

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Mother Loves in All Ways

by Dn. Mark Oleynik

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA (celebrated the two calendar weeks after Pascha—do the Orthodox math!) we celebrate the Myrrh-bearing women, which is a highlight of the Paschal season.

This is not to suggest that the other post-Paschal days are not equally joyous. Rather the Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women is especially festive because of the special attention the Church gives to women that provide love, joy, and comfort at precisely the right time and in precisely the best way. We particularly see this exemplified in the Theotokos—the special love of a mother.

From the time the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear the Savior of all of us, the Theotokos has been the role model of mothers. All of us can relate to the faith and love of a mother's heart when reading Luke 2:19, "But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." That was the truly the faith of a mother.

At the opposite end of her earthly life with her son are the words, "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother..." (John 19:25). While some would forget or scoff or deny or turn away, His mother would not. She had a faith that believed when others doubted. She had an insight that meant foresight. When we lose faith, her faith is still alive. We see despair; she sees hope.

(continued, see A MOTHER'S LOVE, page 6)



In thanksgiving for our Sunday School students and teachers on the eve of our 2016-17 commencement, the parish will celebrate the Akathist to the Mother of God, Nurturer of Children on Saturday, May 20 following Great Vespers. Bring your family.

Waiting for Pentecost

by Mary Lanser

“HEAR MY CRY O GOD, *listen to my prayer from the ends of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint. Lead me to a rock that is higher than I for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.*” (Psalm 60:1-3)

“Lead me to a rock that is higher than I”—What an odd little petition. To paraphrase: *Get me out of here, O Lord! Lead me to a cave in the mountains so that I may stand on the ledge and listen for Your voice. Set me on a rock in the middle of a rushing river swollen by floodwaters tumbling fast and dangerous, or on a startling desert-stone formation to take my feet up away from burning sands. What are we to make of this?*

(continued, see FROM PASCHA TO PENTECOST, last page)

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

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Schedules

| | COFFEE HOUR | GREETERS | TELLERS | SERVERS |
|---------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| May 7 | A. Swisher and B. Roberts | L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky | M. Fedkin and H. Torbic | Team A |
| May 14 | <i>High School Class for Mother's Day</i> | J. Cadman and R. Cadman | B. Haupt and M. Stevens | Team B |
| May 21 | A. Perlick and C. Strauss | B. Roberts and E. Miranda | G. Cartell and S. Stevens | Team A |
| May 28 | P. Doty and L. Radomsky | J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin | R. Patel and H. Torbic | Team B |
| June 4 | PENTECOST (<i>Bagels & Coffee</i>) | M. Thompson and J. Houser | M. Fedkin and B. Haupt | Team A |
| June 11 | Russian Ladies | J. Petrengill and S. Petrengill | G. Cartell and M. Stevens | Team B |

* Denotes Fast

** Denotes scotch/change

Team A: A. Evans, D. Stickle, J. Torbic, C. Schrauf, E. Swisher, and J. Swisher.
Team B: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, B. Oleynik, S. Patel, and L. Torbic.

Captains:
D. Torbic and S. Oleynik

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

The radiant day of the Resurrection of Christ has dawned and our Paschal celebrations have bathed us in the glorious light of renewal and regeneration. Today is a completely new day, a day which began when the divine brilliance pierced and dispelled the darkness of Hades and ended with the remarkable explosion which took place when Eternal Life crushed death and corruption.

On this new and bright day, our faith is renewed along with that of the Myrrhbearing Women standing by the open tomb; our hope is confirmed along with that of the Apostles on the road to Emmaus; and our love is strengthened along with that of the Mother of God who remained ever at the side of her Son. Even if we count ourselves among the numbers of those who previously denied or deserted the crucified Lord, such hesitation or shame cannot withstand the force of the new life of this day.

We know too well that there is no human being who lives and yet does not sin, and the consequences of the Fall are reflected in a world overshadowed by war, terrorism, and human misery. Nevertheless, this dark reality loses its hold on us today because we have tasted of the new drink from the fountain of incorruption which fills us with spiritual courage and divine hope.

