Schedules

October 30 October 2 October 23 ctober 9 FALL POTLUCK COFFEE HOUR A. Swisher and C. Swisher Georgiou and B. Schrauf and D. Legaspi and D. Van Duin Cadman and **Team A**: A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, D. Stickles, J. Torbic, E. Swisher and J. Swisher. **Team B**: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, B. Oleynik, S. Patel, and L. Torb. В. Roberts** . Patel & N. Troyan M. Thompson and J. Houser A. Swisher and D. Swisher **GREETERS** J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin Roberts Pettengill and S. and E. 75. M. Stevens and G. Cattell G. Cattell and H. Torbic* Patel and S. Haupt and Torbic and B. Haupt . Stevens

. Stevens

SERVERS
Team B
Team A

Denotes switch/change

Team B: J. Cadman,

Captains:
D. Torbic and S.

. Oleynik

Team B Team A Team B STATE COLLEGE, PA PERMIT NO. 289 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

State College, PA 16801 119 S. Sparks Street

October 2016 VOL. 21 NO. 10 holytrinity-oca.org RISAGION

The Healing of Body and Soul



Father John is surrounded by more than two dozen clergy during the final prayer of a holy unction service held for him on September 7. The anointing service features seven gospel readings and provides both physical and spiritual healing using oil blessed by the Holy Spirit.

AST MONTH FATHER JOHN was surrounded by the love of his bishop, 22 of his brother priests, and several members of his parish family at the service of Holy Unction for the healing of his body and soul. A day later, he received the test results from his oncologist: there is no evidence that his cancer spread beyond the lymph nodes that were surgically removed. Accordingly, Father began a year of adjuvant (preventative) therapy using interferon to suppress the formation of any new tumors.

Father gives glory to God and thanks everyone who has been praying for him. He continues to covet your prayers as he recovers from the neck surgery and undergoes chemotherapy. This month, he is resting and monitoring his response to treatment with the goal of returning to a limited schedule soon. Parish clergy will update you on his progress after divine services and online at holytrinity-oca.org.

Get to Know the Priests Serving This Month

To keep up the momentum of a strong September (State College recorded its highest non-Pascha/Palm Sunday attendance ever last month), parish clergy and supply priests are maintaining a full liturgical schedule at both Holy Trinity and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Another first: at least five different priests will serve the Sunday Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity in October. Because these men are doing so much to assist our church while Fr. John is away, you may enjoy an opportunity now to get to know them a little better. You already know Fr. David Smith, priest-incharge at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit (serving in State College on October 16); as for the others, here's a little about them.

(continued, see LEARN ABOUT OUR CLERGY, last page)

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

My Gratitude: Words Do Not Suffice

Words do not suffice to express my gratitude for all the prayers and best wishes sent my way since my recent illness, not to mention the many gifts of food brought by the house.

I especially never felt more love in my life than from the outpouring displayed at the Unction Service on September 7. Over 20 clergy joined with the Archbishop and countless parishioners and friends to pray and anoint me with oil unto healing of soul and body.

I appreciate everyone's understanding why I am not up for visits during this first, intensive round of chemotherapy. It is a daily infusion of interferon as adjuvant therapy to stimulate my immune system to resist any future bouts of cancer.

This phase lasts for a total of 4 weeks.

This is of course a very difficult time in my life and for my family. Thank you for tempering your desire to know more, with our need to attend to the daily round of treatments and exams.

I am also deeply grateful for the ongoing ministry of Fr. David, Deacon Alex, and Deacon Mark, as well as all the other clergy who've brought me Holy Communion every Sunday.

Pray now for my continued healing.

From the Rector's Desk,

Fr. John

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

The Prayers of a Parent by Dn. Mark Oleynik

"All your children will be taught by the LORD, and they will have much peace." — Isaiah 54:13

Never underestimate the ponderings of a parent. Never underestimate the power that comes when a parent pleads with God on behalf of a child. Who knows how many prayers are being answered right now because of the faithful ponderings of a parent ten or twenty years ago? God listens to thoughtful parents.

Praying for our children is a noble task. If what we are doing in this fast-paced society is taking us away from prayer time or our children, we're doing too much. There is nothing more special, more precious than time that a parent spends struggling and wondering with God on behalf of a child. For what do we pray?

We pray that as our children grow they will have a clear conscience, act honorably, stay pure in their thoughts and deeds, are motivated to do their best in all things, and choose their friends well. We pray for their spouses that they may marry someday. We also pray that they may discern God's will and know the depth of God's love for them.

