

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH



Shingles are installed upon the roof of the new chapel on July 20. To see a full gallery of construction photos, visit holyspirit-oca.org.

Chapel Tops Out; Trinity House Opening Dates Set

July featured significant progress in the parish’s construction projects. The most notable was the topping out of the Chapel on July 17, as the church’s cupola was raised and set into place. The following week, shingling was completed and windows were installed. This month, work continues on the building’s interior. The nascent community in Snyder County prayerfully awaits a late-Fall opening.

The Trinity House Parish and Campus Ministry Center underwent major renovations last month, en route to its grand opening, officially set for Sunday, October 4 (to coincide with the beginning of Penn State’s Homecoming week). Abp. Melchisedek will officiate at the ceremony. Mark your calendars!

In the meantime, parents and students are cordially invited for a preview tour of the Atty Student Center on Saturday, August 22, PSU’s Fall Arrival Day. Refreshments will be served from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. For info., visit OCF’s Facebook page: facebook.com/psuocf.

The parish also looks forward to its first gatherings at Trinity House. Weekly Adult Study Group classes are slated to begin Tuesday, September 8 at 7 p.m. Starting September 10 at 10 a.m., and continuing on alternating Thursdays through November 9, the Women’s Book Study kicks off its look at *The Pearl of Great Price: The Life of Mother Maria Skobtsova*. Both will take place in the center’s conference room.

Synod Accepts HTOC’s Resolution; Delegates Pass Reform Measures

by Fr. John Reeves

Deacon Alexander and I represented Holy Trinity at the 18th All-American Council in Atlanta, July 19-24. Several actions of note were taken, each affecting the life of the parishes in the Orthodox Church in America (OCA).

The first was the revision of the Normal Statute, which is the chief constitutional document governing our national church. Although amended since its adoption in 1971, the Statute had not undergone a thorough revision in the intervening years. Besides edits for clarity and style, primary changes included the addition of several articles that better reflect the life of an autocephalous Church—monastism and stavropegial institutions such as seminaries, for example—and the replacement of religious language,

(continued, see ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL, page 3)

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
August 9	P. Doiy and C. Strauss*	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	S. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team B
August 16	A. Petrick and L. Radomsky	M. Thompson and J. Houser	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	Team A
August 23	B. & N. Troyan and A. Stickle	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	G. Cartell and R. Patel	Team B
August 30	Russian Ladies	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	H. Torbic and M. Stevens	Team A
September 6	A.T. Pelikan and J. Miranda	M. Thompson and J. Houser	M. Fedkin and G. Cartell	Team B
September 13	H. Torbic and M. Thompson	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team A
* Denotes Fast				
Team A: A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, S. Olynyk, D. Stickle, J. Torbic, E. Scisler and J. Scisler				
Team B: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, B. Olynyk, S. Patel, and L. Torbic				
Captains: D. Torbic and Jo. Stickle				

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

August Puts Everything in Perspective

The Dormition Fast begins August 1, focusing our gaze not only on the falling asleep of the Mother of God but of our own mortality as well. She is pictured in the icon of her repose, her body resting in death but her soul embraced by her Son.



and John, so that they might have a glimpse of his Kingdom before encountering his death and consequent triumph over death.

So too, we glimpse the Kingdom, en route to the Dormition. It puts it all back into perspective for us: why Christ has come, who He is, and what He has prepared for all who love Him and await his Second Coming, it is his eternal embrace, as

we see Him embrace his Most Holy Mother at her Dormition.

Have a blessed Fast.

From the Rector's Desk,
Fr. John

This image is exactly the reverse of virtually every other icon we have of her. In them, she embraces Christ as mother to Child. Now, he embraces her and receives her into his heavenly Kingdom.

Virtually half-way through the fast, we will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. Historically, it occurred "en route" to Jerusalem, to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. It was the literal mountain-top experience Christ gave Peter, James,

Ministries Enjoy Time Together This July

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: About twenty members of the Women's Ministry meet at Leslyn Radomsky's home for an enjoyable and delightful summer picnic; those participating in the Orthodox Youth Association challenge each other to a round of mini-golf; the Altar Servers join Ike in cheering on the State College Spikes baseball team; and students from Holy Trinity's Church School travel to DelGrosso's Amusement Park and brave its many thrill rides.



