

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
STATE COLLEGE, PA  
PERMIT NO. 289

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
119 S. Sparks Street  
State College, PA 16801  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# 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 **September 2009** Volume 14, Number 9

## NEW MINISTRIES AND BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR

In the Northern Hemisphere, September is a time when the fullness of harvest is upon us. This is an annual reminder of God's Creation of the World, when His blessings were poured out over all the cosmos in the very beginning and all vegetation was bearing fruit. It is said that for this reason both the Jewish and Orthodox Christian calendars have traditionally observed the beginning of each New Year in September.

This new ecclesiastical year promises us many blessings with abundance. Our parish life is experiencing that abundance, that newness which God's creative activity is always ready to bestow. Yet with newness—God's newness—old things must give way: At the moment of creation, the void gave way to the Earth and the waters above and beneath it. Plant and animal life were then created to abound in it. And finally man was created as the pinnacle of God's creation. Each was a preparation for the next stage of God's activity.

### For the Record

#### BIRTHS

- *Kristina Marie, born August 30 to Mark & Katya Fedkin.*

#### WELCOMES

- *We welcome back all new and returning Penn State students!*

At Holy Trinity this New Year, the old schedule and some of the old ways of doing things are going to be giving way to new ones as well. One of our ministries already experiencing the impact of this innovation is the Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship. After changing its schedule and starting anew, it is receiving the blessing of newness and growth. The parish as a whole will experience this too.

Here are some of the ministries that will be changing or be new this fall:

#### ➤ **Newcomers' Night**

On Tuesday, September 8, from 7pm to 8:30pm we will have a social to welcome newcomers to parish life. "Newcomers Night" will feature brief presentations by our different ministry leaders about their work in the parish and how to become involved in their activities. So, if you've started attending Holy Trinity in the past year or so, make plans to attend. Child care will be provided.

*(continued, page 2)*

## NEW MINISTRIES AND BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR *(continued)*

### ➤ **Graduates and Professionals**

Now in its second year, this ministry for recent college graduates and young professionals will now meet biweekly (second and fourth Mondays at 7:30pm, Panera Bread, Downtown State College) and feature a greater variety of topics and more discussion segments each meeting, with a stronger focus on current events and popular culture.

### ➤ **Men's Fellowship**

On Saturday, September 26, at 9am, a new ministry—Men's Fellowship—begins with a monthly breakfast in the Parish Hall for all of the men in the church. There will be a brief meditation on Scripture but the chief focus will be for our men, young and old, to grow in fellowship with one another.

### ➤ **Orthodox Christian Fellowship**

Continuing toward their goal of becoming a truly evangelical ministry dedicated to reaching non-Orthodox students, OCF will be offering weekly prayer and reflection on campus (Thursdays at 7:30pm, Pasquerilla Spiritual Center). These events will give participants an opportunity to experience a taste of Orthodox spirituality and learn how it can transform their lives.

### ➤ **Orthodox Youth Association**

Building on a strong foundation of camaraderie formed by monthly activities and trips together, we will soon be introducing a biannual service component to OYA (third Fridays at 6:30pm, Parish Hall). By working together to help others in the community, their friendships with one another will deepen while they grow and practice their Christian faith.

### ➤ **Orthodoxy 101**

Chiefly, Wednesdays will become the primary night for adult Christian education, leaving Tuesdays and Thursdays open. Orthodoxy 101 will take place on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:30pm for inquirers of the Orthodox faith: its history, its doctrine, and its worship. It is open to all—parishioners, catechumens, and strangers off the street. (In fact, it wouldn't be a bad idea to invite strangers off the street!)

### ➤ **Sunday School**

On Sunday, September 20, at 9am, Sunday School commences for all children ages 5 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the Parish Hall. Deacon Mark will be “shadowing” Matushka Linda this fall and assuming full direction of our program by January 1. It is great to welcome him aboard in this capacity, utilizing his talents developed over the past 17 years at St. Mark's in Bethesda, MD, his former parish. His leadership led to such significant growth in their Christian Education department that the church had to build an addition just to accommodate the students. By the way, it looks like we will have to add another class ourselves.

—Fr. John and Dn. Alex

## ORTHODOX MISSION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> 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 III: The Missionary Potential of Orthodox Liturgical Services**

Orthodox divine services are characterized by inner integrity and astounding beauty. From the priest's exclamation at the very beginning of the service we are immersed in an atmosphere of uninterrupted prayer, in which psalms, litanies, hymns, prayers and the celebrating priest's invocations follow one another in a continuous stream. The entire service is conducted as if in one breath, in one rhythm, like an ever unfolding mystery in which nothing distracts one from prayer.

Orthodox liturgical texts have, for Orthodox Christians, an incontestable doctrinal authority, whose theological irreproachability is second only to Scripture. Liturgical texts are a “school of theology” by virtue of being not simply the works of outstanding theologians and poets, but also the fruits of the prayerful experience of those who have attained sanctity and *theosis*...

