

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

One Day at a Time This Year

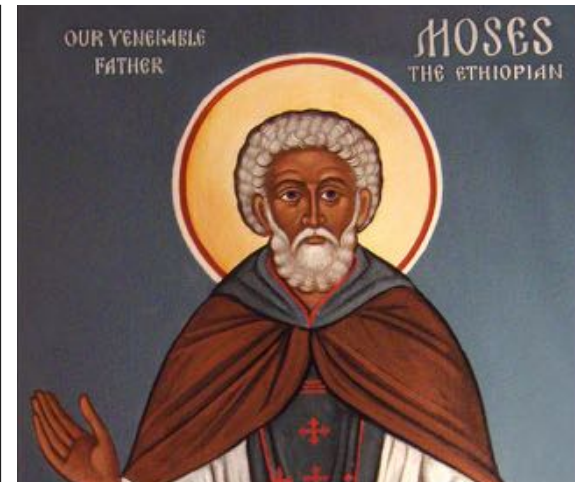
by Dn. Mark Oleynik

DO YOU MAKE A CHECKLIST of all the things you want accomplish each day? Have you ever noticed that by the end of the day the list seems to be longer than when you started? You're not alone—overdoing is a social epidemic from which people of all ages can suffer. It seems to me that “do not overdo” may be a healthy commandment which could be added to deal with our modern lifestyle.

Because we want to do so many things so quickly, much of our worry is due to our mistaken view of things. We look too far ahead. The magnitude of life daunts us. We add tomorrow's task to today's and then of course the burden becomes too heavy. If we think about it, we truly never have anything to do on any given day but just the bit of God's will for that day. But what part of daily lives do we dedicate to do God's will?

Starting with the understanding that we must take care of our families, perform the work that our employer expects, eat, take care of our home, and so forth, we are reminded that the “heavenly Father knows that you need all these things” (*Matthew 6:32*). These take up the abundance of the day and fill it with activity. But we also must consider the sin of omission in our daily lives. In *Matthew 25*, we read that at the Judgement Seat of Christ we will need to account for those things which we did *not* do. It is not the big things we may have done (and for which we have sought forgiveness) but rather the little things we did not do that leads to our peril.

(continued, see ONE DAY AT A TIME, next page)



Not only was St. Moses the Ethiopian (circa 4th century) allowed to live among other monks who were not black, he was made a priest and became the most respected spiritual fathers of all time.

The Sin of Racial Separation

by Fr. John Whiteford

THERE ARE DIFFERENT DEGREES of racial and ethnic prejudice. For many, it is very unconscious, but it is manifested by a desire to stick with those of your own kind, and to exclude others—at least in certain contexts. There are some, however, who are overtly racist and antisemitic, and have ideological reasons for their views. Such people are thankfully a tiny minority, but while we should not make too much of them and blow the problem out of all proportion, we should not make too little of them either. As with any sin, we have to be clear where the Church stands.

(continued, see THE SIN OF RACISM, page 5)

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

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
September 3	Russian Ladies	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	R. Patel and H. Torbic	Team B
September 10	A.T. Pelikan and J. Miranda	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and B. Haupt	Team A
September 17	J. Cadman and L. Radomsky**	A. Ashmore and E. Ashmore**	G. Cartell and M. Stevens	Team B
September 24	M. Leathers and A. Ashmore	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	R. Patel and S. Stevens	Team A
October 1	Reeves Family**	J. Fryncko and M. Fedkin	B. Haupt and H. Torbic	Team B
October 8	A. Legaspi and K. Cartell	J. & R. Cadman and J. Houser	G. Cartell and M. Fedkin	Team A

* Denotes Fast

** Denotes scotch change

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

Captains:
D. Torbic and S. Oleynik

■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

One Day at a Time This Year (continued from pg. 1)

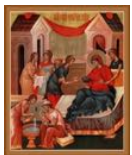
These could be the calls or visits of help we did not make, the words of cheer we did not speak, the letters we did not write, or the hungry we did not feed—all lost opportunities to do His will due to our inactivity.