Support Our Back to School Drive

Each year, Holy Trinity provides school supplies for dozens of children in need through our *Matthew 25* ministry. Monetary donations are especially appreciated this month since we directly purchase most of the items for the children this sponsor. Those interested in giving their time as well are invited to attend an organizational meeting on Monday, August 10 at 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Volunteers Needed for Homeless

Housing Transitions is a non-profit organization that provides housing, food, clothes and various other services to the people in need in Centre County. On every second Tuesday of the month, individuals or families from our church visit the residents, cook, and eat dinner with them. If you are single, it is a great experience to share family-like time with the residents. If you have a family, it is also a great learning experience for the kids. We are currently seeking volunteers to cover the months of August and until December of this year. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer please contact Samar Al Maalouf (samaralmaalouf@gmail.com).

Women: Help Pick a Patron Saint

Ladies, please help the Women's Ministry choose a patron Saint. There are forms in the narthex to fill out and return by August 16. We are looking for a holy example who fits the mission and purpose of the Women's Ministry (which are on the form) to intercede on our behalf. If you have any other questions, see Mka. Linda or Laura Rush.

OCF Picks New Officers, Advisor

The Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship elected Evan Bittner, Timothy Daly, John Petrolias, and Eleni Lioudis, to serve on its Executive Committee this academic year. Dr. Michael Legaspi will be the group's new faculty advisor, succeeding Dr. Melody Thompson, who faithfully served for many years.

Letter to the Parish

On behalf of the students of the Penn State Harrisburg OCF, I want to thank you for your generous gift of \$100. This gift is an encouragement to us as we go through the process of establishing ourselves on campus, and providing a community of mutual support for our Orthodox students and those seeking the Lord Jesus Christ!

— FR. STEPHEN VERNAK
Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Harrisburg, PA

SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS: news@holytrinity-oca.org.

■ NEWS & NOTES

Nittany Oil Program to Benefit Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity has enrolled in the 2015-16 Nittany Oil Company Church Rebate Program, which will offset the cost of heating the church this winter. For every parishioner that purchases their heating fuels from Nittany Oil from September 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016, Nittany Oil will donate four cents per gallon towards the church's fueling costs.

If you have an existing account with Nittany Oil Company, all you need to do is contact David Nice to set up your account in the program. If you do not have an account, he will assist you in getting your account set up. Mr. Nice can be contacted by phone (814-280-0933) or email (davidn@nittanyoil.com).

For the Record

BIRTH

➤ **Jacob Daniel Leathers, son of Rdr. Samuel and Megan Leathers, born July 1, measuring 7 lbs. 3 oz., and 21 ¼ inches long. Many years!**

FAREWELL

➤ **Jennifer McClure moved to Birmingham, Ala. last month to begin a teaching position at Samford University. Goodbye and many years!**

Speaking Truth is Not Hate

by Fr. Barnabas Powell

As distinct from the *eros* we Americans prefer and idolize, *philadelphia* is devoid of sexual or romantic interest. It's the brotherly affection between siblings, who support each other, and hold each other accountable.

With the recent court ruling on marriage, philadelphia becomes more risky for people of faith to offer their brothers and sisters who struggle with sexual passions (whether same or opposite sex—it doesn't really matter). Our culture now considers this struggle pointless, and encouragement to resist *eros* is the epitome of ignorance, even hate.

If the Gospel presents a vision of health and wholeness, and departures from that vision cannot heal, then brotherly love compels the faithful to proclaim that healing, rather than the pseudo-love that merely affirms others' right to do what they think will make them happy.

But the courts (and increasingly, society) embrace a new anthropology that says we're defined by our passions—and denying them is suicide. This should concern people of faith at least as much as any questions of religious liberty: what a soul-destroying impact the redefinition of marriage, and this sexualized vision of humanity, will have on all who once were encouraged to resist what we're now told to embrace—what we're told defines us as persons.

