

# THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## The Church is Mission by Fr. John Reeves

Without the Great Commission, the Church would have no practical reason to exist. It was Christ’s final command to his apostles, to missionize the world—every people, every language group—making disciples of all nations, teaching them all things which He had taught them and baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (*Mt. 28:18-20*).

Without the Great Commission at the core of its life, a parish has no reason to exist either. At best, it would be, to paraphrase Fr. Thomas Hopko, a group of basically decent people doing basically benign things. Hopefully, this does not describe our parish. Hopefully, mission is at the heart of what we do.

From sending individuals on short term missions to Europe, Africa, Central and South America, to ministering to Christ in the poor through our **Matthew 25** ministry; from establishing a missionary chapel in Snyder County, to supporting on-going mission work at Penn State, Holy Trinity has always attempted to define its purpose through a constant stream of evangelical efforts at home and abroad over the last 16 years.

This missionary theme is carried out through the iconography on the walls of our temple. We are surrounded by the iconic witness of the missionary fervor of Orthodox men and women: Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles, St. Nina, the Evangelizer of Georgia, and all the rest. They saw mission not as an option but as the substance of their life in Christ.

Now, we are about to embark on another missionary endeavor, sending a team composed of men from the parish to visit the Yukon River village of Marshall, Alaska. While there, our men will work with members of St. Michael’s Parish to complete the construction of their new church, and conduct Bible Studies for parishioners and their children during the long summer days which July affords. St. Michael’s parishioners are themselves spiritually descended from the missionary efforts of St. Iakov Netsvetov, whose icon also adorns our temple. Of particular note on Holy Trinity’s mission team are Michael Haupt, Nikita Fedkin, and Jonathan Miranda. I single these young men out because at their ages (17 and 18), they are most in need of financial support (about \$2,000 each), for their missionary journeys.

*(continued—see last page)*

## ■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT Samaria, Pa. by Fr. Basil Biberdorf

At the very center of the Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Pascha we hear the words that must form the basis of any mission effort: “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (*v. 13-14*). It is simply impossible to talk about “Church” in any meaningful way without speaking of her mission to the world: that she would make it possible for others to partake of that water that springs up into everlasting life.

*(continued—see last page)*

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

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

## Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Altar Servers*
May 6	Carol Strauss and Jean Miranda	Melody Thompson and Mark Fedkin	Team B
May 13	Melody Thompson and Laura Rush	Megan Leathers and David Swisher	Team A
May 20	The Russian Ladies	Beth Roberts and Ed Miranda	Team B
May 27	Mat. Dea Biberdorf and Caryl Strauss	Leslyn and Mark Radomsky	Team A
June 3	Karen Cattell and Diana Van Duin	Melody Thompson and Mark Fedkin	All Servers
June 10	Judy Fyncko and Holly Torbic	Megan Leathers and David Swisher	Team B

\* Team A: C. Doty, N. Fedkin, A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, S. Oleynik, D. Stickers, Jo. Stickers, and a trainee.  
Team B: J. Cadman, M. Doty, P. Doty, K. Kucheryavy, J. Miranda, B. Oleynik, Je. Stickers, and J. Swisher.

## ■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

# What Every Mother Needs by Dn. Mark Oleynik

Nearly everything we see and do and touch and feel can be described, but a mother's love is nearly impossible to put into words. They hold a special place in the Church and in our life and we would do well to honor them as much as possible.

How do you honor your mother? Do you know where to start? Begin by considering what every mother needs. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- **Every mother needs to be loved unconditionally.** *That means "loved no matter what." Often we put conditions on our love. Mothers, just like everyone else, need to know that they are loved—just as they are; No strings attached.*
- **Every mother must be cherished affectionately.** *When you cherish someone, you hold them dear, you want to touch them, to hug them, to make them feel good. You may feel warmth in your heart toward "mom," but have you expressed it lately? Does she sense the warmth of your affection? Fathers, children: put your arms around her. Let her know that you love her.*
- **Every mother must be understood sympathetically.** *Mothers have the biggest job in the world. Think of the hats that every mother wears: nurse, cook, counselor, janitor, chauffeur, tailor, teacher, program director, and many more. We can rightfully say, "A mother's work is never done." She works longer hours than 9 to 5 and can't exactly call in sick. So, when dad comes in and wonders why supper isn't on the table and the house isn't looking so great, or the kids wonder why the clothes haven't been washed and ironed, try to understand a mother's position. Think of all the meals that have been on time. Remember the clean clothes you do have. She needs to hear: "That's okay. I understand. You have a tough job."*
- **Every mother needs to be listened to attentively.** *Mothers are great listeners. When Danny comes in with a skinned knee, he wants mom's undivided attention. He wants her to drop what she's doing and tend to his needs. Or dad comes in and unloads about a bad day at work. But when mom needs to talk, who listens? The kids are*

