

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Chapel Fulfillment: Father David Ordained; Weekly Liturgies Begin



■ PARISH COUNCIL Electronic Giving Coming this Month

The work of Holy Trinity and the Chapel is entirely supported by sacrificial gifts from members of its parish family. To make it easier for you to give, the Council approved e-Tithing through Fulton Bank at its May meeting. Beginning this month, at no cost to you, your donations can be withdrawn directly from your checking account or debit card through a convenient portal on holytrinity-oca.org. With just a few clicks, you can set up an automatic one-time or recurring payment, ideal for busy families and summer travelers. Visit the website today to enroll. ■

by Fr. John Reeves

THINGS WERE QUITE BUSY in the life of the parish this past month. First and foremost was the ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Deacon David Smith Pentecost weekend (June 18), by His Eminence, Archbishop Melchizedek at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Beavertown. To say that the chapel was packed is putting it mildly. Nearly 100 souls attended and the line for Holy Communion extended through the narthex onto the porch. Concelebrating clergy were Fr. Mark Meholick, DuBois and Dean of the Eastern Deanery; Fr. Daniel Kovalak, Williamsport; and Fr. James Chuta, Lewisburg; as well as Deacons Alexander and Mark.

(continued, see FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK, page 2)

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
July 3	J. Fryncko and J. Cadman**	S. Petrengill and J. Petrengill	G. Cartell and M. Fedkin	Team A
July 10	A. Legaspi and K. Cartell**	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	R. Patel and S. Stevens	Team B
July 17	D. Van Duin and B. Roberts**	A. Swisher and D. Swisher	B. Haupt and H. Torbic	Team A
July 24	R. Schrauf and D. Patel	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	G. Cartell and S. Stevens	Team B
July 31	A. Swisher and C. Swisher*	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	M. Fedkin and R. Patel	Team A
August 7	L. Georgiou and B. Troyan*	M. Thompson and J. Houser	S. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team B

* Denotes Fast Team A: A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, D. Stikkel, J. Torbic, E. Swisher and J. Swisher. Captains: D. Torbic and S. Oleyznik
** Denotes switch/change Team B: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, B. Oleyznik, S. Patel, and L. Torbic.

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

A Busy June, In and Beyond the Parish

Father David's ordination was the first Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated at the Chapel. And now because of his ordination, the Chapel's faithful, many of whom live more than an hour away from the next-nearest Orthodox church, will be able to attend the Divine Liturgy each Sunday.

After the ordination, nearly all who attended the service packed the Beavertown Fire Hall for a delicious banquet in celebration. The Chapel presented Fr. David with his priest's cross while parishioners from Holy Trinity gifted Father with his first set of vestments. (In fact, donors were so generous that he will be able to purchase a second set, too). An additional offering was also taken that day as well. Funds raised were designated for Fr. David's discretionary fund, a total of \$500.

Many thanks to all who prayed, gave, and attended to make this day possible, especially the Choir and the Men's Chorus who sang the responses.

Abp. Melchisedek remained for our entire Pentecost celebration, including the parish picnic, marking the second time he has been able to celebrate our patronal feast with us. This time we were able to provide hospitality for him in the guest suite at Trinity House, which he seemed to enjoy very much.

Not to be overshadowed by all the festal events was another great Vacation Bible School, directed by Deacon Mark. The curriculum helped them understand scriptural references to sheep and to shepherds. Kiddoes were treated to a field trip to Owen's Farm, a working sheep farm. They learned first-hand about sheep, their personalities and their needs. A highlight for many was the four-legged assistant shepherd, Hannah the Border collie. Again, thanks to all the teachers and parents who work hard to make our VBS special every year.

Finally, the Great and Holy Council of the autocephalous Orthodox Churches was held in Crete, June 17-26. It was not an Orthodox version of Vatican II, the Roman Catholic council held from 1962-65. The primates and their delegations reaffirmed Church teaching and practice on a variety of issues from marriage and the family to mission and fasting. Ten of the fourteen universally recognized autocephalous Churches attended. Unfortunately absent were Antioch, Bulgaria, Georgia, and Russia.

July is always a quieter time in the parish. The liturgical schedule is lighter and many go on vacation. Relax and enjoy your time with family and friends. ■

From the Rector's Desk,
Fr. John

More Headlines from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

MEALS FOR MANY

The Chapel will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the local food bank or to local families in need. Non-perishable foods such as canned and boxed goods will be collected as an outreach of our Chapel ministry. A basket has been placed in the Chapel narthex to collect these items.

ANNUAL PICNIC TO BE HELD ON GROUNDS

The Chapel's annual picnic will be held Sunday, July 10, starting at 1 p.m. Our intent is to invite the immediate surrounding community to "Come and See" and to share with us. We cordially you everyone to share with us. Meat and beverage will be provided; we ask that you bring a side dish to share, along with some seating. Any questions? Contact Fr. David at (570) 658-7403.