Since opposing passions now means opposing the person who has them (or who is them), any voice of loving encouragement is now shouted down as hate. We've witnessed not only the redefinition of marriage, but the redefinition of love itself. In the new morality, love means affirming, accepting and celebrating others' pursuit of sexual fulfillment. Counseling sobriety makes one hateful, which is all the more reason to remember why we speak: not out of hate, but out of brotherly love that won't allow

C.S. Lewis on Marriage

Marriage is based on Christ's words that a man and wife are to be regarded as a single organism—for that is what the words "one flesh" would be in modern English—[just as] a lock and its key are one mechanism, or that a violin and a bow are one musical instrument. The inventor of the human machine was telling us that its two halves, the male and the female, were made to be combined together in pairs, not simply on the sexual level, but totally combined... There is anything wrong about sexual pleasure, any more than about the pleasure of eating. [However,] you must not isolate that pleasure and try to get it by itself, any more than you ought to try to get the pleasures of taste without swallowing and digesting, by chewing things and spitting them out again.

calling darkness light, because our and our brothers' healing is on the line.

St. Silouan of Athos said, "Our brother is our life." That means taking responsibility for him, rather than simply affirming him on his treacherous path. What those struggling with passions need as they stand on the edge of a precipice, isn't the encouragement to jump...

Followers of the Gospel owe it to them and others to brave the accusations of hate (which come from the same source who told Eve that God was holding out on her, by not giving her the fruit in Paradise) — and encourage a path to wholeness.

Such encouragement will be increasingly risky, as our culture claims liberation from the outmoded concept of sin, yet becomes more miserable the freer it gets. May Christians not be silenced by fear of ridicule, nor let false accusations of hate prevent them from speaking the truth about *eros* in **philadelphia**. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was featured in The Pueblo Chieftain newspaper and is reprinted here with the author's permission.

Fulfilling the Church's Apostolic Mission

(from pg. 1)

in order to make the Church understandable to civil governments and courts. Several changes will have to be made in our parish bylaws to bring Holy Trinity into conformity with this revision.

Additionally, deacons have now been granted representation at future Councils. Prior, they had to be elected as members of the laity in order to participate. The vote was 97% in favor for the revised Statute.

Second was the adoption of proportional giving as the means for supporting the central administration, effectively abolishing the per capita assessment. Vote was by a similar margin in favor.

Highlights from the Metropolitan's Opening Address

"We cannot begin to speak about how to expand the mission, the theme of our Council this year, if we do not begin with the reality of martyrdom, which is the only authentic foundation for our Apostolic work. This Apostolic work is not just a theory, just as martyrdom is not just a theory or principle. They are realities of our Church life that challenge us where we are. And we are here, in North America, called to be apostles and martyrs for Christ."

"I would like to state very firmly and clearly that the Orthodox Church must continue to proclaim what she has always taught: that marriage is the union between one man and one woman and the Orthodox Church in

America can in no way deviate from this teaching, and as we have not in the past, so we will never in the future, bless or recognize same-sex unions in any sacramental way. At the same time, the Church must fulfill her apostolic work, which is to bring humanity closer to Christ God, our Creator, Redeemer and Lord, through the process of healing of every human person by means of the grace of the Holy Spirit and our own small efforts..."

"[We hold sacred our vision] for a local Orthodox Church in North America and we are able to articulate this more firmly than any other jurisdiction on this continent. Not only this, but while living in brotherly good relations with all other Orthodox, we have had the blessing of being able to live the reality of that local Orthodox Church and to strive to be all things to all people, so that even a few might be saved."

"[Despite our diverse opinions,] we should never forget that every one of us is a member of the body of Christ. And this gives me hope, hope in the beauty, goodness and kindness of humanity, hope in the potential of our Church to be a true witness to the divine beauty, goodness and kindness that is offered to all of mankind, hope that, by God's providence, I stand before you as the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, and that I am able to hear your concerns and hopes, your complaints and praises, your frustration and your encouragement. And having heard them, I can be assured of your love and your prayers, as you have my love and my prayers. I ask you to join me in this ascetical journey..."