Why do we leave so many things undone in our lives? Partly through sheer thoughtlessness, no doubt. Many omit the good deed not through want of heart but through want of thought. And yet it is just that very thoughtlessness which God calls for us to account. However, even more critical may be the emphasis we put on this life. We magnify the insignificants, pour out our energy on things which perish, and ignore the realities that alone count in the eternal scale. We spend our days “working our list” but not working God’s will—the things which call for our most constant care and deepest thought.

As we begin this ecclesiastical New Year, let’s make our resolution to “seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (*Matthew 6:33*). Put the emphasis in your daily life on His service and glory and leave nothing undone which the Lord commanded.

Happy New Year! ■

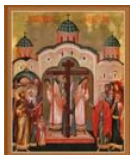
Holy Days this Month



NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

VESPERS: Thurs., Sept. 7, 7pm
(M. Haupt, Litiya Bread)
(K. Fedkin, Icon)

LITURGY: Fri., Sept. 8, 8am
(A.T. Pelikan, Prospora)



EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

VESPERS: Wed., Sept. 13, 7pm
(M. Haupt, Litiya Bread)
(L. Radomsky, Icon)

LITURGY: Thurs., Sept. 14, 8am
(A.T. Pelikan, Prospora)

Extra Scoops

New School Year

Sunday School begins on September 10. We look forward to sharing the teachings and Tradition of the Church to build a firm foundation for our students to lead a life in God’s image. Sunday School supplements and reinforces the work of our parents in the Christian formation of their children. Many thanks to our staff of dedicated teachers for their ministry each week throughout the year. (NOTE: Registration will be conducted online at holytrinity-oca.org. You are asked to enroll your child early for planning purposes.)

Sunday School Picnic

Our annual picnic is planned for September 17, 4:30 p.m., at Circleville Park. All families are encouraged to join in fellowship (and s’mores!).

“Youth Equipped to Serve” Mission Trip

For the middle/high school students, there is a YES (Youth Equipped to Serve) mission trip planned in Pittsburgh this September 29-October 1. Please mark your calendars, as the number of participants may be limited. More details will be provided via the bulletin and website once registration opens.

■ FROM THE RECTOR’S DESK

Glory to God for all Things!

It is hard to believe that this month marks the one-year anniversary of the Holy Unction service that we celebrated less than three weeks after cancerous melanomas were surgically removed from my neck. This month also marks the end of a year of intensive chemotherapy aimed at prolonging my life and ministry to the parish. In thanksgiving for the many blessings our Lord has poured out upon us, I invite you to attend a special Coffee Hour my family is hosting on Sunday, October 1. ■

— Fr. John

■ WOMEN’S MINISTRY

Ladies: Plan to Attend a Discussion and Input Session this September 17

The Women’s Ministry will conduct an informational session after liturgy on Sunday September 17 at noon. Grab a coffee and a bite to eat, and come to the conference room in Trinity House. In addition to previewing this year’s study, we will brainstorm potential activities that might be of spiritual benefit to us and the parish. Especially, what can we do to provide help and comfort to particular sub-groups of women: older women, young mothers, single parents, etc.? The goal is to not only leave the meeting having determined the best meeting times and dates for the study but also have a set of action plans for the new ideas and events.

As for the study, we plan to spend the year examining *The Theology of Illness* by Jean-Claude Larchet, a small but dense text exploring how Orthodox Christians find healing despite living in a fallen and broken world, subject to all of the suffering and evil that comes upon us as a result of sin. The goal of the study is not to seek a single cure for what ails us but to learn to live with what besets us. Moreover, we want to do it in a way that opens ourselves to all types of healing, impacting not only our lives but also the lives of those around us.

To allow as many women as possible to participate, we plan to meet in the daytime of one week, and then in the evening of the next week; with both sessions covering the same material. Finding the times that accommodate the most people is part of the September 17 meeting agenda.