So, what do they do, these Philistines who are making up their religion as they go along? That's right. They make little golden hemorrhoids and put them in the Ark of the Covenant.

You see, it finally comes down to something like this. If you're really on your own in religion, if you

have no choice but to make it up as you go along, you end up (so to speak) offering the Almighty God little golden images of your hemorrhoids.

What a commentary on man-made religion! ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Fr. Patrick Reardon is a well-known author and homilist. His article appears courtesy of the preachersinstitute.com.

Letter to the Editor

To the beloved brethren of Holy Trinity and the Chapel:

With joy we have celebrated together a truly momentous event. I am deeply humbled by your love and support over the years and I cannot begin to express in words that which is truly inexpressible! Thank you so much for blessing me with my first set of priestly vestments! I will certainly cherish them as I do this great calling to the Priesthood. It is to you that I say, "Axios!" May God, our God, make me worthy of your love and support, and I ask for your prayers.



Please know that I love you all in Christ.

— FR. DAVID SMITH
Associate Rector, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
Priest-in-Charge, Chapel of the Holy Spirit

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

Sunday School Baseball Outing

All Sunday School students, current and prospective, are invited to a free night at the ballpark on Sunday, July 31 as the Spikes take on the West Virginia Black Bears. Parents and their children will meet at the gate at 5:40 p.m. and enter Lubrano Park together. Please let Deacon Mark (dnmark@holytrinity-oca.org) know how many in your group will be attending by July 21.

Join the Grounds Crew

Bruce Haupt is seeking people interested in joining the Holy Trinity lawn cutting rotation. Volunteers should expect their turn once every 4-6 weeks. Email grounds@holytrinity-oca.org for information.

Calling Holy Trinity Movers

Let's help the Patels move to their new home a few miles down the road! If you would like to join the existing Holy Trinity moving crew, see Deacon Alex and plan to arrive at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 9 at 1694 Sheffield Ct. in State College. Thank you.

Young Adult Potluck & Campfire

The Young Adult Fellowship will meet at the Leathers' home (4817 W. Whitehall Rd.) on July 11 at 6pm. The main dish, drinks, and S'mores ingredients will be provided. Bring a side or dessert to share!

Feast Days this Month

Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah

VESPERS: Tues., July 19, 7pm

LITURGY: Wed., July 20, 8am

(A.T. Pelikan, Prospora)



Women's Ministry Update

To keep you informed about the many activities planned for the ladies of the parish for the second of 2016, and to gather input on the particulars, the Women's Ministry will host an information session in the Trinity House Conference Room following liturgy on Sunday, July 17. Come with your ideas!

Then on Thursday, July 21 from 6-8 p.m., there will be a picnic for all the ladies of the parish at the Rectory (562 Lancashire Ln. Park Forest). Bring a main or side dish; drinks and desserts will be provided. For information, call Mka. Linda at (814) 777-6870.

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

Don't Invent Your Own Worship!

by Fr. Patrick
Henry Reardon

"We have seen the True Light," we sing each Sunday in the Orthodox Church. At the very least, this means that we don't have to guess about God anymore. We know Him as he is revealed to us in the Son and in the Holy Spirit. This definitive revelation of the Living God is, just to start with, supposed to "take the guesswork" out of religion.

Without this revelation, there certainly is a great deal of guessing in religion, a lot of going with hunches, a considerable amount of hit and miss, with no end of hedging one's bets. Left to their own religious devices, men must "wing it." They are obliged to "give it their best shot," which is usually just a shot in the dark. Apart from the "True Light" human beings are forced to make it up as they go along.

God being merciful, the religious guesswork is occasionally successful. One of my favorite examples of this is from the Bible. First Samuel 5 describes how the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant from the Israelites... [T]he Philistines are standing around congratulating themselves on a great steal, but genuine trouble is about to start. They have gotten hold of more than they can handle, and some historians believe that *1 Samuel 5* is the world's oldest description of bubonic plague. Maybe so. It is certainly a plague of some sort, signifying that they have somehow gotten on the wrong side of "somebody upstairs."

The Bible goes on to describe, on one of its funniest pages, how they deal with the problem. They just first give back the Ark, just as the Greeks had to give back the girl to her father. But how do you go about giving back an Ark? Just what is the protocol?

