

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH



On Thursday, January 22, 15 representatives from Holy Trinity and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit travelled to Washington, D.C. to solemnly defend the sanctity of all human life, joining an estimated 300,000-500,000 people from all around the country.

Why I Marched for Life...

by Fr. Rodney Torbic

Rector, St. George Serbian Orthodox Church (Carmichaels, Pa.)

The March for Life is a collective expression of the value of life. Thousands of people of all ages gather with the common purpose of affirming the preservation of the lives of the unborn. The marchers come from various backgrounds and [represent many] different races and religious identities... The large amount of young marchers reflects well on the condition of youth in this country and is a sign of hope for the future... [Among them were] my granddaughters Brittany Joy and Jesse Hope, [who] came with me for their third March.

(continued, see ON THE MARCH FOR LIFE, page 3)

by Metropolitan Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of America & Canada

Our proclamation of life is offered in the context of a world in dismay at the terrorist attacks that recently shook Paris, the latest in a series of seemingly endless tragedies throughout the world that unnecessarily claim many innocent lives. Following this latest tragedy, Christians, Muslims, Jews and non-believers have engaged in discussion and debate about a range of issues, from human dignity to the responsibilities of political cartoonists, from freedom of expression to humanity's capacity for tolerance. Unfortunately, much of this

(continued, see ON THE VICTORY OF LIFE, page 3)

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
February 1	POTLUCK	M. Thompson and E. Bittner	M. Stevens and R. Patel	Team B
February 8	H. Torbic and L. Georgiou	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	S. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team A
February 15	P. Dooy and B. Roberts	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	Team B
February 22	BLINI DINNER	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	G. Cattell and R. Patel	Team A
March 1	POTLUCK*	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	H. Torbic and M. Stevens	Team B
March 8	A. Swisher and C. Swisher*	M. Thompson and PSU Student	M. Fedkin and G. Cattell	Team A

* Denotes Fast

Team A: A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, S. Olynyk, D. Stickle, J. Torbic, and J. Swisher.
 Team B: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, B. Olynyk, S. Patel, and L. Torbic.

Captains: D. Torbic, Ja. Stickle, and K. Kucheyaryy

Fast with Joy for the Feast of Feasts

This short month of February is going to get by more quickly than usual, I suspect. We begin the Triodion this year on the Prefeast of the Presentation, February 1. The Triodion is our “Lenten hymnal” that forms the bulk of our hymnody from now until Pascha. Before month’s end, Lent will have begun in earnest.

Your understanding has been greatly appreciated during my recent bout with pneumonia. In the interval between Presentation and Forgiveness Sunday, I will be taking a much-needed vacation with my family in California and Oklahoma. (I wasn’t able to take one this past year.) I ask your prayers that I rest, relax and come back a bit refreshed as we begin the Fast together in joy, looking forward to the Resurrection and our celebration of the Feast of Feasts. ■

— Fr. John

Also from Father’s Desk...

- **Matushka and I have appreciated your kindness running food by the house, clearing the driveway, inquiring about us, and praying for us. January has been rough on her health, too.**
- **Eleni Nichols, long time friend of our parish passed away on January 6. She was buried from Holy Trinity on the 13th. Our sympathy goes to her husband Gus and her family. *Memory Eternal!***
- **We also mourn the unexpected death of Mka. Millie Kluchko who fell asleep in the Lord on January 26. She had last visited us on January 18 when her husband Fr. John supplied at our altar while I served the Chapel that day. She was buried from Holy Resurrection Church, Belle Vernon on Jan. 30. *Memory Eternal!***

Take Those Kids to Church!

Have you ever wished your children (or grandchildren) were better behaved, exhibited more self-control, and got along fabulously with others? [If so,] then you may want to start going to church... and taking them with you: Sociologist John Bartkowski has discovered that “kids whose parents regularly attended religious services... and talked with their kids about religion were rated by both parents and teachers as having better self-control, social skills, and approaches to living.”

He suggests three reasons for this: First, religious networks provide social support to parents that can help improve parenting skills. Second, the types of values and norms that circulate in congregations tend to be self-sacrificing and pro-family. And third, religious

organizations imbue parenting with sacred meaning and significance.

