

Icon to Visit Holy Trinity as Part of International Pro-Life Procession

In the summer of 2012, a group of Catholic and Orthodox faithful began a global pilgrimage in support of life and family under the patronage of the Czestochowa Icon of the Mother of God. The original icon, believed to be one of the seventy icons written by the Apostle and Evangelist Luke is venerated throughout Russia because of the miracles attributed to it.

With the blessing of Metropolitan Tikhon, this copy of the original—which has traveled more than 40,000 miles, stopping at 400 cities in 24 countries across Russia and Europe; venerated by hundreds of thousands and counting—will make an unprecedented visit to State College this month. Holy Trinity will warmly welcome Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant faithful alike for an akathist (hymn) sung in honor of the Mother of God at 6:30 p.m. following Vespers on Wednesday, October 23. A reception will follow.

The international procession, entitled “Ocean-to-Ocean in Defense for Life,” unites Christians who honor the Mother of God in asking her intercession for the protection of the family, and the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. The icon arrived on the shores of North America in August and will travel across the U.S. and Mexico to encourage the offering of prayers to the Mother of God for the restoration of a Culture of Life. The second leg of the pilgrimage is being sponsored by Human Life International (HLI), an organization

defending life and the family. The Rev. Peter West, vice president of HLI, will accompany the icon and be our honored guest. He was present for the dedication of this icon to the original at the Monastery of Jasna Góra in Poland.

Visit holytrinity-oca.org for more information and to view video of the pilgrimage’s first leg. ■



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

119 S. Sparks Street

State College, PA 16801

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Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Tellers	Servers**
October 6	A. Cramer and H. Torbic	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	M. Stevens and L. Rush	Team B
October 13	J. Cadman and M. Leathers	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	Team A
October 20	Russian Ladies	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	G. Cattell and R. Patel	Team B
October 27	M. Thompson and K. Cattell	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	L. Rush and S. Stevens	Team A
November 3	L. Rush and D. Van Duijn	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	M. Fedkin and R. Patel	Team B
November 10	E. Files and M. & V. Anthony	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team A
* Denotes Fast				
** Team A: M. Doty, A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, S. Oleynik, D. Stickles, Jo. Stickles, J. Torbic, and J. Swisher				
Team B: J. Cadman, P. Doty, N. McFarland, J. Miranda, B. Oleynik, S. Patel, L. Torbic, and Je. Stickles.				

■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Entering into the Life of the Gospel by Fr. Basil Biberdorf

Make shine in our hearts, O Master who lovest man, the incorrupt light of Thy divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind to the comprehension of the preaching of Thy Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Thy blessed commandments that, trampling down all carnal desires, we may pursue a spiritual way of life, both considering and doing all things well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, O Christ God....

The priest prays the preceding prayer immediately before the Gospel is read at the Divine Liturgy. (It also appears among the priest's prayers at the beginning of Matins.)

In those words, we begin our entrance into the life of the Gospel. It starts with “make shine in our hearts...the incorrupt light,” which links our present with our past. These words return us to that first Gospel we heard as Christians, which was directly received in Holy Baptism (“Holy Illumination”), in order that we might hear the proclaimed Gospel as a continuation of it. The life in Christ begins in the Gospel and is sustained in it. Indeed, there is no Christian life without it.

The prayer asks that “the eyes of our mind” be opened “to the comprehension of the preaching of Thy Gospel.” With regard to the “eyes of our mind,” we have a plea that we not hear the Gospel of Christ as a purely academic exercise, as words read from an important text no different from the Constitution or a Supreme Court decision. Rather, we pray the Gospel would be received as transformative words that fall not just on our physical ears but upon our spiritual senses, where we inwardly grasp the Gospel. It is to be received *with* faith, but, more importantly, it is received *for the benefit* of faith. We don't just want to “hear” it; we want to *grasp* it and *cling* to it. I also make the personal observation that

there have been many occasions, where I have missed important points in the Gospel when reading it silently, only to hear them with absolute clarity when hearing the same readings read *aloud*. Keep this in mind with your own study of Scripture.

We pray for Christ to “instill in us the fear of [His] blessed commandments” and to “trample down all carnal desires.” We struggle with this idea that we would “fear” Christ, but His commandments—to love our God with our entire being, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40)—*are* fearsome. (See Matthew 5:19, for example.) Even more importantly, our fear and love of the commandments draws us to Christ: “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him” (John 14:21). If we want to love Christ, and be loved by Christ and his Father, we must *possess* his commandments. They must not be outside of us, but completely within us. We ask Christ Himself to give them to us, and we ask that He take away all the barriers (our carnal desires) that would prevent it.