It is the responsibility of parents to pray for all these things above and more each day. And it is the parish's responsibility to pray for our parents and help them in the upbringing of our children by offering regular lessons in the scriptures, teachings, and traditions of the Church. This help comes through the Sunday School, which meets weekly and has special events throughout the year, and the Orthodox Youth Association (OYA), which meets on the first Sunday evening of every month (6 p.m.). Thank you for your support.

Here then is the main difference between cremation and the historic burial practice of the Church—the latter alone does justice to the personhood of the departed and to the sanctity of human flesh.

This is not to judge or condemn anyone who has allowed the cremation of loved ones, for we all do the best we can, and times of bereavement and grief are not the best times to relearn and rethink. But though the Church does not judge, it does offer a better way.

We do the most honor to our beloved departed when we avoid cremation, when we commit them reverently in the ground. We need not burn the bodies of those we love. Instead, we place their bodies in the good earth, and their souls in the hands of the good Lord. ■

Learn About Our Guest Clergy (continued from pg. 1)

Fr. John Steffaro (Oct. 2)

Father was born in Elizabeth New Jersey. He and Mka. Carol were married in 1968. Just a year later, Fr. John was ordained and



graduated from St. Vladimir's Seminary. His first parish was Holy Apostles Church in Garfield, NJ. From there he transferred to our Archdiocese, serving at St. Nicholas Church in Weirton and then St. John the Baptist Church in Campbell, Ohio for many years. He retired in June 2010 to Dubois. You probably know him by his favorite saying, "Let us love one another as Jesus loves us," but his motto truly is, "Have stole will travel"! He always enjoys praying with our community and looks forward to each time he comes to visit.

Fr. George Johnson (Oct. 9)

Fr. George is a native of our Archdiocese, and has been the pastor of St. John the Baptist in Conemaugh/Johnstown for many

years. He is quite involved in our deanery and diocesan activities, and has served as lecturer in the Archdiocesan Late Vocations program, and as an adjunct professor at Christ the Savior Seminary, among other things. Penn State runs in their family. You may remember Father's and Mka. Faith's daughter Marina, who graduated from here in 2013 (Father is also graduate of Penn State.) Their son, Ben, is no stranger either. He has served here many times and will be with us on the 9th.

Fr. James Weremedic (Oct. 23)

Fr. James is a spiritual son of Holy Trinity (while here in the '90s he directed the radiology department at MNMC). After



encouragement from seveal priests including Fr. Dan Ressetar and our Fr. John, he, Mka. Lisa, his son Sdn. James, and daughter Victoria went to St. Tikhon's Seminary, graduating in 2001. His first assignment was rector of Holy Annunciation Church in Berwick for 7 years. From there, Father returned to healthcare, serving as a chaplain at Geisenger, specializing in prenatal care. After founding several OCF chapters, and assignments in Lebanon, PA and Wilmington, he now serves at St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem.

Fr. James Chuta (Oct. 30)

Fr. James is a Pennsylvania native and a graduate of Penn State (*B.A. in Art*). He has masters degrees from The University of



Scranton (M.A. in Theology) and St. Thikon's (M.Div.). A jack of all trades, he served four years in the Navy working on jet engines, worked in construction as a foreman, owned his own homebuilding and remodeling business, and paints icons in his spare time. He is employed as the Director of the Chaplaincy Program at SCI Mahanoy and as Chaplain for the OCF at Bucknell University. He and Mka. Nancy live in Lewisburg and love coming to Holy Trinity.

ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

Concerning Cremation by Fr. Lawrence Farley

The burning of books is objectionable on principle... The reason that book-burning is objectionable is that consigning something to the flames means not just its destruction, but its renunciation, and asserts its total lack of value. And pretty much all books have value even the books the contents of which we disagree with. We may disagree with the ideas some books contain, but the idea of a book itself—that is, offering ideas from one person to another—is valuable and good, for all books involve sharing and dialogue, and all human dialogue has value. In the same way that burning books is bad, burning people is bad also. Put another way, cremation is not a part of our Christian Tradition...

Modern secular culture denies this. It says that people—human persons—are to be sharply differentiated from their bodies, so that cremation burns not the person, but the body of the person. The person—the real person—is identified with the soul, and this soul resides in the body in the same sort of way that a letter resides in an envelope. In the case of letters and envelopes, the envelope has no real and lasting function apart from the safe delivery of the letter, and after the letter is received, the envelope may be thrown away. After all, it is the letter which is of value, and it is the letter which we keep. In the same way, modern secularism holds that the soul is the real person, and the body only the temporary container or vehicle for the soul. When the soul departs from the body at death, the body has no more lasting value than the envelope has after the letter is removed. Both may be thrown away, or burned.