Jesus certainly saw sacred significance in children. In Mark’s gospel we read these words: “People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’” (10:14).

These first-century parents were proactively taking their children to Jesus because they knew that their kids would be welcomed, prayed for and blessed by him. They didn’t even think twice about it and weren’t worried about Jesus turning his back on them or their kids. I’m sure these moms and dads had noticed how Jesus had treated children on many different occasions

and no doubt wanted their kids to be ministered to as well.

But the disciples didn’t like the interruption... What they didn’t realize was that Jesus was that someone who really cares. He obviously cared much more than they did. The disciples didn’t value children. Before we get too hard on them, we need to take a look at our own hearts because we might be more like them than we care to admit...

The disciples thought that Jesus needed protection from bouncy boys and giddy girls. But what Jesus pointed out is that these children needed shelter from arrogant adults who thought they were more important than infants. This is highly significant, because it indicates that children are made for God and they long to be in His presence.

— Brian Bill

Chapel of the Holy Spirit

CATEGORY	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
INCOME					
<i>Stewardship Offerings</i>	\$32,899	\$32,814	\$32,798	\$33,732	97%
<i>Building Fund</i>	1,930	2,975	3,419	—	—
<i>Memorial Fund</i>	—	—	169	—	—
<i>Charitable Appeals</i>	610	611	—	—	—
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	—	1,000	25	—	—
Total Income	\$35,439	\$37,400	\$36,411	\$33,732	108%
EXPENSES					
<i>Personnel</i>		15,650	14,700	17,200	85%
<i>Outreach and Fellowship</i>		1,295	3,661	1,525	240%
<i>Property</i>		569	10,211	690	1480%
<i>Liturgical</i>		584	1,320	575	230%
<i>Furnishings</i>		542	127	500	25%
<i>Office Administration</i>		60	89	150	59%
<i>Christian Education</i>		204	387	150	258%
<i>Utilities</i>		90	—	—	—%
<i>Archdiocesan Assessment</i>		—	—	100	0%
Total Expenses	\$18,666	\$18,994	\$30,495	\$20,890	146%
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$18,407	\$16,773	\$5,915	\$12,842	46%

Join Matthew 25 this Lent

Holy Trinity’s *Matthew 25* ministry is planning a Lenten Drive that will benefit the food pantry at Project Mexico’s St. Innocent Orphanage. Your donations of food, clothing, and toiletries will directly assist the boys there. All those interested in lending their time too are invited to attend a brief meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 3:30 p.m. in the Hall.

Young Adults Continue Potlucks

The Young Adult Fellowship will host another evening of food and games at 6:30 p.m. on February 16 at 4817 W. Whitehall Rd. in Pennsylvania Furnace. For details, email youngadults@holyltrinity-oca.org.

Altar Society to Plan for Year

Ladies: Consider serving the parish by decorating the church/icons before every Feast. To join us, attend the 10 a.m. meeting on Saturday, February 7 in the Hall.

Chapel to Analyze Building Plans

Modeling the SWOT analysis used in consideration of last year’s purchase of Trinity House, the Chapel is currently undergoing a similar process before taking action on their building project in Beavertown. Results will be shared by Jennifer McClure at the Smith home (350 Old Orchard Drive) after the Obednitsa on February 8. All are invited to attend.

For the Record

CHRISMATION

- **Mary Lanser** was received into the Orthodox Church by Chrismation on January 6. Many years!

YOUR GENEROSITY

- **\$712** was raised through the Orthodox Christian Fellowship’s annual THON spaghetti luncheon to help combat pediatric cancer. Thank you!

