# Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greetors	Tellers	Servers
February 2	E. Files and M. & G. Anthony	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	M. Fedkin and S. Stevens	V urreal.
February 9	D. Patel and K. Oleynik	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team B
February 16	Russian Ladies	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	M. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team A
February 23	K, Carrell and D, Van Duin	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	S. Soevens and H. Torbic	Team B
March 2	E. George & M. Stevens* (Blivi) B. Roberts and E. Miranda	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	Team A
March 9	C. Strauss & P. Doty*	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky G. Cartell and R. Patel	G. Carrell and R. Parel	Team B
Destro Fair	Tram A. M. Doy, A. Misunda, N. Po. Tram B. J. Cadman, P. Doy, N. McF.	Tuem A. M. Dogs, A. Alloweda, N. Phillem, S. Odyeski, D. Stielder, Jr. Stielder, J. Tarbis, and J. Steisber Tuem B. J. Cadmare, P. Dogs, N. McFardand, B. Odyesk, S. Patel, L. Tarbis, and Jr. Stielder.	J. Taobic, and J. Swisber of Jr. Solobles.	
	Them B.J. Gadman, P. Duty, N. McK.	lerfand, B. Oliyesk, S. Patrl, L. Thrbic, an	nd Jr. Stelebler.	

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

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## February 2014 holytrinity-oca.org THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Preparing for True Renewal by Fr. Basil Biberdorf

ebruary 2 marks a confluence of special events this year: the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, Groundhog Day, and Super Bowl Sunday. This particular year brings with it the surprise—and perhaps the disappointment—of hearing the reading of the Gospel telling us about that short tax collector, Zacchaeus, and his climbing of the tree. The very next Sunday will begin the three pre-Lenten weeks.

The problem with pre-Lent for most of us is that it makes us think of Great Lent itself, and particularly of the deprivations of the season. As a result, a common attitude toward the pre-Lenten weeks is one of "indulge now, for tomorrow we can't."

And, so, during the fast-free week of the Publican and the Pharisee (February 9-15), the temptation is to eat as much as we can, gratifying each desire for food, whether steaks, burgers, desserts, eggs, or cheeses. The fast-free Wednesday and Friday provide merely more opportunities to enjoy. The week of the Prodigal Son (February 16-22) brings us back to a regular schedule, with abstinence from meat and dairy on Wednesday and Friday, and our desire to make full use of the non-fasting days therein.

The undercurrent in all of these perspectives is that Lent is a time of deprivation, and, therefore, we must indulge our desires, satiate our bellies, and, indeed, distract ourselves from the difficult reality we need to face. This is a reality that is being held up before our faces in these pre-Lenten Sundays.

We have the image of the Publican and the Pharisee, which gives us the picture of forgiveness of the repentant sinner, and the failure of the attempt to become self-righteous before God. We have the Prodigal Son, which shows us not just the value of repentance, but indeed the expanse of the Father's love and forgiveness toward the one who did not deserve it. We have the Last Judgment, which reminds us of our callousness, along with the fact that our insensitivity to those who bear Christ's image will result in God's denial of us at the Judgment. We have Forgiveness Sunday, and the recollection that without forgiveness, we will not be forgiven.

Our perspective changes if we think carefully about these pre-Lenten themes. If we contemplate these days, our thoughts move away from the idea that we must indulge as a defense against deprivation. Rather, we come to learn that we prepare in these pre-Lenten weeks for an arduous task. We develop the sincere desire that our hardened hearts not receive what they so clearly deserve: separation from God, and the torment of hell.

Lent in such a view comes to be not a time of deprivation, but an entire season of renewal and even comfort. In those transitional weeks between Zacchaeus and Forgiveness Vespers, we have the opportunity to cultivate our minds in the desire for God and a love for our brethren that is not conditioned on what they can give us in return. We

(continued, see RENEWAL, last page)

#### ■ SERVICE MINISTRIES

### An Interview with HTOC's Choir Intern

Last month we sat down to catch up with Zach Mandell, who is serving as Holy Trinity's Choir Director as part of a two-semester internship. Here are some excerpts.

#### What have you enjoyed most?

On one hand, getting to know people a little bit better... we do have a large parish so it's been nice to get to know people better. It's been really fun working musically with people... There is a varying level of musical training and musical knowledge so it's been enjoyable to teach and learn how to teach... [I've also enjoyed] just being a part of the service [as director] and being engaged... To be at the heart of everything, of the prayers, of the Psalms—it's just been a real blessing... That is one thing I really love about this parish. So many people in the congregation sing. They are very engaged and that is very encouraging and I think that is very important for one's spiritual growth.