Over against this, the Church asserts that the body is not simply the container of the soul but, along with the soul, also partakes of the beauty and image of God. It is therefore not so much the case that we have bodies, but that we are bodies—as well as being souls and spirits.

The body is made by God, and shares His image not of course that God has two eyes and a nose and ears, but that the body's beauty and grace have their source in God. And not only does the body partake of God's grace in its creation, but also in its redemption, for it is the body which is baptized and chrismated, the body which receives the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, the body which will one day be raised to new immortal life at the final resurrection. In a word, the human body is holy, and is central to our total salvation. Like all holy things, it must be treated reverently...

There are other problems as well with the present practice of cremation... Flesh burns, and hair burns, and fat burns, if the fire is hot enough... But bones do not burn, however hot the fire may be. What then is done with them after cremation? They are put through a grinder, and ground down to tiny bits. I am told that cleaning such grinders is not easy to do, and the bits from one body can get mixed the bits from another. Some have told me that talcum powder is sometimes added to make the bits look more like ashes. This of course is an attempt to hide from the truth that bones do not burn.

There are other problems as well. I have been present when the ashes were deposited in their designated place in burial grounds. Prayers were said for the departed, referring to the dead in personal terms, as a "who". [But after the funeral] the departed had now become not a "who", but a "what" for the worker [from the crematorium] said, "Where would you like to put it?" Note: not "him" or "her", but "it". The worker was not heartless, and I'm sure meant no disrespect. He was only doing his job, and stating the obvious: cremation had turned a person into a thing, something able to be carried in a plastic bag under one's arm and stuffed into a small funerary cylinder. Cremation meant depersonalization.

Witness the Diocese's Centennial

His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek invites you to join him in celebrating the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania's Centennial by attending a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 12 at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park. It will be followed by a celebratory banquet at the nearby Holy Trinity Church Hall on 985 Providence Blvd. with His Eminence Archbishop Michael of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey as the keynote speaker. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, and several other hierarchs and dignitaries will also be present. The liturgy is open to all, but tickets to the banquet are required (\$50 for adults, \$30 for students aged 11-18, \$20 for children aged 10 and under); see or email (dnalex@holytrinity-oca.org) Dn. Alexander for details.

Two Women's Events This Month

On Thursday, October 6 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., the women of the church will be heading to The Greek Restaurant, 102 E. Clinton Ave. for their annual "Women's Night Out." To RSVP call Susan Pettengill at 231-1252 or email women@holytrinity-oca.org. Then on Saturday, October 29 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, the women will gather for their annual "Coffee and Tea." Mark your calendars now; more details will be forthcoming in the bulletin and This Week email (if you don't get the emails, sign up at holytrinity-oca.org by clicking the link in the upper-left hand corner.)

Thanksqiving = Thanks + Giving

We know that Thanksgiving is a time to say "Thanks" to God for His many mercies. However, Christ has made it clear that an important way to say thanks is by giving: giving to Him through those who are in need. The Matthew 25 ministry will soon begin its annual Thanksgiving food drive to help needy families in our community. A sign-up sheet listing the items to be collected will be placed in the narthex on Sunday, October 23; collection will begin the following Sunday and continue through Nov. 20. Monetary donations (to cover the cost of the turkeys) are also appreciated.

■ CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

Registration Opens for Retreats, Conferences, and Spring Break Trips

The Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) Mid-Atlantic Region Fall Retreat will take place October 7 and 8 at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Lancaster. The theme of the retreat is "Mystical Beauty: Exploring the Liturgical Arts." Former Penn State OCF president Fr. Hector Firoglanis, newly assigned rector of the host parish, will speak. Students can register at ocf.net. Registration is also open online for the annual Christmas and Spring Break college conferences and service trips. Our local chapter will hold its own retreat this month (October 14-15) in the woods of north-central Pennsylvania. Details can be found at facebook.com/psuocf.

Penn State Chapter President Featured on **National OCF Website**

Tim Daly, President of our Penn State OCF chapter, (B.S., B.A., M.S., Human Resources '18) was recently featured on the national OCF website, ocf.net. He tells how he got involved here and holds up the parish's outreach as a model. His favorite memory? Last year's Pascha cookout for 20 at Trinity House! In addition to his work with our OCF. Tim also conducted a national survey of the organization's 400 chapters in order to improve programming. Results will be forthcoming.

