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## THE TRISAGION

The Monthly Newsletter of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
119 S. Sparks Street, State College, PA 16801 814-231-2855  
www.holytrinity-oca.org April 2009 Volume 14, Number 4

### Christ is Risen!

*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.  
For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen  
asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.*

— St. John Chrysostom

**Inside:**

- » Complete Holy and Bright Week Schedule
- » *Matthew 25* Lenten Drive Update
- » Why Christians Celebrate Pascha on Different Dates

#### THIS JUST IN: HOLY SYNOD ELECTS BISHOP FOR W. PA!

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America announced this week the canonical election of Archimandrite Melchisedek (Thomas Pleska) as the next Bishop of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. The news was received with great joy throughout the Church since it confirmed the decisive nomination made by the Archdiocesan clergy and laity at an extraordinary council in Pittsburgh last November.

Bishop-elect Melchisedek is a 1986 graduate of St. Vladimir's Seminary and a former dogmatics instructor at St. Tikhon's Seminary. He served for more than a decade as a parish priest in eastern Pennsylvania and Connecticut before entering monastic life in 1998. From 1998 until 2003, he served as the Chaplain of Holy Cross Monastery in Thebes, Greece; and from 2003 until 2005 at the Monastery of St George the Great Martyr in Thessaly, Greece, where he was tonsured to the Great Schema and raised to the ranks of Archimandrite and Spiritual Father. Since 2005, he has been in residence at the Petrilo Monastery, in Petrilo Karditsa, Greece where he served as pneumatikos (confessor) and ecclesiarch.

A native of Canton, Ohio and “convert” to Orthodoxy in the early 1970s (his family was Orthodox but could only attend Pascha once a year because they lived far from a Orthodox parish), Bishop-elect Melchisedek fills the office left vacant since 2007 by the passing of Archbishop KYRILL. He plans to return to the United States this week and celebrate Holy Week and Pascha at in Pittsburgh. Be sure to check the Holy Trinity Web site or the weekly bulletin for more information on his upcoming consecration and installation.

### A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY AND GROWTH

Some five years ago, our community was in the midst of deciding whether to stay on Sparks Street or to move to another location further away from campus and town. Ultimately, we decided to stay, enlarge our facility, and grow the parish here. Before we made our decision however, we inquired about purchasing the house next to the church, at 123 South Sparks, which is owned by the American Cancer Society. Originally, it had been the parsonage for the former owners of our building. The additional space would have been advantageous both for parking and building. However, it was not for sale at the time.

Now, we have learned that the Cancer Society plans to sell at sometime during the next year. It has outgrown its space and needs to find larger facilities. The parish council believes that it is still in our best interest to attempt to buy it. A number of uses for it can be identified immediately:

- Sunday School rooms,
- additional office space,
- an expanded bookstore location,
- meeting spaces for parish and campus ministry functions,
- greatly increased storage, and
- permanent parking in the rear.

Of course, we have to look at a number of factors. The main ones are as follows.

➤ ***The asking price of the building.***

We won't know the amount until the Cancer Society officially lists the property for sale. Of course, we will have the building appraised ourselves before we would make an offer.

➤ ***Our current rate of financial stewardship.***

Our budget was developed right before the serious problems developed in the nation's economy. As our reports indicate, giving is down about 10% from last year. It's not going to be prudent to extend our obligations unless we are currently meeting our expenses. An immediate need will be to raise our giving back to the level we were experiencing last year in order to consider purchasing the house next door.

➤ ***Our willingness to incur additional debt, and how much.***

Our current mortgage balance is approximately \$238,000 with a monthly mortgage payment of \$1,600. (We have reduced our original

### MATTHEW 25 LENTEN DRIVE UPDATE

As Lent quickly comes to a end, so too is your chance to participate in one of this year's *Matthew 25* drives benefiting the hungry, sick, imprisoned, and other needy members of our immediate community. ***Fiction and nonfiction paperback books*** are still being collected for the prison library system. You can also still contribute ***any item of clothing (including shoes)*** for the St. Vincent DePaul Society of State College. For those who prefer hands-on service, *Matthew 25* and OCF are coordinating a ***second work day*** to beautify our church grounds during the afternoon of Lazarus Saturday (April 11). ***Monetary donations*** to support the ongoing work of *Matthew 25* are also very much appreciated.

For more information, please see Richard Nakles or Deacon Alexander.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who supported our Sunday School Fundraiser to benefit its special projects and field trips. This year, we sold nearly \$2,400 worth of Gertrude Hawks candy and received a \$30 donation, yielding an overall profit of at least \$1,200. In addition, a very special thank you goes out to Mrs. Jane Radomsky of Myrtle Beach for her \$1,006.50 in sales. Jane is the sister-in-law of Mark and Leslyn Radomsky, and a long time supporter of our fundraiser.