#### What are some of your objectives for Lent?

One thing is to work with the choir so we can conserve our voices and use our voices properly. It will be a combination of things like musical technique so that when we have all these services we make sure we aren't overdoing things. [To help with this] I may break things up a little bit and have smaller groups do services at times. Also, this semester I really want to reach out to the congregation to get more people involved in the choir, especially when [we are entering] a time when there are so many services. I want to take this opportunity to extend a hand to the people who might be interested but haven't come forward for whatever reason.

#### Why is rehearsing so important?

When you are singing, you aren't just performing—it

is a sacred office so you need to know what you are doing and be committed to what you are doing... We want to sing to the glory of God, not for entertainment... What is at the center is the Eucharist



and the service itself. The choir is there to lead but not be the focus of everyone's attention. You are a part of a much larger thing happening. If you [prepare and know] that what you are doing is prayer, you are able to garner the spiritual benefits.

#### What is the best way to join the choir?

If you have any interest whatsoever, talk to me, talk to Deacon Alex, talk to Father John—if you have any interest in the slightest, you are welcome. All you have to do is ask and I'll be there. We will also have a social at the rectory on Sunday, February 23 at 6 p.m. for all current and prospective singers.

## This internship is an experiment for the parish. Would you recommend the parish doing this again in the future?

It's been very good for me and my perception is that it has been good for the choir. When you have an internship you know you are going to do things differently than they used to be, and if you do it again, that person is also going to do things differently. I think that is an important thing for a choir as well. A little bit of change is a good thing within context.

Visit holytrinity-oca.org for more with Zach Mandell!

#### Men to Dish Out Scrapple

At their monthly breakfast on the fifteenth, the Men's Fellowship will serve heaping helpings of scrapple, a wonderful Pennsylvania Dutch delicacy. All men in the parish are invited. Eat your fill before Lent starts!

#### Young Adults Plan Trip, Potluck

Archimandrite Zacharias, Ph. D., esteemed author, speaker, and disciple of the late Elder Sophrony, will visit St. Tikhon's on Saturday, February 8. The Young Adult Fellowship, a ministry for twenty- to thirty-somethings in the parish, is arranging a pilgrimage by van there that day, leaving the Holy Trinity parking lot at 11:30 a.m. There is no cost for the trip (it includes Vigil, dinner, and Fr. Zacharias' talk), but please bring money for a lunch stop on the road. The group will also hold a potluck/game night at the church on Tuesday the 18th. For info., see Megan Leathers or email youngadults@holytrinity-oca.org.

#### **Check out the Lending Library**

The top shelf of the Lending Library now features devotional reading for Lent and Pascha. For details, contact Anna Stickles (*librarian@holytrinity-oca.org*).

#### **TLC-2 to Spring into Action**

TLC-2, which provides care to mothers of newborns, is getting ready to serve a new set of parents-to-be! Now is a perfect time to lend a hand. See or email Corene at *tlc-2@holytrinity-oca.org* to join the effort.

#### For the Record

#### **FAREWEL**

 Dimitri and Monarth (Jeannot) Vaughan moved from the State College area on December 31, 2013 to further their education. Many years!

#### **AWARDS**

➤ Julia Rush was awarded third place in the sixth grade division of the 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay, Poetry, & Art Contest. Congratulations!

#### True Renewal (cont. from page 1)

have the opportunity to clean house by removing the temptation to the rich food and general laziness that too often distracts us from the tragic state of our souls. We can use these pre-Lenten weeks to guide ourselves in prayer, so that when the Lenten effort (and Lenten blessings!) begin, we are ready to participate fully, having set aside all earthly cares.

If our time in the pre-Lenten weeks is spent thinking upon what we'll miss in the season to come, we will find ourselves burdened unnecessarily. Let us think instead upon Christ, and the Cross that awaits him, and embark on that journey, eager to receive every word he gives, never balking when those words interfere with our own plans for our lives. Let us turn instead to the prayer he gives us: "Thy will be done." May these weeks of preparation be filled with joy (and even food) at the prospect of growing in love for Christ and the salvation that exists only in him.

#### Rector's Desk (cont. from center page)

- Archdiocesan Property. Delegates to the Jan. 18 Special Archdiocesan Assembly held in Canonsburg voted overwhelmingly not to sell the Archdiocesan Center by a vote of 54-8. More study was called for as well as a strategic plan for the diocese.
- Poeacon Jason Isaac will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood in Marshall, AK on March 29. If you would like to help contribute to buy his first set of vestments, please use one of the special envelopes in the narthex (earmark your gift, "Deacon Jason/Vestments"). By the way, there is a nice photo of the Isaac family in the Parish Hall along with a "Thank you" for the support our Men's Fellowship and others have provided.
- > Speaking of Alaska, I'll be returning to Alaska briefly to attend the consecration of Fr. David Mahaffey as Bishop on February 21. Alaska in winter!? It's warmer than State College to be sure.