## Extra "Scoops"

### SCHOOL'S OUT

*Our instructional year ends on Sunday, May 20. Although classes end, the greatest learning continues each and every day with mom and dad as instructors.*

### THOSE WHO CAN—TEACH!

*Our greatest resource is our teachers: their dedication and love for the children help the children and the parish grow. Even if you do not have children in the Sunday School, please take a moment to say a prayer and a "thank you" for this year's teachers: Natalie Roberts, Larissa Moser, Becky Oliver, Sheena Sands, Patty Doty, Holly Torbic, Anna Stickles, Ann Therese Pelikan, Darren Torbic, and Gary Cattell.*

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES SET

*Vacation Bible School (VBS) is scheduled to be held from June 11-15 in the evening (5:30 to about 8:15 p.m.) for students in Pre-K through rising sixth graders. Please mark your calendar and be a volunteer!*

- engrossed in activities; Dad mumbles "uh-huh" every now and then. Mothers need undivided attention on occasion. They need eye contact, a shoulder to cry on, a "How was your day, honey?" from their husbands.*
- **Every mother needs to be helped cheerfully.** *When you need help, who's usually right there to lend a helping hand? It's probably a mother. Mothers don't just go the second mile, they go all the way with you. But sometimes she can't get it all done without help. Do you offer it? She may decline, but a simple "Honey, let me help you with this" may be just the lift she needs.*
  - **Every mother needs to be provided for.** *Mom works hard to ensure her family has everything it needs. Often, she is the one who ends up sacrificing her time or energy. She is busy feeding the kids, getting them dressed, driving them to school, and picking them up at practice. But she could use a nice dinner out, getting dressed up, a nice evening at a concert or show. She may not ask for much, but she deserves the best.*

## The Church is Mission (continued from page 1)

As a parish, almost \$1,700 was collected by means of the Fish Pie Dinner on Annunciation. On June 30, the men will be holding another event, an Ethnic Foods Festival, coordinated by Mark Radomsky to raise additional funds for our missionaries. When Mark asks you to bake or make, or cook, or sell, or set-up or clean-up, or to tell your friends, please volunteer to do more than requested. Mike, Nikita, and Jonathan will all appreciate it and so will the other team members: Sam Leathers, Ed Miranda,

Michael Pelikan, Michael Stickles, David Swisher, Darren Torbic, Deacon Mark, Deacon Alex, and me. Proceeds of \$4,300 or more from the fundraiser will assure that all of our young missionaries go. Anything over that amount will be applied to the mission accounts of the rest of our team.

Remember, if mission is not an option, then neither is support for missions and our missionaries. Please respond generously. **Blessings!** ■

## Samaria, Pennsylvania (continued from page 1)

How does this happen? In the first place, sharing the living water often means going into hated or hostile environments. Samaria was located in what is now the "West Bank" of the Jordan, sandwiched between Galilee and Judea (Jerusalem). It was populated with Jews, and both Jews and Samaritans taught avoidance of the other. There were violent confrontations among them in the first century, and Jewish travelers usually chose to go the long way around Samaria to avoid conflict or defilement.

Yet Christ chose to go through Samaria with His disciples, a journey among people where mutual hostility and distrust existed. He and His disciples did not remain "inside," lamenting the errors of "the world," but actively engaged the world, walking and speaking within it in spite of the risks.