Class on Orthodoxy to be Offered at Penn State

Penn State will offer a course covering the history of Orthodox Christianity next semester from 10:10 to 11:00 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in 214 Thomas Building. It will likely be the last such course here as the instructor, Dr. Fr. Anthony Roeber, will be retiring on June 30 after teaching for 20 years at Penn State and 44 years overall. Many years, Father!

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
Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Parents Session, 12pm @ Trinity House Lower Level Combined OYA (Orthodox Youth Association, gr. 9-12) and Jr. OYA (gr. 5-8) Monthly Outing, 6pm	3 (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)	4 Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm	Vespers, 5:30pm Akathist to St. Nektarios of Pentapolis, 6:15pm	St. Innocent of Alaska Annual Women's Night Out, 6pm @ The Greek, 102 E. Clinton Ave. Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	7 Mid-Atlantic OCF Regional Retreat: "Mystical Beauty: Exploring the Liturgical Arts" @ Annunciation Church, Lancaster (departs 5pm from HTOC, returns Sat.)	6 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
9 St. Tikhon, Enlightener of North America Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	10 (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)	11 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave	Vespers, 5:30pm Akathist to the Most-Holy Theotokos, Healer of Cancer, 6:15pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	Penn State OCF: Annual Fall Cabin Retreat @ Renovo, PA (departs 5pm from HTOC, returns Saturday, 5pm)	Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	17 (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)	18 Women's Book Study, 10am @ Trinity House Conference Room	Vespers, 5:30pm Akathist to St. Nektarios of Pentapolis, 6:15pm	Penn State OCF: Dinner and Prayer Night, 6pm @ Pasquerilla Center (Eisenhower Chapel and Room 124)	21 Sunday School Trip: "Sampson" Performance @ Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre, (departs 9:30am from HTOC, returns 8:30pm)	Memorial Saturday— St. Demetrius Annual Altar Servers' Retreat, 9am-11am (No Divine Liturgy.) Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
Holy Apostle James Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Forty-Day Memorial for Tamara Takarchek Reese, 11:45am Parents Session, 12:15pm @ Trinity House Lower Level	Penn State Student Night, 7pm-10pm @ Atty Student Lounge, Trinity House	25 Women's Book Study, 10am @ Trinity House Conference Room	26 St. Demetrios the Myrrhgusher Vespers, 5:30pm Akathist to the Most-Holy Theotokos, Healer of Cancer, 6:15pm	Penn State OCF: Mount Nittany Hike (departs 6pm from Pasquerilla Lobby, dinner out follows)	Penn State OCF: THON Canning Trip (departs 5pm from HTOC, returns Sunday, 4pm)	Women's Coffee and Tea, 10am-12pm @ TBD Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	31 St. John (Kochurov) of Chicago (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)	November 1 Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm	Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	Penn State OCF: "Stump the Priest" Night, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	Penn State OCF: Father's First Friday Film Series: Zorba the Greek, 7pm @ Atty Student Lounge, Trinity House	Archdiocesan Assembly (all day) @ New Salem (Our delegation to depart 6:30am from HTOC. No Vespers at HTOC or CHS.)
Sunday School, 9am EST Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Parents Session, 12pm EST @ Trinity House Lower Level Combined OYA (Orthodox Youth Association, gr. 9-12) and Jr. OYA (gr. 5-8) Monthly Outing, 6pm EST	7 Great Vespers, 7pm (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 8pm-11pm)	Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave	Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 6pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center	11	Archdiocesan Centennial Celebration, 10am @ St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park (banquet to follow) Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 1	Sunday 23			
Great Vespers, 6pm	Holy Apostle James			
Confessions	Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)			
Sunday 2				
Divine Liturgy, 10am	Monday 24			
(Hours, 9:40am)	Monthly Women's "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Knitting/Crocheting			
Tuesday 4	Outreach, 6:30pm			
Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm				
	Tuesday 25			
Sunday 9	Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm			
St. Tikhon, Enlightener of				
North America Divine Liturgy, 10am	Saturday 29			
(Hours, 9:40am)	Great Vespers, 6pm			
	Confessions			
Tuesday 11				
Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Sunday 30			
	Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)			
Saturday 15	(110013, 7.400111)			
Vespers, 6:30pm	- C			
	Saturday Nov. 1			
Sunday 16	Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm			
Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council	Saturday 5			
Obednitsa with Holy	Archdiocesan Assembly			
Communion, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	(all day) @ New Salem			
(110ars, 7.40am)	(Our delegation to stay at Trinity House overnight			
Tuesday 18	and depart at 6:30am from			
•	HTOC. No Vespers at CHS.)			
Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm				

October 2016