This courage and hope are not simply fleeting emotions of the moment but rather an experience of the life of

Feast Days this Month

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

VESPERS: Wed., May 24, 7pm
(I. Andrzhiievsky, Litiya Br.)
(A. Petrick, Icon)

LITURGY: Thu., May 25, 8am
(P. Doty, Prosphora)



PENTECOST

VESPERS: Sat., June 3, 6pm
(M. Haupt, Litiya Bread)
(P. Doty, Icon)

LITURGY: Sun., June 4, 10am



the risen Lord Who fills our hearts with such joy that every day and every moment of our existence we can sing paschal hymns such as this:

*How divine!
How beloved!
How sweet is Thy voice, O Christ!
For Thou hast faithfully promised to be with us
To the end of the world.
Having this as our anchor of hope,
We the faithful rejoice!*

With my blessing and love in the Risen Lord,

+TIKHON, Archbishop of Washington,
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Death is Conquered!

Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this,

did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished... It took a Body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.

– St. John Chrysostom

From Pascha to Pentecost (continued from page 1)

Sometimes the images that we conjure when we call upon God to rescue us in a hurry are amusing. We are like a child with its arms raised begging to be picked up so to see what's going on in a moment of confusion, or to be rescued from some overwhelming contact with the world at ground level, or simply to seek a restful moment on a strong shoulder. Sometimes we only need a moment to catch our breath. Other times we long for and seek something more enduring.

Luke opens the Book of Acts telling us about the post-Resurrection Christ on earth: *"To them (the Apostles) He presented himself living, after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking of the Kingdom of God."* (Acts 1:3) The language of the Christ presenting Himself "living" to the Apostles after his Resurrection indicates that after His Passion our Lord was exercising the agency of His divinity here on earth, making manifest the Incarnation in a way that the world had never experienced before. This was indeed the same Christ who was presented to us by his holy virgin mother at his Nativity, and the same Christ presented to us in his robe of royal purple and crown of thorns by Pontius Pilate as he said to the crowd: "Behold the man!"

The Risen Christ was and remains the Son of the Living God, second person of the Holy Trinity, but there had been profound changes at the time of His Resurrection. Here in the time between the Resurrection and Pentecost the Apostles met Jesus the Christ who had been raised in power and in glory and whose body was no longer subject in any way to the corruption, weakness, and mortality of fallen human nature. He was truly and fully the New Adam, and in this glorified and corporeal emblem of eternal life, He demonstrated to the Apostles, and to all of us, what we can also anticipate if we are, as the Son was, willing to accept gracefully the death that is granted to us by the Father, so that we may have life eternal.

Jesus not only speaks of the Kingdom, but He, "living," presents it to us voluntarily and bodily. There is no separating the Kingdom from God, for they are one as the soul and body are one and we are made in the flesh to be seers and partakers of the Kingdom which He presents to us in the flesh...

While we wait for the day of the Holy Spirit, we encounter many important liturgical moments. Each Sunday has a rich theological meaning that takes us to the Feast of Pentecost... (EDITOR'S NOTE: *View this article on holytrinity-oca.org to see the author's full description of each of the Sundays of Pascha.*)

The focus of the readings from Acts is on Paul's pastoral care of the flock and of the importance of teaching right doctrine. Here we learn the importance of the Holy Spirit in securing the testimony of the Life of Christ and our lives in Christ: *"...now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there... For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God, therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to shepherd the church of God which He purchased by His own blood."* (Acts 20:22-28)

In this way, we are prepared to address the various themes presented to us at Pentecost. We begin to see the need for the illumination of the Holy Spirit so that we have the power to be and become what Christ has asked of us here, to be witnesses to the Truth, and to go and make disciples. We begin to see that for us to do these things the Holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Church has been bequeathed to us as the sure path to salvation for ourselves and for all whose lives we manage to reach out and touch. We come to realize that as the Body of Christ, the Church here on earth is indeed the Rock that is higher than I.

Blessed journey into the Feast! ■

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

A Mother Loves in All Ways (continued from page 1)

If you were asked to paint a picture of your mom or write a description of her, what would you say?

Was she a musician? Many would say no. Perhaps she could play a bit on the piano or sing in the choir but that was all. But stop, who was it who first sang to you? Who taught you to sing, “Holy God” or “Our Father” or some other church song in your youth? It was your mother.

Was your mother a pilot? Again, most would say no. But who charted the rocks in life that you were to avoid, and set forth the clear waters that you were to sail? Your mother. Did any pilot ever do better than that for you?