■ 2014 FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

CATEGORY	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
INCOME					
Budgeted Income					
Stewardship Offerings	\$192,542	\$183,111	\$209,471	\$207,372	101%
Parking	3,568	3,195	1,825	3,500	52%
Candles and Flowers	3,164	3,225	3,519	2,600	135%
Interest Income	409	383	195	302	65%
Budgeted Appeals (OCF, Choir, Missions, etc.)	9,060	10,233	7,280	10,000	73%
Total Budgeted Income	\$208,743	\$200,147	\$222,290	\$223,774	99%
Non-Budgeted Income					
Funds Income (Bookstore, Building, Memorials, etc.)	12,840	17,500	131,544		
Charitable Appeals Income (Special, Matthew 25, etc.)	26,662	17,456	15,960		
Total Non-Budgeted Income	\$39,502	\$34,956	\$147,504		
Total Income	\$248,245	\$235,103	\$369,794		
EXPENSES					
Budgeted Expenses					
Personnel	\$120,040	\$129,471	\$132,501	\$134,085	99%
Archdiocesan Assessment	17,466	20,469	22,547	22,116	102%
Mortgage	19,445	17,316	18,254	17,316	105%
Liturgical	4,756	8,514	9,895	7,675	129%
Office Administration	3,846	4,195	8,859	5,100	174%
Outreach	8,477	10,664	7,940	7,750	102%
Physical Plant	3,690	3,692	6,539	4,800	136%
Utilities	5,489	5,080	6,142	6,035	102%
Missionary/Seminaries	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	100%
Christian Education	4,046	2,923	2,724	4,100	66%
Coffee Hour	1,998	1,838	2,548	2,000	127%
Discretionary	3,147	1,399	2,478	1,000	248%
Insurance	1,611	1,553	2,088	1,777	118%
All-American Council Deposit	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	100%
Miscellaneous	568	109	336	270	124%
Refurnishings	891	1,418	—	1,000	0%
(Transfer to Savings/Building Fund)	—	—	5,000	5,000	100%
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$199,470	\$212,641	\$231,851	\$223,774	104%
Non-Budgeted Expenses					
Funds Expenditures	16,305	11,960	\$126,115		
Charitable Expenditures	29,678	18,685	16,243		
Total Non-Budgeted Expenses	\$45,983	\$30,645	\$142,358		
Total Expenses	\$245,453	\$243,286	\$374,208		
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$2,792	(\$8,183)	(\$4,415)		

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

On the Victory of Life *(from pg. 1)*

is framed in an atmosphere of ideological violence, whether this be a “war on infidels” or “war on terrorism.” In such divisive engagements, there are rarely any victors but only more victims...[As St Nikolai of Zhicha wrote], “Christ’s victory is the only victory in which all humanity can rejoice, from the first-created to the last. Every other victory on earth has divided, and still divides, men from one another.” Our world is so full of these [latter] joyless and dark victories that we might despair of being able to put forward the hope and light of the Gospel message. We would do well to...keep our hearts and minds focused on our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, in Whom alone can solace, hope and joy be found in any meaningful and lasting way.

Indeed, Christ did not say: “I offer one of many complimentary paths;” He said: I am the Way. Christ did not say: “I hold to the correct philosophical principles;” He said: I am the Truth. Christ did not say: “I subscribe to the only viable political agenda;” He said: I am the Life.

It is only possible to attain to this Way, this Truth and this Life through Christ and through the light that He bestows to those who strive to allow even a small beam of that light to enter their hearts and illumine their path...

Let us therefore make every effort to offer this “victory of light and life” to those who are surrounded by darkness and death. Let us be bold in our adding our Orthodox voices in support of the value of every human person, born or unborn; let us offer consolation to the mothers who have undergone abortions and offer our prayers to them and to all who have been affected by this tragedy; let us affirm our Orthodox understanding of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God and yet in need of healing in Christ. ■

On the March for Life *(from pg. 1)*

Our group joined with hierarchs, clergy and faithful Orthodox Christians from different communities. At the conclusion of the March, a memorial service was held for the unborn having lost their lives through abortion...

The March is a definitive statement that each person is important from the very beginning of life. The March is a way to stand and speak in defense and for those yet without voice. Participating in the March stimulates personal reflection on the value of life and the societal treatment of life. [It] serves as a basis to think carefully about how the government, health-care facilities, and institutions view the unborn.