In addition to the biweekly study, a dedicated section of the parish website will be established where we can post supplemental materials and links. There will also be a forum where we can further discuss the text. Sessions will continue into the Spring and will conclude with a Saturday day retreat similar to last year. ■

— Mary Lanser

Women’s Coffee and Tea Returns

After a hiatus last year, the annual Women’s Coffee and Tea sponsored by the matushki of the church returns next month! It takes place Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. to noon at Mka. Kelly Oleynik’s home (125 Wilderest Ln., in Port Matilda). Ladies, RSVP at any time by calling Mka. Jennifer at (814) 359-9078.

Calling Holy Trinity Movers

Let’s help the Ashmores move to their new home in Spruce Creek! If you would like to join the existing Holy Trinity moving crew, email Deacon Alexander at dnalex@holytrinity-oca.org and plan to arrive at 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 9 at 124 E. High St. in Bellefonte. Thank you.

For the Record

BIRTHS

- **Kieran Julian Chawla**, son of **Tarun and Erica Chawla**, born July 3, measuring 9 lbs. 9 oz., and 21 in. long. Many years!
- **Aletheia Irene Kerstetter**, daughter of **Evan and Elya Kerstetter**, born July 19, measuring 6 lbs. 9 oz., and 19 in. long. Many years!

BAPTISMS

- **Alexander Esakov**, baptized July 8 by Fr. John at Holy Trinity, sponsored by **Michail and Marina Sergeev**. Many years!
- **Kieran Chawla**, baptized August 12 at St. John the Baptist Church in Hawk Run, sponsored by **Matthew and Jill Finke**. Many years!

CATECUMEN

- **Todd Enders** was received into the Holy Catechumenate on July 2 at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. He will take the name **Elias**. Many years!

MARRIAGE

- **Anastasia Marie Roberts and John Curtis Neil II** were crowned in marriage at Holy Trinity on June 20, sponsored by **Natalie Roberts and Victor Baskevich**. Many years!

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

The Sin of Racial Separation *(continued from pg. 1)*

Even the most unabashed racists that claim to be Christians generally have enough sense to know that they cannot admit to hating anyone and still make such a claim with a straight face, because the Bible is very clear on the subject (*e.g., Lev. 19:17; Luke 6:27-28; 1 John 2:9-11*). However, they will often argue that while they do not hate other races, their love for their own race is what motivates them, and that they want what is best for them—and they see some form of racial separatism as a necessary part of their “love.” But is such a view consistent with Scripture and the teachings of the Church?

The Bible makes it clear that all men have a common origin in Adam and Eve, and so we are all part of the same human family... Racial separatists point to Ezra forbidding the Israelites from having foreign wives (*Ezra 10*), but the issue there was the fact that these women were pagans. However, Gentiles could become part of Israel, if they embraced the faith, and this often happened... [T]he Prophet Moses married an Ethiopian woman, for example. King David’s own grandmother Ruth was a Gentile who embraced the faith of Israel, and an entire book of the Bible is dedicated to telling her story, which shows her to have been a virtuous woman, whose conversion was completely sincere. And not only was she an ancestor of David, but also of Christ Himself. That same genealogy (of both David and Christ) also includes Rahab the Harlot, who was a Canaanite.

The modern idea of race is not even found in the Bible. You do find racial characteristics noted in some cases, and there certainly is an awareness that the human race is divided into nations which speak different languages, but this is a result of sin. At the Tower of Babel, God confused the languages of men and divided them, to limit the spread of sin (*Gen. 11*). But these divisions are undone in Christ: “Once, when He descended and confounded the tongues, the Most High divided the

nations; and when He divided the tongues of fire, He called all men into unity; and with one accord we glorify the All-Holy Spirit” (*Kontakion of Pentecost*). In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, slave or free—we are all one in Him (*Gal. 3:28*).