You probably did not think that your mom was an educator. She may have been a school teacher or taught a Sunday school class, but you would not speak of her as a professor. Yet, it was she who taught you the language you speak. She was your principal teacher for the first years of your life. Your mother taught you more in the first years of your life than any other teacher in your lifetime.

Don't smile when I suggest to that your mother was a doctor! She was both doctor and nurse to you. She soothed your pain, healed your bruises, cooled your fever, gave you your first medicine, and coaxed you to sleep.

Your mother has been a preacher of the Gospel to you. She taught you the name of Jesus, how to pray, and from her lips you heard first of the love of God.

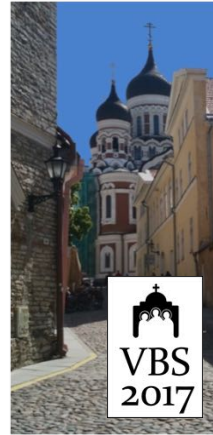
One of the most interesting things about Solomon is the honor he paid his mother. He was twenty years old when he came to the throne. He had a throne made for his mother at his own right hand, and when she came into his presence he arose to meet her, and bowed before her.

Vacation Bible School Preview: *Living in an Orthodox World*

Imagine a world where we lived together each day as the Church. It is not enough to say that we are Orthodox Christians. We have to live like Orthodox Christians. We must make our world an “Orthodox world.”

Participants will learn that the Church's most important task is to worship God—the Holy Trinity. VBS will be filled with prayer, games, and music, and will be conducted June 12-16 from 5:30pm to 8pm. It is open to all students from age 4 to rising seventh graders. (Older students and parents are needed to be the helping hands and leaders.)

Registration is open online at holyltrinity-oca.org. Please enroll your child early!



You can make your mother glad by obedience and service, truthfulness, and honor. Your mother will be happy when she knows that you walk with confidence and without fear, sit at ease with your own conscience, and sleep in the fellowship and love of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus looked down from the cross upon His mother, heartbroken at His suffering, He saw more than a weeping woman. He saw an imperishable type of love. May you see the face of God in your mother. He put His love, tenderness, grace, purity, and sweetness into your mother, who revealed Him to you. Her love is such that He may not have had to come to you in any other way to bless you.

(Give you mom a hug today—she will welcome it with gratitude. If you cannot give her a hug pray fervently daily that our Lord may have mercy on her soul.) ■

Family Fun Night Returns;

The Chapel of the Holy Spirit will host another “Family Fun Night” at the MACC (Elm St. in Beaver Springs), on Sunday, May 7 from 5-7 p.m. The outreach event keeps the popular community center open for an extra two hours at a time convenient for friends and families. Games, activities, and a rousing match of kickball are always part of the festivities. Come one, come all!

Greeters to Hold Working Session

Using the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States' recently released report that studied American parishes, the Greeters Ministry will hold a two-hour session on Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. to review current practices, eliminate obstacles to growth, and propose solutions that will lead us in becoming a more welcoming parish. There is much to glean from the report, which was co-authored by our OCA's very own Frs. Eric Tosi and John Parker, but of particular interest to us is a section within it called “Eight Good Practices of Welcoming First-Time Visitors and Inquirers About the Faith.” If you are interested in joining the Greeter Ministry, or contribute to this discussion, you are welcome to join them in the Trinity House Conference Room.

Young Adults Continue Potlucks

The Young Adult Fellowship will host an evening of fire, food, and games at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 15 at 4817 W. Whitehall Rd. in Pennsylvania Furnace. For details, email youngadults@holyltrinity-oca.org.

‘New’ to the Bookstore this Month

Are you an Orthodox Christian who wonders how to explain to your Baptist grandmother, your Buddhist neighbor, or the Jehovah's Witness at your door how your faith differs from theirs? The new edition of the bestselling *Orthodoxy & Heterodoxy* is fully revised, significantly expanded, and available in the Parish Bookstore located in the lower level of Holy Trinity. Major new features include a full chapter on Pentecostalism and the Charismatic movements and two new appendices. Buy your copy this week.