The March enables individuals to take a position in defense of life. [It] stands against violence. The need for healing certainly exists among those having chosen abortion and now regretting it... [It] is an important and valuable investment. ■

More Pro-Life Events

Annual Auction to be Held February 7

Centre County Citizens Concerned for Human Life, (CCHL) a local pro-life organization, will sponsor a fundraising auction and garage sale at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 7 at the Knights of Columbus Hall (850 Stratford Drive in State College). Doors will open at 9 a.m. Donations of new or like-new items are requested. Call 237-3213 or 466-1234 to donate items or for more information.

Regional Pro-Life Oratory Contest

The 2015 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Essay Contest is accepting entries through March 2, 2015. To win, participants must write a pro-life essay about abortion, euthanasia or stem cell research. There is a 500-word limit for grades 7-9 and a 750-word limit for grades 10-12. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finishers. For a full list of guidelines, email lifelines@paprolife.org.

Holy Trinity Calendar

All events take place at 119 South Sparks Street in State College, unless where noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 1 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Fast Free Week) Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parish Potluck, 12pm Great Vespers/Litiya/ Blessing of Candles, 7pm	2 THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am)	3	4 Vespers, 5:30pm (No Confessions)	5 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	6	7 Altar Society Meeting, 10am Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
8 Sunday of the Prodigal Son Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Jr. Orthodox Youth Association (gr. 5-8) Monthly Activity, 6pm	9	10 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave. Women's Bible Study: Becoming a Woman of Excellence, 7pm	11 Vespers, 5:30pm (No Confessions)	12 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	13	14 Memorial Saturday Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
15 Last Judgment (Meatfare) Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) All Parents' Meeting, 12pm Orthodox Youth Association (OYA) (gr. 9-12) Monthly Activity, 6pm	16 Young Adult Potluck, 6pm @ 4817 W. Whitehall Rd., Pennsylvania Furnace (Leathers' Home)	17 Matthew 25 Lenten Drive Organizational Meeting, 3:30pm	18 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	19 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Game Night, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	20 Dance Marathon (THON) Weekend (thru. Sun.) OCF Mid-Atlantic Regional Retreat departs, 5pm (returns Saturday, 6pm) @ Holy Trinity Church, Pittsburgh	21 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
22 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare) Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Blini Luncheon, 12pm Forgiveness Vespers, 7pm	23 LENT BEGINS Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 7pm	24 First and Second Finding of the Head of St. John Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 7pm	25 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	26 Penn State OCF: "Stay to Pray" Dinner at Holy Trinity, 6pm Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 7pm	27 St. Raphael of Brooklyn Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	28 St. Theodore of Tyre Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 5:15pm Great Vespers/Conf., 6pm
March 1 Sunday of Orthodoxy Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Children's Icon Procession, 11:45am Parish Potluck, 12pm	2	3 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am Women's Bible Study: Becoming a Woman of Excellence, 7pm	4 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	5 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center Adult Study Group: <i>The Epistle to Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven</i> , 7pm	6 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	7 Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
8 St. Gregory Palamas Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Jr. Orthodox Youth Association (gr. 5-8) Monthly Activity, 6pm	9	10 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.	11 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	12 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	13 Confessions, 5pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	14 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

Chapel Calendar

All events take place at the Middlecreek Area Community Center (MACC), 67 Elm St. in Beaver Springs., unless where noted.

Sunday February 1 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am	Sunday 15 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Bible Study on Thess./ Sunday School, 12:45pm @ 350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown (Smith Home)
Monday 2 THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE (Hours/Divine Liturgy, 7:40am @ Holy Trinity)	Tuesday 20 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs (Lyter Home)
Tuesday 3 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs (Lyter Home)	Sunday 22 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Bible Study on Thess./ Sunday School, 12:45pm @ 350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown (Smith Home)
Sunday 8 Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Fellowship Hour/Building Plan Presentation with Jennifer McClure, 12pm @ 350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown (Smith Home)	Tuesday 27 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs (Lyter Home)
Tuesday 10 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs (Lyter Home)	Saturday 28 Vespers, 6pm
Saturday 14 Vespers, 6pm	Sunday March 1 Confessions/Hours, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Bible Study on Thess./ Sunday School, 12:45pm @ 350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown (Smith Home)

February 2015