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THE TRISAGION

The Monthly Newsletter of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
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A DOUBLE BLESSING

We are receiving a double blessing from God at Holy Trinity, with Bishop MELCHISEDEK's recent appointments of Fr. Basil Biberdorf as Assistant to the Rector and Dn. Mark Oleynik as our second deacon. Both will serve in bi-vocational capacities, working in secular employment in addition to their Church vocations. We welcome them and their families.

It will be an exciting challenge to develop a fuller model of ministry in our parish, which resembles the historic patterns and functions of presbyters and deacons working together in symphony with the bishop, not merely liturgically but systemically and programmatically. Each man comes with his own particular strengths and gifts for use in ministry, gifts that we will seek to employ to their maximum.

The expanded roles of all of our ordained clergy will not mean a lessened role for the laity. In fact, by expanding the roles of the clergy, the overall ministry of the people will be enhanced. Thus, more people can be both ministered to and enabled to minister.

Much of the fall will be spent in strategy and review with both clergy and laity as we seek to continue to refine our vision for the future. It will be an adjustment getting used to another doubling of parish staff. Yet, God is blessing us for greater service, sending more workers into the fields for a greater

For the Record

BIRTHS

- *Maria Renee*, born July 22 to Matthew & Jill Finke.
- *Quentin Daniel*, born July 24 to Kris & Erika Good.
- *Zachariah John*, born August 1 to Dn. Alexander & Mat. Jennifer Cadman.

BAPTISMS

- *Maria Finke*, baptized August 1, sponsored by Joyce Lucas, and Sbdn. Lucas & Stacey Christensen.

WELCOMES

- *Fr. Basil & Mat. Dea Biberdorf*, and their children, Julia, Sophia, and Genevieve.
- *Capt. Chas & Patricia Doty*, and their children, Christopher, Matthew, and Peter.
- *Jay & Laura Rush*, and their children, Joelle and Julia.
- *Dn. Mark & Mat. Kelly Oleynik*, and their children, Hannah, Samuel, and Benjamin.

FAREWELLS

- *Chris & Jen Sremanak*, moved July 8. Jen accepted a teaching position at the Orthodox Christian Academy in Harrisburg.

harvest. Of that, we can all be sure and for that, we can all be thankful. — Fr.

John

ORTHODOX MISSION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The following series is excerpted from an article on missiology by Bishop HILARION (Alfeyev), a noted theologian, historian, composer, and author.*

Part II: The Orthodox Church as “The Church of our Fathers”

It would seem to be impossible to surmount the obstacles [of time, culture, and spirituality] that confound our attempts to penetrate the mind of the Fathers. Yet so long as we fail to overcome them, we shall never be able to fulfil the mission entrusted to us by the modern age. This mission consists in possessing the capacity not only to make our faith truly “patristic,” but also to express it in a language accessible to 21st century men and women.

The opinion that the holy Fathers are the theologians of earlier times is widely held nowadays... Consequently a return to “patristic roots” is conceived as step back to the past, the restoration of 7th, 15th, or 19th century spirituality.

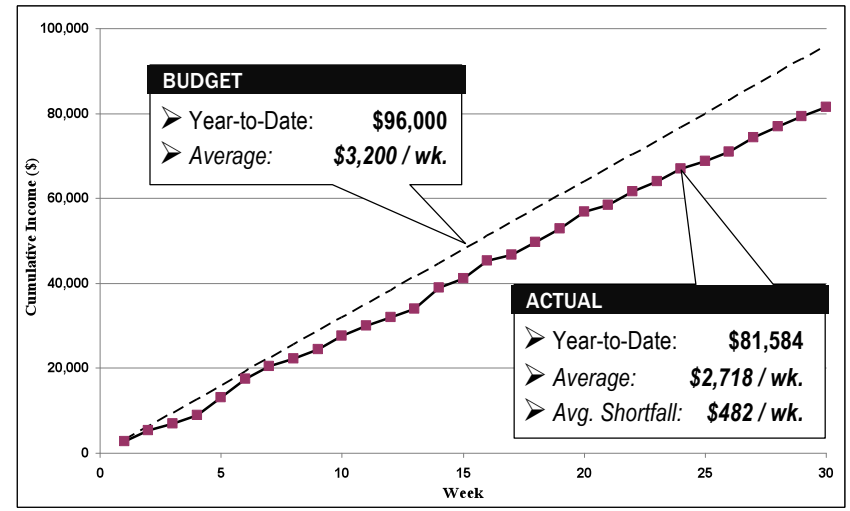
The “Golden Age” inaugurated by Christ, the apostles, and the early Fathers endures in the works of the Fathers of our days, to last for as long as the Church will stand on this earth.

This point of view must be rejected. In the opinion of Fr. Georges Florovsky, “the Church is still fully authoritative as she has been in the ages past, since the Spirit of Truth quickens her now no less effectively than in the ancient times.” It is not possible, therefore, to limit the “patristic age” to one or other historic era. A well-known contemporary theologian, Metropolitan KALLISTOS (Ware) of Diokleia states:

An Orthodox must not simply know and quote the Fathers, he must enter into the spirit of the Fathers and acquire a “patristic mind.” He must treat the Fathers not merely as relics from the past, but as living witnesses and contemporaries... Indeed, it is dangerous to look on “the Fathers” as a closed cycle of writings belonging to a bygone age, for might not our own epoch produce a new Basil or Athanasius? To say that there can be no more Fathers is to suggest that the Holy Spirit has deserted the Church.

Hence the confession of a “patristic faith” not only implies the study of patristic writings and the attempt to bring the legacy of the Fathers to life, but also the belief that our era is no less “patristic” than any other. The “Golden Age” inaugurated by Christ, the apostles, and the early Fathers endures in the works of the church Fathers of our days, to last for as long as the Church of Christ will stand on this earth. And it is the awareness of the continued presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church and a faithfulness to the “spirit of the Fathers” which will give strength to the Orthodox mission in the 21st century.