The prayer concludes its petitions with the request that we be enabled to pursue “a spiritual way of life, considering and doing all things well-pleasing” to Christ. A “spiritual way of life” is not some outward hyper-piety, but rather a life led in the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is a way of life guided by the desire to be led by the Holy Spirit, particularly as He comes to us in the recollection and *living* of the Gospel of Christ.

My prayer for all Christians is that this prayer before the Gospel be fulfilled in each one of us, where we all receive the Gospel, have it implanted in our souls, and desire that it nurture us and guide us in the fully illumined life.

OYA and Jr. OYA Plan October Combined Corn Maze Outing

One month after Holy Trinity high school students held a lunch summit to plan upcoming Orthodox Youth Association (OYA) activities, the group will team up with Jr. OYA (*grades 5-8*) to qualify for special evening hours at their first choice—the Corn Maze at Ards Farm near Lewisburg. On Sunday, October 13, participants will get lost in a 5-acre maze, shoot corn out of a cannon, and enjoy a hot dog roast. Be sure to bring a flashlight as the maze is not lit at night! Transportation will depart from the Church at 4 p.m. and return around 8:30 p.m. For information, contact info@holytrinity-oca.org.

Second Bridge of Hope Training

On Sunday evening, October 20, Bridge of Hope will conduct the final training session for anyone interested in helping an area single mother get back on her feet. See the weekly bulletin for details.

Thank You, Matthew 25 Donors

This year's Back-to-School Drive was the most successful yet! In all, volunteers purchased nearly a thousand supplies for more than 60 needy students in our area. Please remember this important ministry throughout the year. In addition to the annual drives (Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.), Holy Trinity routinely provides assistance on an individual basis.

Photo Directory Make-Ups

Last month, dozens of group and individual photographs were taken for a new parish directory that will be published later this year. If you missed one of the sessions, please contact the Parish Office at (814) 231-2855 to schedule a make-up picture.

October Bookstore Feature

The Parish Bookstore is featuring *The Explanation of the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Ephesians* by Blessed Theophylact of Ochrid this month. This rich commentary reveals the depth of every phrase. It is available in the “new arrivals” section.

■ MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Discovering New Ways to Serve Each Other and Our Community

Over the summer during their monthly breakfasts, Men's Fellowship polled participants on how to address two specific areas of emphasis for the coming year—first, what the group can do for the persons in it (not surprisingly, the respondents expressed a personal desire for mutual support, sharing life stories, and helping one another as spouses and parents); and secondly, how the group can serve the parish and the wider community.

Feedback from those who participated was both informative and compelling. Based on the various suggestions, more corporate events and outings like the ever-popular “Men's BBQ” will be planned to grow the group and better incorporate a younger demographic. However, just as many ideas came forth regarding a renewed outward focus: Work projects for single and widowed parishioners, assistance for struggling parishes in our diocese, community involvement (such as coaching sporting events), and summer day camp service, for starters.

Keep the men in your prayers. They are off to another good start. Remember they meet every third Saturday at 9 a.m. (or after liturgy such as this month) for breakfast and fellowship throughout the year. ■

— Fr. John Reeves

Annual Women's Coffee & Tea

The Holy Trinity clergy wives will host their annual “Women's Coffee and Tea” social on Saturday, November 9 from 10 am until 12 noon at the Rectory (562 Lancashire Ln., in State College). All are invited! For information, directions, or to RSVP, please call Mka. Linda at (814) 861-8020 or email ljr8ster@gmail.com.

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

10 Ways We Set Our Kids Up to Fail

Life gets busy and we don’t step back enough to see what we might be doing as parents to hurt our children’s spiritual growth. Being an intentional Orthodox Christian parent is hard work...but it’s worth it. We have a legacy of faith, wisdom and experience we can pass on to our kids if we pay attention. But if we don’t—we could cause more harm than good.

1. **Buying them smartphones.** *Not only are they expensive, but they allow unsupervised access to the internet.*
2. **Unsupervised computer use without parental controls.** *Do not put a computer in their room. Statistics show the average nine year old has already been exposed to porn on the net.*
3. **Encouraging dating in early teen years.** *They are still growing and learning about life. Doing things adults do in relationships is not only dangerous, but it’s a heck of an emotional load to put on a kid.*
4. **Being lax about prayer and going to church.** *Our kids need to see us pray, and they need to see us make church a priority. Kids need structure, and they need to see you as an example of someone who strives to put God first, before everything else.*
5. **Not talking about the issues they face.** *Just because they act like everything is okay doesn’t mean it is. It’s crucial to connect with your kids every day. Show you care by asking about their day and actually listening to them. Help them by offering a non-judgmental, loving example of the Church’s viewpoint.*
6. **Paganizing Christianity.** *Some things just aren’t Christian, no matter how you try to make them that way. While it’s great to have healthier alternatives, we can’t Christianize everything. Sadly, public school dances in many schools have now become a showcase of blatant immorality. Come up with your own ways to celebrate that don’t include being immoral.*