Had the early Church functioned on the basis that racial separatism was acceptable, the Jews would never have mingled with the Gentiles, and there probably wouldn’t be much of a Gentile Church to speak of. However, the record in Scripture and in history shows that this was not what was encouraged or even allowed by the Apostles... St. Paul constantly admonished both Jewish and Gentile believers to set aside their differences, and to have fellowship with one another. Within a couple of generations there ceased to be any distinction between Christians who came from these different backgrounds...

In 1872, [the Church] specifically condemned as a heresy “phyletism,” which was the idea that the Church should be divided along ethnic lines... Do we have national Churches? Yes and no: We have *local* Churches... [Although local Churches may exist solely within national boundaries and] have a predominant ethnic character, they do not exclude those outside of the ethnicity of the majority... all [ethnic groups] are welcome to commune and fellowship in any parish.

Aside from the fact that racial separatism is contrary to both Scripture and Tradition, it also has a very practical problem, which is that it has the effect of excluding people from the Church. Our great responsibility as Christians is to fulfill Christ’s great commission (*Matt. 28:19-20*)... How can we make disciples of every ethnic group, and teach them to observe all the things that Christ has commanded us if we separate ourselves from them because of their ethnicity? It is not possible. And because it is not possible, it is also not Christian. ■



Living in an Orthodox World

Last month, two dozen children enjoyed an exciting week of Vacation Bible School (VBS). Throughout the week there were services, crafts, and activities illuminating the daily service and prayer cycles of the Church—Hours, Vespers, Matins, and the Liturgy. By week’s end, participants learned that every hour of every day can be dedicated to Christ. Be sure to visit holytrinity-oca.org for daily recaps and a photo gallery. ■

■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Chapel Hosts Ice Cream Social

On August 20, the Chapel held a Community Ice Cream Social on the church lot! With 29 in attendance a great time was had by everyone. A craft table was also available for the kids to make a back-to-school pencil holders. The children (and some adults) enjoyed several relay games using balloons, ping pong balls, and lots of water. There was even a reporter from the Snyder County Times who interviewed participants for an article. Thank you to all who attended.

Parish Library Update

Check out the parish library in the Trinity House Conference Room. If you can’t find what you are looking for there, search the online database at holytrinity-oca.org/lending-library—many more books are available beyond what is found in Trinity House. If you have questions, suggestions for the library, or books you would like to donate, talk to or email Anna Stickles (librarian@holytrinity-oca.org). Here’s what’s new at the library this month:

- **Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain**—*a wonderfully complete life of one of the greatest and most revered Orthodox saints of our time. Even though he lived the monastic life in obscurity on the Holy Mountain of Athos in northern Greece, he became a shining light for thousands of faithful who flocked to see him. His life, miracles, and teachings continue to touch the hearts of people throughout the world to this day. All five books of the saint’s spiritual councils are also available to borrow.*
- **Full of Grace, Glory to Thee**—*As we have just finished celebrating her Dormition, you might be interested in these essays and reflections on the life and feasts of the Most Holy Theotokos.*
- **Journey to Heaven: Councils on the Particular Duties of Every Christian**—*A wonderful instruction book on the basics of how to live the Christian life. It is only from the soil of duty practiced faithfully with an eye toward pleasing God, that humility and love grow and bear fruit.*

Volunteers Needed for OYA/JrOYA

Are you a parent, student, or young adult interested in youth ministry? Holy Trinity is searching for volunteers to lead our parish’s high school (Orthodox Youth Association, OYA) and middle school (Jr. OYA) programs. One male and female is needed for each ministry. If you are interested, see ministry leaders Laura Rush and/or Deacon Alexander (a background check is required). OYA and Jr. OYA programming will resume once volunteers are identified.