Quarterly Financial Update



HOLY DAYS AND FASTS IN AUGUST

Dormition Fast—August 1-14: *Omit meat, dairy, and fish.*

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Vespers, August 5, 7pm
Liturgy, August 6, 9am
Blessing of Fruit

Dormition of the Theotokos

Vespers, August 14, 7pm
Liturgy, August 15, 9:00sm
Blessing of Flowers

St. Herman of Alaska

Vespers, August 8, 6pm
Matins, August 9, 9am
Liturgy, August 9, 10am

Beheading of the Forerunner

Vespers, August 28, 7pm
Liturgy, August 29, 9am
(Strict Fast)

AUGUST SCHEDULES

Coffee Hour

August 2 — Russian Ladies
August 9 — Leslyn Radomsky and Julianne Vaughan
August 16 — Melody Thompson and Jenny Anthony
August 23 — Judy Fryncko, Anissa Ilie, and Holly Torbic
August 30 — Russian Ladies

Greeters

August 2 — Shane and Maria Stevens
August 9 — Beth Roberts and Ed Miranda
August 16 — Mark and Leslyn Radomsky
August 23 — Melody Thompson and Mark Fedkin
August 30 — Megan Leathers and David Swisher

FROM THE DESK OF DEACON ALEXANDER

Five years ago, growth at Holy Trinity placed our parish at an important crossroads: stay at our downtown location and remodel, or buy or build a new church in an outlying location. The decision was made by the parish to invest in our existing Sparks Street property, ensuring the original mission site would retain its campus focus even when expansion would necessitate the establishment of a new mission or a larger parish church.

The good fruit of this decision has clearly been experienced at Holy Trinity. Average Sunday attendance is 120 or more, new staff has been added, and the American Cancer Society building—critically important to our future growth then and now—may become available to us within a year. To help assess the prudence of a possible purchase, a cross-section of parishioners brainstormed at June’s “Town Hall” to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOTs) associated with acquiring the property:

- **Strengths.** Everyone who participated identified the expansion in ministry space for Sunday School, offices, and fellowship as a potential strength. Fifty percent cited parking improvements as a “strength”; 33 percent identified extra storage space as a benefit.
- **Weaknesses.** Most of the participants (75 percent) noticed that acquiring the ACS building does little to affect the worship needs at Holy Trinity. Forty-two percent also noted that the property would require added management, renovation, and maintenance. Limitations in parking (even with the added spaces) and the added financial burden incurred rounded out the list of top answers (33% each).
- **Opportunities.** Exciting potential uses for 123 South Sparks Street were envisioned. Half believed the property would be a great location for a permanent, publicly-accessible bookstore; a third thought it could be a Student Center or a Coffee House. Other opportunities included increased attendance at services, expanded ministries and enhanced parish life, and the ability for more parish staff to work onsite. Some also reasoned that owning the property next door also makes it possible to raze both existing buildings and build a new, larger church.
- **Threats.** A majority (57%) feared economic uncertainty or being encumbered with too much debt, especially since our average weekly offering is currently less than what was initially budgeted for (*see graph, next page*). Thirty-three percent were concerned about depleting funds that could be used for new ministries or personnel. The same number of people wrote that purchasing the ACS building would tie us indefinitely to the Sparks Street location.

This exercise is really just the beginning. It will take ongoing prayer and planning by the entire parish to determine if our objective is attainable.

GREAT FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP TO KICK OFF OCF!

This month, the Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) celebrates the beginning of a new year with two excellent opportunities for great food and good company. On Sunday, August 23 (the day before classes start), OCF will host its popular “PSU Dinner” in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm, followed by a brief Organizational Meeting for all Penn State students, faculty, and staff to plan activities, speakers, and outreach events for September and the semester. One week later on August 30 at 4pm, new and returning students are invited to attend a Kickoff OCF BBQ. For more details, contact David Stucker, OCF President, at dss210@psu.edu.

MATTHEW 25

The annual *Matthew 25* “Back to School Supply Drive” occurs this month. This year, we are again partnering with Strawberry Fields to provide basic items for 58 students (from kindergarten to Grade 12) in the Centre Region. School supplies (notebooks, backpacks, etc.) and gift cards to supply stores are very much appreciated. After this drive is complete, *Matthew 25* closes the calendar year with Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas Gift Tree.

Please remember that monetary donations are always welcome as well. You can find a *Matthew 25* alms box located in the Narthex.

IT’S TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL HERSHEY TRIP!

The Orthodox Youth Association (OYA) for anyone entering grades 7 to 12 will be taking its annual day trip to Hersheypark on Tuesday, August 18! Hersheypark features over 62 rides and attractions, including 11 roller coasters, and a brand new waterpark that opened just this year.

Transportation, admission, and lunch will be provided by the Church (bring your own money for snacks, games, souvenirs, and dinner at a fast food place on the way home). We will depart from Holy Trinity at 7:30am and return at 9pm. **Registration is required** no later than Sunday, August 16. E-mail Dn. Alexander at deacon.alexander@gmail.com to register.

ARE YOU ON OUR EMAILING LIST?

Holy Trinity has an electronic mailing list to keep members and friends of our community updated about the many ministries occurring in the life of our parish. Subscribers to the list can expect about 1 or 2 messages a week including our new weekly publication, *This Week at Holy Trinity*, which is replete with a list of all the week’s events, daily Scripture readings, and the saints commemorated each day. If you are not yet receiving our emails, please see Dn. Alexander or email deacon.alexander@gmail.com.