### TLC

In the conclusion of St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he asks the early Christians to help one another. Indeed, as Christians the action of helping and caring for one another is a value of the highest order. Here at Holy Trinity, the TLC ministry stands ready and on call to offer care and help to its members when the need arises.

As a ministry, TLC is unique. Unlike other ministries, it has no rehearsals or meetings. It doesn't require preparation of a lesson plan like Sunday School. Its "members"—its strength—includes the entire parish. We minister to each other. The care delivered takes many forms from the simple to the more ambitious. Sometimes a card is send, sometimes flowers (or both). Sometimes it's a visit to a shut-in, or a sick or injured parishioner. Last month, when the wife of a parishioner (also the chef of the house) fell ill, parish members stepped up and prepared as many meals that were needed.

That's a profile of TLC—a unique ministry. None of us are members in the traditional sense, yet all are part of the membership of TLC...helping and caring for each other in ways big and small-- when the need arises.

For more information, please contact Mark Radomsky at [mcr4@psu.edu](mailto:mcr4@psu.edu).

### HOLY WEEK AND BRIGHT WEEK SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 11	9am 6pm	Divine Liturgy for the Raising of Lazarus Great Vespers for Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 12	9am 7pm	Matins & Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday
Monday, April 13 — Wednesday, April 15	9am 7pm	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday-Thursday
Thursday, April 16	10am 7pm	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Matins of Holy Friday with the 12 Gospels
Friday, April 17	10am 4pm 7pm	Royal Hours Vespers of Holy Friday (Unnailing) Matins for Holy Saturday (Lamentations)
Saturday, April 18	10am 4pm 11:30pm	Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Baptisms Nocturns
Sunday, April 19	12am 4pm	Matins & Divine Liturgy for Holy Pascha Agape Vespers
Monday, April 20	10am	Divine Liturgy for Bright Monday
Monday, April 20 — Friday, April 24	5:30pm	Paschal Daily Vespers with the Catechetical Lectures of St. Cyril of Jerusalem

### FROM THE DESK OF DEACON ALEXANDER

Many people ask why Orthodox Christians often celebrate Easter on a different date than others. Some critics even argue that this practice only exacerbates the disunity evident throughout Western Christianity today.

Truth is: both East and West basically agree that Easter should be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon of Spring, even though the Church and astronomers calculate this occurrence somewhat differently. The reason for the discrepancy? It is not really an issue of “New” versus “Old” calendar, as many people believe: all Orthodox Christians worldwide—despite the calendar they use—celebrate the Feast on the same day. The answer is the Orthodox formula still requires Easter to occur *after* the Jewish celebration of Passover.

This traditional connection is not merely an historical coincidence maintained simply because the Crucifixion and Resurrection took place after Christ entered Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Instead, the victory of life over death accomplished by our Lord on the Cross is the very fulfillment of the first Passover. Just like the ancient Israelites who were saved from death by the blood of the Lamb, we too “*pass over*” from death to eternal life by putting on the One who took our human flesh and united it to His divinity. That is why Orthodox Christians prefer the term “*Pascha*” (the Greek word for Passover) to “Easter.”

payments from over \$2,200/month by paying down the balance of the loan and renegotiating our interest rate.)

- ***Our support of a secondary capital funds drive.***  
We’ve a balance of only \$17,000 outstanding in current building fund pledges. That’s all! We’ve been blessed that our capital funds drive was so generously subscribed. But how much in new pledges would we be willing and able to raise by means of a new capital funds drive to make this purchase possible?
- ***Our ability to rent the top floor as a student residence.***  
Allowing students (three at most) to rent rooms from the parish would offset the new mortgage by some \$1,200 per month. However this plan is contingent on the borough’s willingness to grant us a “student home” permit, and could negatively impact the building’s existing status as property tax exempt.

This gives us much to pray about over the next few months. And it gives us another opportunity to see God in action in our parish life. The key question is not to ask what should we do, but what does God want us to do?

Just remember, if we have the faith, God has the power. — Fr John

### OCF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO HOLD ANNUAL RETREAT

The OCF Alumni Association will be hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion Retreat at Holy Trinity the weekend of May 1-3, 2009. Entitled “Asceticism in the World” with sessions led by His Grace Bishop TIKHON (of Philadelphia) the retreat begins with an akathist on Friday evening and culminates with the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. All Penn State alumni, their spouses and children, and graduating seniors are strongly encouraged to attend. The registration fee is only \$40 (no charge for children). For more information or to register, email [psuocfalumni@gmail.com](mailto:psuocfalumni@gmail.com).

### APRIL SCHEDULES

#### **Coffee Hour**

April 5 — Anne-Therese Pelikan and Lina Eid-Saleeby  
 April 12 — Judy Fryncko and Ellen George  
 April 26 — Julianne Vaughan and Elaine Stewart

#### **Greeters**

April 5 — Beth Roberts and Ed Miranda  
 April 12 — Mark Radomsky and Leslyn Radomsky  
 April 26 — Melody Thompson and Mark Fedkin