by Christina
Pessemier

7. **Too much freedom.** *Parents should not feel embarrassed to require their kids to be home for dinner and to know their whereabouts. Involve them in church youth groups and volunteer organizations and sports, but be careful how much time they spend wandering aimlessly with friends who might not always be the best influence.*
8. **Ignoring the value of hard work.** *Do your kids do regular chores? [Chores] raise their self-esteem and help them learn skills they will use all their life.*
9. **Not teaching them manners.** *Kids today could really use a lesson in manners. You will do the world a lot of good to teach them to respect and honor others like our faith teaches.*
10. **Money doesn’t grow on trees.** *One day, they will be on their own and will need to know how to pay bills. Teach them at an early age that doing work is how they get money. Have them do jobs to earn their spending money. Teach them to tithe 10% to charity, like the Bible teaches, and show them how to invest.*

There isn’t a blueprint out there for how to raise morally aware kids, in an increasingly immoral world. But there is hope. We have more power than we realize. Remembering that we have the church to guide us, and Orthodox Christian friends and family who are going through the same thing, helps. It’s so important that we do the hard things sometimes, and step up to the plate. Our kids need us to be strong and guide them to the right thing. ■

EXTRA “SCOOP”: CLASSES TO ATTEND INSTRUCTED PROSKOMEDIA

On Sunday October 6, some Sunday School classes will observe (in the nave) the Liturgy of Preparation (proskomedie) during class time as part of their curriculum this year. This service (which is celebrated before every Divine Liturgy) is rarely seen except by the clergy. All are invited to attend with the students.

■ PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Meeting Date Set; Bylaw Changes Proposed

At its September meeting, the Parish Council announced that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13 following the Divine Liturgy. Nominations are open for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President–Building. Resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Council for review by October 9. (Nothing will be considered from the floor.) The agenda and proposed budget will be included next month’s *Trisagion*.

Council also made a few modifications to the proposed bylaws that will again go before the entire parish for ratification at the Annual Meeting. To encourage Chapel participation in the future, Council resolved to amend Article III to allow for meetings and voting to be held at parochial locations (e.g., chapels), as long as they are held on parish premises. In addition, two changes were made to Article VI: one editorial; the other to slightly lower the voting threshold for a parochial mission when requesting a release from Holy Trinity and petitioning the Archdiocese to become a free standing mission. A complete detail of all the proposed bylaw changes is posted in the Narthex and online at holytrinity-oca.org for review.

STRATEGIC GROWTH MEETING SCHEDULED

Council also scheduled a meeting of the Strategic Growth Team for Wednesday, October 16 at 7 p.m. Participants will analyze parishioner “blue dot” feedback on the two options recently presented. They will also consider reflections made by Fr. John as the process unfolded. All are welcome. ■

For the Record

BAPTISM
➤ **Natalia (Monarth) Jeannot**, fiancée of Dimitri Vaughn, baptized September 14. Many years!

■ NEWS AND NOTES

Patriarch Bartholomew Addresses Gay Marriage

TALLINN, ESTONIA – Last month, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew visited here and addressed the relationship between Church and Family, and in turn condemned homosexual marriage as an innovation foreign to the ecclesiological mindset and way of life. The Mystery of Marriage, he stated, “is a mystery of co-creation, and the ontological link of love with the Head of the Body, to ensure health and life, which is salvation and sanctification.” In the fulfillment of God’s Will, the father and mother and their children create a “miniature church” built on “compassion, love, and unity” in which each “have a place inter-embracing one another’s gifts, responsibilities and rights.” Thus “the partnering of the same sex is unknown and condemned” as well as the “contemporary invention of ‘mutual cohabitation,’ which is the result of sin and not the law of joy” (*cf. Romans 1:26-28*).

ANNUAL ORTHODOX INSTITUTE TO BE HELD

LIGONIER – From October 31 through November 3, the 2013 Orthodox Institute will be held here at Antiochian Village. Metropolitan Savas, the keynote speaker, will speak on the conference theme of “Blessed is the Kingdom: Acts 2:42 and Today” More than a dozen Orthodox experts will join him in presenting a wide range of topics and the Orthodox Christian Education Commission (OCEC) will conduct seminars and training for Church School teachers. Registration is \$65; room and board starts at \$277.20 for triple occupancy. To register, email orthodoxinstitute2013@yahoo.com.

SUPPORT OCF IN RAISING FUNDS FOR THON

In their efforts to combat pediatric cancer, Orthodox Christian Fellowship will hold a spaghetti benefit dinner on November 3 following liturgy. There is no cost to attend; a free-will offering will be collected. Help OCF reach its goal to dance for 46 hours! ■