OCF Mission to the Jersey Shore

Last month, a dozen students from the Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship travelled to New Jersey to serve meals at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission, a ministry that serves the poor and homeless according to Christ's commandments. ■

For the Record

BAPTISM

- **Shan (Thomas) Kuang**, who became a catechumen at Holy Trinity but moved in May 2015, was baptized April 8 at St. Stephen the Protomartyr Church in Orlando. **Many years!**

ELECTION

- **Timothy Daly, Michael Mavrides, Christian Bowser, and Christina Sartalis** were elected Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship officers for 2017-18. **Eleni Lioudis** was appointed as “Service Chair” to round out the Executive Board.

GRADUATIONS

- **Christopher Doty** (Info. Science & Technology), **Katie Carpenter** (Vocal Performance/Music Ed.), and **Amelia Sisko** (Early Childhood Ed.), graduated this month from Penn State. **Congratulations!**

ORDINATION

- **Dn. Matthew Fuhrman** (PSU '06) was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by **Met. Tikhon** on March 12. **Axios!**

YOUR GENEROSITY

- *Matthew 25* (\$2,256.10) and the Sunday School's *Soup-er Sunday Dinner* (\$993) combined to raise \$3,249.10 for the **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry**. **Thank you!**

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 |
|---|--|--|--|--|--------|---|
| 30 Holy Myrrhbearing Women Apostle James, brother of St. John Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Parents Session, 12pm-12:30pm @ Trinity House Lower Level | May 1 (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm) | 2 (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm) | 3 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm) | 4 (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm) | 5 | 6 Great Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions) |
| 7 Sunday of the Paralytic St. Alexis Toth Sunday School, 9am (Locations vary; All classes begin in the Parish Hall.) Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) | 8 St. John the Theologian | 9 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ 217 E. Nittany Ave. | 10 Midfeast of Pentecost Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 6:30pm | 11 Ss. Cyril and Methodius | 12 | 13 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions |
| 14 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) | 15 Young Adult Campfire/ Potluck/Game Night, 6pm @ 4817 W. Whitehall Rd., Pennsylvania Furnace (Leathers' Home) | 16 Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm @ Trinity House | 17 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Greeters Ministry Working Session, 6:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room | 18 | 19 | 20 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm Akathist to the Mother of God, Nurturer of Children, 6:45pm (No Confessions) |
| 21 Sunday of the Blind Man Ss. Constantine & Helen Last Day of Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Combined OYA (Orthodox Youth Association, gr. 6-12) Outing, 6pm | 22 | 23 | 24 Leavetaking of Pascha Great Vespers with Litiya for Ascension, 7pm Confessions | 25 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy or Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 8am (Hours 7:40am) | 26 | 27 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions |
| 28 Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) | 29 | 30 | 31 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions | June 1 | 2 | 3 Memorial Saturday Altar Society Decoration for Pentecost, 4:30pm Great Vespers w/ Outdoor Litiya for Pentecost, 6pm (No Confessions) |
| 4 PENTECOST Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) "Kneeling" Vespers of Pentecost, 12pm Annual Parish Picnic/Patronal Feast 1pm-4pm @ Holmes-Foster Park | 5 Day of the Holy Spirit | 6 | 7 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions | 8 | 9 | 10 Archdiocesan Clergy/Lay Retreat: "Humility & Obedience", 10:30am- 2:30pm @ St. John Church, Monessen Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions |

Chapel Calendar

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

| | |
|---|--|
| Tuesday 2 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm | Sunday 21 Sunday of the Blind Man Ss. Constantine & Helen Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following Video Presentation & Study: <i>History of the Orthodox Church Part I</i> , 12:30pm @ 140 Old Orchard Dr. |
| Saturday 6 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions | Sunday 7 Sunday of the Paralytic St. Alexis Toth Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship & Study of Ch. 8 of <i>The Orthodox Faith— Spirituality</i> , following Chapel Family Fun Night, 5pm-7pm @ Middlecreek Area Community Center (67 Elm St., Beaver Sprgs.) |
| Tuesday 9 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm | Monday 22 Women's "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Knitting/Crocheting Outreach, 6:30pm |
| Sunday 14 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following | Tuesday 23 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm |
| Tuesday 16 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm | Sunday 28 Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following Video Presentation & Study: <i>History of the Orthodox Church Part I</i> , 12:30pm @ 140 Old Orchard Dr. |
| Saturday 20 Great Vespers, 6pm | Tuesday 30 Choir Rehearsal, TBD |
| | Saturday-Sunday 3-4 (All Services for Pentecost Weekend @ Holy Trinity) |

May 2017