They noticed during the plague the rather large number of mice that were running around at the time. Philistine medicine was not advanced to the

Basics of Orthodox Christian Spirituality

1. **Belief in Jesus Christ** as our Lord, God and Savior, with **His Father** and the **Holy Spirit**.
2. **Prayer**—Morning, noon, or night; develop a rule.
3. **Weekly Worship**—Sunday Liturgy is essential.
4. **Love of Neighbor**—Everyone is your neighbor.
5. **Almsgiving**—Sacrificial giving to the needy.
6. **Fasting**—Weekly (Wednesday and Friday); Sunday morning for Communion; Seasonal.
7. **Sacramental Participation**—Confession, Holy Communion regularly.
8. **Reading of Scripture**—Daily (get the readings from the *This Week* email); memorize, study.
9. **Education**—Study groups, catechism, retreats, seminars (active learning).
10. **Support the Mission of the Church**—Stewardship of time, talents, and treasure.
11. **Ethical/Moral Praxis and Purity**—including thoughts, words, and actions (active living).

— Aidan Keller

state of knowing that fleas and ticks, living in the fur of rodents, carry the disease. No, they only observed that there was an uncommon number of mice around during the plague, and they surmised that the two things could be related. So, hey, give it a shot. Make some little golden mice and put them in the Ark of the Covenant. Who knows? It might work.

The Philistines also observed something else. They got boils of some kind on their bodies during the plague. The King James translates the word as hemorrhoids "in their secret parts" which would certainly go a long way, I submit, to explaining [Psalm 77:66]: *"He hit His enemies in the rear."* — Somehow this interpretation has always appealed to me.

Kids Learn What It Means to be a Sheep for Jesus

Last month, many children aged 4-14 enjoyed an exciting week of Vacation Bible School (VBS). Throughout the week there were services, crafts, and activities that illuminated animal imagery found in the Bible, especially Psalm 23. By week's end, participants had interacted with sheep at a farm, as well as the shepherd of our Archdiocese, Archbishop Melchisedek. Indeed, all turned out to be amazing sheep for our Lord.



View more photos and daily recaps from VBS at [holytrinity-oca.org!](http://holytrinity-oca.org/)

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
26 All Saints Sunday Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	27	28 Great Vespers, 7pm	29 Holy Apostles Ss. Peter and Paul Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	30 “Thursdays in the Park” Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Sunset Park</i> Sunday School Fun Day, 12:30pm @ <i>DelGrosso’s Amusement Park, Tipton</i>	July 1	2 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
3 All Saints of America Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Crowning of Samar Al Maalouf and Konstantin Getman, 3pm Reception for Parishioners, 4pm	4 <i>Independence Day</i> (Trinity House and Parish Offices Closed)	5 Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i>	6 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	7 “Thursdays in the Park” Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Spring Creek Park</i>	8	9 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
10 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	11 Young Adult Potluck/ Campfire/Game Night, 6pm @ <i>Leathers’ Home</i> (4817 W. Whitehall Rd., Penna. Furnace)	12 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Centre House,</i> 217 E. Nittany Ave.	13 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	14 “Thursdays in the Park” Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Holmes-Foster Park</i>	15 St. Vladimir, Enlightener of the Russian Lands	16 Men’s Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
17 Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Women’s Ministry “Input and Discussion Meeting” 12:15pm- @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i>	18	19 Great Vespers, 7pm	20 Holy Glorious Prophet Elijah Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	21 “Thursdays in the Park” Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Tusseyview Park</i> Women’s Ministry Picnic, 6pm @ <i>Rectory</i> (562 Lancashire Ln, Park Forest)	22	23 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
24 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	25	26 St. Jacob, Enlightener of Alaska	27 Great-martyr and Healer Panteleimon Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	28 “Thursdays in the Park” Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Sunset Park</i>	29	30 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
31 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Sunday School Spikes Baseball Outing, 5:40pm @ <i>Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, University Park</i>	August 1 Procession of the Life-giving Cross	2 Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i>	3 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	4 “Thursdays in the Park” Playgroup, 10am-12pm @ <i>Spring Creek Park</i>	5 Great Vespers/Litiya/ Blessing of Fruit, 7pm	6 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

Chapel Calendar

All events take place at the new building (145 North Kern Street) in Beavertown, unless where noted.

Saturday 2 Great Vespers, 6pm (now on every first, third, and fifth Saturday)	Tuesday 19 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Sunday 3 All Saints of America Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am	Sunday 24 Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
Tuesday 5 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Monday 25 Monthly Women’s “Hats and Blankets for Babies” Knitting/Crocheting Outreach, 6:30pm
Sunday 10 Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Annual Chapel Picnic, 1pm @ <i>Chapel Grounds,</i> <i>Beavertown</i>	Tuesday 26 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Tuesday 12 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Saturday 30 Great Vespers, 6pm
Saturday 16 Great Vespers, 6pm	Sunday 31 Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
Sunday 17 Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am	Tuesday August 2 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
	Saturday 6 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (Hours/Divine Liturgy @ <i>Holy Trinity, 7:40am</i>) Great Vespers, 6pm

July 2016