---

*The Divine Liturgy...is  
an icon of this Kingdom,  
the most complete,  
perfect reflection of the  
heavenly reality in our  
earthly conditions.*

---

If we can call the services of the Orthodox Church a school of theology, then the Divine Liturgy is this school par excellence. It teaches us about the mysteries of the Heavenly Kingdom because it itself is an icon of this Kingdom, the most complete, perfect reflection of the heavenly reality in our earthly conditions, a revelation of the transcendent through the immanent. In the Kingdom of God all symbols shall pass away, and only the heavenly reality will remain. There we will not commune of the Body and Blood of Christ in the form of bread and wine, but in a more perfect way we shall be united with Christ Himself, the Source of life and immortality. If the manner of our communion with God will change, its essence will remain the same—a always a personal encounter with God, not of isolated people, but of people in communion with each other. In this sense it is correctly said that the Liturgy served on earth is but a part of the incessant Liturgy celebrated by people and angels in the Heavenly Kingdom.

[I]t is evident that the Church must develop a strategy for its educational, catechetical and missionary work, making the treasures of Orthodox worship fully accessible to all. I believe, it is precisely the development of such missionary strategy which is among the most essential tasks of the Orthodox Church worldwide in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### HOLY DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

<b>Nativity of the Theotokos</b> Vespers, September 7, 7pm Liturgy, September 8, 9am	<b>Elevation of the Holy Cross</b> Vespers, September 13, 7pm Liturgy, September 14, 9am <i>(Strict Fast)</i>
--	--

### DEANERY CHOIR

The Altoona-Johnstown Deanery is forming a Deanery Choir comprised of singers throughout our deanery to serve at special parish events, including hierarchical liturgies, weddings, baptisms, and Lenten Mission Vespers. Choir members will receive a small stipend for their travel and time.

All interested singers are invited to attend a “fruit and cheese” reception and organizational meeting on September 10 at 7pm at the Holiday Inn Express on Plank Road in Altoona. For more information, please contact Fr. Andrew Matychak at (814) 946-9482.

### ALTAR SERVERS ROTATION BEGINS

To give more boys an opportunity to participate in the important ministry of serving God by assisting our priests and deacons during the Divine Liturgy, Holy Trinity is pleased to now have two alternating teams of altar servers:

**Team A:** Dan Andresen, Chris Doty, Nikita Fedkin, Michael Haupt, Addison Miranda, and Samuel Oleynik.

**Team B:** Joshua Cattell, Matt Doty, Pete Doty, Jonathan Miranda, Stefan Pelikan, and Jeremiah Stickles.

**Both Teams:** Micah Cattell, Jesse Dominick, and Darren Torbic.

This rotation only applies to Sunday Divine Liturgies (all altar servers are to participate at Pascha). Boys aged 8 and up who would like to be added to the rotation are asked to see Micah Cattell (no experience necessary).

### SEPTEMBER SCHEDULES

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Altar Servers
Sep. 6	Beth Roberts Elaine Stewart	Maria Stevens Shane Stevens	Team A
Sep. 13	Ellen George Ann-Therese Pelikan	Beth Roberts Ed Miranda	Team B
Sep. 20	Anne Swisher Corene Swisher	Mark Radomsky Leslyn Radomsky	Team A
Sep. 27	Karen Cattell Jean Miranda	Melody Thompson Mark Fedkin	Team B

### MATTHEW 25 BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS

Congratulations to our *Matthew 25* volunteers and all who donated to its Back-to-School Drive for making this year’s campaign the most successful yet. In all, nearly a thousand supplies were purchased for nearly 60 students.

### INTRODUCING THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ALUMNI GROUP

The Orthodox Christian Alumni Group “OCAG” of Penn State is the country’s (and possibly the world’s) first-ever alumni group for Orthodox Christians. OCAG’s mission is to “...support Orthodox Christian campus ministry at Penn State...” and this is chiefly done in two ways—by supporting current Orthodox college students directly and by connecting Penn State alumni to each other and to the Orthodox Church as a whole.

The organization’s current goal is to solicit 50 signatures to become an officially recognized group of the Penn State Alumni Association. In the future, OCAG hopes to be a model for subsequent alumni groups around the country, take on more responsibility for a full-time campus minister salary, support the development of an “OCF House” at Penn State, and offer student scholarships for deserving Orthodox Christian students. If you are able to help, or if you have any questions or suggestions, please email an OCAG Board member at [OCAGofPSU@gmail.com](mailto:OCAGofPSU@gmail.com).

### HOLY TRINITY PARKING OPTIONS

Did you know you have several parking options each Sunday that are within a two-block radius of Holy Trinity? Also, if you are interested in carpooling to church, please contact the Parish Office at (814) 231-2855.