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
27 Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) BBQ, 2pm-6pm @ Spring Creek Park, Houserville (Rides depart from HUB at 1:45pm.)	28 (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)	29 Beheading of St. John the Forerunner Penn State OCF Freshman Social, 8pm @ Berkey Creamery, University Park	30 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	31 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, Univ. Pk.	September 1 St. Simeon the Stylite (Church New Year)	2 Great Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
3 Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Sunday School Hurricane Harvey Charity Project, 12pm @ Church Parking Lot (weather permitting) or Trinity House Conference Room	4 <i>Labor Day</i> (Trinity House and Parish Offices Closed)	5	6 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	7 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Prayer Night at Holy Trinity, 6pm Great Vespers with Litiya, 7pm	8 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS Divine Liturgy or Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 8am (Hours, 7:40am)	9 Saturday Before the Elevation of the Cross Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
10 Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross First Day of Sunday School, 9am (Locations vary; <u>All classes begin in the Parish Hall.</u>) Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) S.S. Teacher Mtg., 12pm @ T.H. L.L.	11 Penn State Student Night, 7pm-11pm @ Atty Student Lounge, Trinity House	12 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.	13 Parish Council Meeting, 5:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room Great Vespers with Litiya, 7pm	14 ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Divine Liturgy or Obednitsa, 8am (Hours, 7:40am) Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	15	16 Baptism of Evan, Elya, and Aletheia Kerstetter, 10am @ CHS, Beavertown (No Men's Fellowship Breakfast this Month.) Great Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
17 Sunday After the Cross Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Women's Discussion and Input Meeting, 12pm @ T.H. Conf. Room Sunday School Family Picnic, 4:30pm @ Circleville Park—Pavilion 2	18 Young Adult Fellowship Potluck, Campfire, and Game Night, 5pm @ Leathers' Home, 4817 W. Whitehall Rd. (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)	19	20 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	21 Penn State OCF: "Stump the Priest" Night, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, Univ. Pk.	22 Penn State OCF: Annual Fall Cabin Retreat @ Renovo, PA (departs 5pm from HTOC, returns Saturday, 5pm)	23 Conception of St. John the Forerunner Great Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
24 New Martyrs of Alaska: Ss. Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	25 (Trinity House Open Late for Students, 7pm-11pm)	26	27 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 6:15pm @ Trinity House (T.H.) Conference Room	28 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, Univ. Pk.	29 Sunday School/ Youth Equipped to Serve (YES) Mission Trip (thru. 10/1) @ Pittsburgh, PA	30 Great Vespers, 6pm (No Confessions)
October 1 Protection of the Theotokos National College Student Sunday Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	2 Penn State Student Night, 7pm-11pm @ Atty Student Lounge, Trinity House	3	4 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	5 Penn State OCF: Mount Nittany Hike (departs 5pm from Pasquerilla Lobby, picnic dinner follows)	6 St. Innocent of Alaska	7 Annual Women's Coffee and Tea Social, 10am @ Mka. Kelly Oleynik's Home, 125 Wildernest Ln., Port Matilda (16870) 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 Confessions	Sunday 17 (cont.) Fellowship and Study of Fr. Thomas Hopko's <i>The Orthodox Faith—Doctrine & Scripture</i> , following
Sunday 3 Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship, following	Beaver Community Fair Outreach Begins (continues thru. Sept. 23)
Sunday 10 Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross	Tuesday 19 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship and Study of Fr. Thomas Hopko's <i>The Orthodox Faith—Doctrine & Scripture</i> , following	Saturday 23 Annual Selinsgrove Market Street Festival Outreach, 8am-4:30pm (All help greatly appreciated!) Great Vespers, 6pm
Tuesday 12 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Sunday 24 New Martyrs of Alaska Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Fellowship and Study of Fr. Thomas Hopko's <i>The Orthodox Faith—Doctrine & Scripture</i> , following
Saturday 16 Baptism and Chrismation of Evan, Elya, and Aletheia Kerstetter, 10am Celebratory Reception, following @ Rectory, 140 Old Orchard Rd., Beavertown Great Vespers, 6pm	Monday 25 Women's "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Outreach, 6:30pm
Sunday 17 Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	Tuesday 26 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
	Saturday 30 Great Vespers, 6pm

September 2017