—Metropolitan Tikhon

EDITOR'S NOTE: Links to His Beatitude's full address—in audio, video, and text formats—can be found on oca.org.

AAC Resolution Voting

- *On the motion to adopt the revised OCA Statute: Passed*—473 in favor; 15 against.
- *On the motion to fund the work of the Synodal Chancery for the next triennium using a varying proportion of each territorial diocese's income: Passed*—451 in favor; 14 against; 17 abstentions.
- *On the motion to express solidarity and support for Christians suffering in the Middle East: Passed* unanimously by acclamation.

Finally, Dr. Jennifer McClure spoke before the delegates to introduce our parish's resolution to the Holy Synod on spiritual abuse and give reasons as to the need of its passage. It was accepted by the Synod without a vote.

A full report on the AAC will be presented at the Parish Council meeting on August 20. ■

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
August 2 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	3	4 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am-1pm	5 Great Vespers with Litiya and the Blessing of Fruit, 7pm	6 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) R.O.C.K. "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ Orchard Park	7	8 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
9 St. Herman of Alaska Festal Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Parent's Meeting, 12:15pm-12:45pm	10 Matthew 25 Back-to- School Drive Planning Meeting, 4:30pm	11 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.	12 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	13 St. Tikhon of Zadonsk Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (R.O.C.K.) "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ Kaywood Park, Boalsburg	14	15 DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
16 Translation of the "Not-made- by-Hands" Icon of our Lord Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	17	18	19 Vespers, 5:30pm (No Confessions)	20 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (R.O.C.K.) "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ Sunset Park, College Heights Parish Council Meeting, 6pm	21 Baptism of Jacob Daniel Leathers, 5:30pm	22 Men's Breakfast, 9am Atty Student Center Preview for Students and Parents, 2pm-5pm @ Trinity House Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers/Conf., 6pm Confessions
23 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	24	25 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am-1pm	26 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Penn State OCF at Involvement Fair, all day @ HUB-Robeson Center	27 R.O.C.K. "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ Governor's Park, Bellefonte Penn State OCF Welcome Back Dinner, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Ctr.	28 Great Vespers, 7pm	29 Beheading of St. John the Forerunner Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
30 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) BBQ and Molieben, 4pm @ Spring Creek Park, Houserville (Rides depart from HUB at 3:45pm.)	31	September 1 St. Simeon the Stylite (Church New Year)	2 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	3 R.O.C.K. "Thursdays in the Park," 10am-12pm @ Bernel Road Park Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center	4	5 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
September 6 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	7 Great Vespers with Litiya, 7pm	8 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS Divine Liturgy, 8am Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House Adult Study Group, 7pm	9 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	10 R.O.C.K. "Thursdays in the Park," 10am @ Sunset Pk. Women's Book Study, 10am @ Trinity House Penn State OCF: Nittany Mtn. Hike (Rides depart from HUB at 3:45pm.)	11	12 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.

<p>Sunday 2</p> <p>Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study: "The Tools of Spiritual Warfare," 12:30pm @ Smith Home (350 Old Orchard Dr., Beavertown)</p>	<p>Sunday 16</p> <p>Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study, 12:30pm @ Smith Home</p>
<p>Tuesday 4</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home (845 Center Ave., Beaver Springs)</p>	<p>Tuesday 18</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home</p>
<p>Thursday 6</p> <p>TRANSFIGURATION (Hours/Divine Liturgy @ Holy Trinity, 7:40am)</p>	<p>Sunday 23</p> <p>Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study, 12:30pm @ Smith Home</p>
<p>Sunday 9</p> <p>Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study, 12:30pm @ Smith Home</p>	<p>Tuesday 25</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home</p>
<p>Tuesday 11</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home</p>	<p>Sunday 30</p> <p>Hours, 9:40am Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 10am Book Study, 12:30pm @ Smith Home</p>
<p>Saturday 15</p> <p>DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS (Hours/Divine Liturgy @ Holy Trinity, 8:40am) Vespers, 6pm</p>	<p>Tuesday 1</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ Lyter Home</p>
	<p>Saturday 5</p> <p>Vespers, 6pm</p>

August 2015