school students are invited to a free lunch together in downtown State College. Students will walk over to Panera Bread with ministry leaders, grab a bite to eat, then spend an hour brainstorming about future activities for our Orthodox Youth Association. For more information, please contact Dn. Alexander.

INQUIRERS’ CLASS MOVES TO WEDNESDAY

Holy Trinity’s inquirers’ class, *Orthodoxy 101*, begins Wednesday, October 2 at 7 p.m., and continues on every first Wednesday thereafter. Light refreshments will be served prior to the start of the class for those who also wish to attend Daily Vespers.