— Fr. John

#### ■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## **Engaging the Synder County Community**

It was an exciting January at the Chapel. Fr. Basil was a guest on the WKOK morning show on January 10, where he had an opportunity to discuss the feast and talk about Orthodoxy. After the Theophany blessing of Beaver Creek on January 12, we were surprised to have reporters from the *Daily Item* newspaper (Sunbury, PA) in attendance at our Family Fun Night. This event, with large photographs, was a front-page story the next day. ■





#### One Church. Two Blessings.

On Sunday, January 12, faithful parishioners from both the Chapel and Holy Trinity prayed that Christ would sanctify Beaver and Spring Creeks, respectively, and the communities through which they run.

## Sat. Feb. 1 Great Vespers with Sunday

Litiya, 6pm

Sun. Feb. 2

## THE MEETING OF THE LORD. Zacchaeus Sunday.

Hours with Blessing of Candles, 9:30am

Divine Liturgy, 10am

Tue. Feb. 4 Choir Practice, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs

Sun. Feb. 9

## Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee.

Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am

Tue. Feb. 11 Choir Practice, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs

Sat. Feb. 15 Great Vespers, 6pm

#### Sun. Feb. 16 Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am

Tue. Feb. 18 Choir Practice, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs

Sun. Feb. 23

Sunday of the Last

Judgment.

Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am

Tue. Feb. 25 Choir Practice, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave.,

Sun. Mar. 2

#### Forgiveness Sunday.

Beaver Springs

Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Forgiveness Vespers, 1pm

Fri. Mar. 7 Akathist, *6pm* 

#### ■ 2013 FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

## **Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**

INCOME—BUDGETED		
CATEGORY	2013	2012
Weekly Offerings	\$183,111	\$192,542
Deacon Support Appeal	4,740	4,655
OCF Funding Appeal	3,243	2,000
Candles/Flowers	3,225	3,164
Parking	3,195	3,568
Choir Internship Appeal	1,630	_
Missions Appeal	520	1,405
Interest	383	409
Discretionary Fund	100	1,000
TOTAL BUDGETED	\$200,147	\$208,743

INCOME-NON-BUDGETER		
Funds	\$17,500	\$12,840
Cupola	4,800	_
Building	3,537	4,991
Property Maintenance (Reserve)	3,000	_
Bookstore	2,698	2,603
Sunday School	2,040	657
Icons (Designated)	900	1,894
Memorial	525	2,695
Appeals	\$17,456	\$26,662
Deacon Isaac Scholarship	3,335	1,165
Matthew 25	2,978	2,929
Missions (Alaska/Ukraine)	4,461	20,055
Campus Ministry & THON	2,168	1,579
Events (Ordination/Concerts)	2,764	_
Altar Boy Robes	1,750	_
Other Appeals Income	_	934
TOTAL NON-BUDGETED	\$34,956	\$39,502
TOTAL INCOME	\$235,103	\$248,245

EXPENSES—BUDGETED		
CATEGORY	2013	2012
Personnel	\$129,471	\$120,040
Archdiocesan Assessment	20,469	17,466
Mortgage	17,316	19,445
Outreach & Fellowship	10,664	8,477
Liturgical	8,514	4,756
Utilities	5,080	5,489
Office Administration	4,195	3,846
Physical Plant	3,692	3,690
Missionary/Seminaries	3,000	3,000
Christian Education	2,923	4,046
Coffee Hour	1,838	1,998
Insurance	1,553	1,611
Refurnishings	1,418	891
Discretionary Fund	1,399	3,147
All-American Council	1,000	1,491
Other Budgeted Expenses	109	568
TOTAL BUDGETED	\$212,641	\$199,961

EXPENSES - NON-BUDGET	ΓED	
Funds	\$11,960	\$16,305
Appeals	\$18,685	\$29,678
TOTAL NON-BUDGETED	\$30,645	\$45,983
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$243,286	\$245,944

35,103 \$	248,245
13,286 \$	245,944
8,183)	\$2,301
	13,286 \$

## **Chapel of the Holy Spirit**

INCOME		
Weekly Offerings	\$32,814	\$32,899
Building Fund	2,975	\$1,930
Chapel Appeals	611	\$610
Choir Internship	1,000	_
TOTAL INCOME	\$37,400	\$35,439

EXPENSES—NON-BUDGE	TED	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,994	\$18,666
TOTALS		
NET GAIN	\$18,407	\$16,773

#### From the Rector's Desk

- ➤ Don't Forget the New Budget for 2014 is approximately 8% higher than last year (\$225,000). In order to help everyone remember the needs of the parish, every household in the parish will receive a month's supply of envelopes in the mail to be placed in the offering baskets on Sunday. This envelope system is a friendly reminder that parish expenses are an ongoing, 52-week-per-year reality. Churches using this system report an increase of 15-20% in annual giving, so it is well worth a good-faith effort this year. Council will re-evaluate for 2015.
- ➤ March for Life: Cold weather didn't dampen the spirits of the many thousands who marched for life again this January 22 in Washington, DC. However, we did think it best to cancel HTOC's participation because of the risk of exposure in the frigid air. (The wind chill was down to -5° to -10°F on the Mall.) But a Trisagion for the 56 million unborn lost to abortion over the last 41 years was chanted here that evening.
- ➤ HTOC Survey: The Strategic Growth Team has prepared a parish-wide survey for members. It will enable us to ascertain common vision for a way forward for the future as the next step in strategic planning. Look in the mail for your copy.
- > Zacchaeus Sunday falls on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, coinciding with the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. It's one of those preparatory signals that Lent is approaching in one month (March 3). The Lord tells Zacchaeus: "Make haste." (In other words, "Hurry up. I'm coming to your house.") The calendar tells us to get our houses in order for the Lord's coming, not merely the approach of Lent. It will be a message continued throughout the Great Fast: Get ready. Indeed, Lent will help get us ready for Christ's coming, his Resurrection, his Kingdom, if we pray, fast, and worship together for the Great Forty Days. Long message, short: Zacchaeus made haste. Zacchaeus came to Christ. And salvation came to Zacchaeus. It's the same message for us.

(Continued, last page)

February 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	21	30	31	February
Marino/Sunday School, 9um Divine Linungs; 10um Choir Reheursal, 12:15pm		Adult Soudy Group: 2he Jene Wi-Missel, 7pm	Yaspon, 5:30pm Confessions, 6:15pm	Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarcha Pron Seate OCF: Stoop ate Print with Fr. Basil, tipm # 122 Pasquerilla. Spiritual Center		Altar Society Meeting 30am Great Vespers/Litiys/ Bleesing of Candles, figen Confessions, following
THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE Carchaeus Sunday Festal Marins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Litungs, 10am Parcent' Meeting, 12pm		Clorgy Staff Morting, 11:45um	Vespees, 5:30pm Confessions, 6:15pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	Penn Seare OCF Dinner and Discussion, from # 122 Pasquerilla Spirinud Center		Young Adult Trip to St. Tikhon's (Vigil' Dinner/Ye Zacharias) Days 11.30km fin. IFTC Choir Reheamd, 4pm Great Vospers, 6pm Confessions, following
9	10	11	12	13	14	
Sunday of the Publican and Pharless (Fast Free Hink) Maximu'Sunday School, 9am Divine Linungs, 10am Choir Rehearsal, 12:15pm		Homdess Sheher Ministry, dyn. ef Centre House, 207 E. Nimmy Ass., State College	Vingens, 5:30pm Confessions, 6:15pm	Penn Scare OCF Dinner and Discussion: Love and Relationships, tipen db 122 Pasquetilla Spiritual Center	High School Winter Camp	S Anticoltien Witage Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Fam Reader's Workshop, Apen Great Vespers, figes Confessions, Sillowing
16	17	18	15	20	21	
tigh School Winter Camp (cort) Sunday of the Prodigal Son Mation Sunday School, Van Drine Limagy, Than Choir Released, 12:15pm It Orthodox Youth Association (JATIA) February Activity, Spm	Penn State OCF Executive Committee Monthly Planning Meeting, 7yen 49 Starbacks, W. College Are., State College	Clorgy Seaff Morning, 12:45um Young Achille Perhack Game Night, tyen	Vaupras, 5:30pm Confessions, 6:15pm	Pron Sean OCF Dinner and Game Night, types df 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	Wespeers, 7pm	Memorial Sanaday Hours, 8:40am Divise Liturgy, 9am Sunday School Teacher Meeting Sym Great Vospers, 6pm Confessions, fidlowing
23	24	25	26	27	28	March
Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meetford) Marine Sunday School, Nam Drine Linutgy, 10am Choir Rehearal, 12:15pm Choir Social, 6pm # 562 Lancolline Lane, Park Forest (Hectory)	Fire and Second Finding of the Head of St. John	Adult Sendy George 28e, Jewe We Missed, 7pm	Vospens, 5:30pm Confessions, 6:15pm	Sc. Raphard of Brooklyn Penn State OCF Disner and Discussion, open # 122 Pasquetilla Spiritual Center	RCF	Great Vospers, tipes Confessions, fillowing
2	3	4		5 6	7	
Forgiveness Sunday (Chrosefore)	LENT BEGINS Great Canon of St. Andrew	Clogy Scaff Morning, 12:4Gam Great Canon of St. Andrew of Cano, 7pm	Confessions, 5:30pm Liturgy of the Pressnotified	Penn State OCF:	Confusions, 5:30pm Liturgy of the Presenctified Girls, fgm	St. Theodore of Tyne Hours, 8:40am Divine Litzegy, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following