In the course of their journey Christ chose to minister not to the prominent, the powerful, or the wealthy, but to a woman whose marital history of five husbands (plus the current one who was not her husband) revealed her to be from the lower parts of society. She was performing the menial task of fetching water, not some lofty labor of civic leadership. It was this unexpected woman who received the proclamation of the Gospel in an unexpected place. And from that proclamation, "Many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman" (v. 39).

Among our greatest temptation is that the Gospel is only proclaimed in the church building, and, sometimes, only to the "right" people. This gospel reading reveals that there is no "right" person or "proper" place, or—perhaps more accurately—that the right people and the proper places are not what we think they are. The temptation is to say the harvest is somewhere else, in the future (v. 35), when really, the harvest is ripe right now. "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

Indeed, this is why there is a Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Beavertown, Pennsylvania. I have been asked "Why Snyder County?" and my reply is always, "Because that's where the harvest is." (That should be the answer wherever we are.) Likewise, we often look at our own individual situations and determine that there are no opportunities to spread the Gospel, but a look at our surroundings often reveals hostile places with unsuspecting people who yearn to hear about the living water (even if they don't know it yet).

Where can we find Samaria, Pennsylvania? It's not in the easy, obvious places, but in the difficult ones (or so it seems) and among those who don't seem to be "our sort" of folks. Let us pray that, through us, others may come to drink of the living water of Christ. **Christ is Risen!** ■

## Altar Servers Retreat

All boys eight years of age and up are invited to attend Holy Trinity's annual altar servers' retreat on the eve of Pentecost (Saturday, June 2). Participants will serve the Memorial Divine Liturgy (9 a.m.), eat a light brunch together, rehearse entrances, review best practices, enjoy a refresher in fire safety, and conclude at noon. RSVP to Deacon Alex by May 31.

## Church Audit Conducted

The annual audit for Holy Trinity was conducted by Mark Fedkin and Leslyn Radomsky. Deposits and accounts were randomly chosen and checked for accuracy. No discrepancies were found.

## 40 Liturgies Across Archdiocese

Parishes throughout the Archdiocese of W. Pa. will rotate in celebrating the Divine Liturgy each day for forty days beginning May 21 and culminating with the Feast of Peter and Paul. These liturgies provide the opportunity for hundreds of living and departed faithful to be commemorated each day. Holy Trinity's turn is May 28 (Memorial Day) at 9 a.m. See the Weekly Bulletin for more information.

## Note Special Service Times

Please note the times for two upcoming services will differ from our standard schedule. May 27's Vespers will begin at 5 p.m. and the Holy Spirit Day Liturgy (June 4) will begin at 8 a.m.

## Young Adult Kick-off Picnic

The Young Adult group will kick-off a summer of activities with food and sports at Circleville Park on Saturday, May 12 from noon to 3 p.m. Penn State students staying for the summer are encouraged to attend too. Email [youngadults@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:youngadults@holytrinity-oca.org) for RSVPs, rides, and information.

## Church Etiquette Book Featured

Our Bookstore is now featuring a new children's book by Kelly Ramke Lardin. The title co-character was inspired by Holy Trinity's own Josiah Cadman.

## ■ NEWS AND NOTES

### Killing Babies No Different From Abortion, Experts Say

LONDON [VIA [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk)] – A group of ethicists [at Oxford University] has argued that killing young babies is no different from abortion. The article says newborn babies are not “actual persons” and do not have a “moral right to life”... They argued: “The moral status of an infant is equivalent to that of a fetus in the sense that both lack those properties that justify the attribution of a right to life to an individual.”

Rather than being “actual persons”, newborns were “potential persons”. They explained: “Both a fetus and a newborn certainly are human beings and potential persons, but neither is a ‘person’ in the sense of ‘subject of a moral right to life’...” The authors therefore concluded that “what we call ‘after-birth abortion’ (killing a newborn) should be permissible in all the cases where abortion is, including cases where the newborn is not disabled”.

[One can counter by arguing] if there was no moral difference between abortion and killing newborns, then abortion too should be illegal.

— Stephen Adams

## For the Record

### BAPTISMS

- Jennifer (**Mary**) McClure (sponsored by Matt and Jill Finke), Joseph Nakpil, and Corielle (**Miriam**) Stickles (sponsored by Gary and Karen Cattell), baptized and chrismated on Holy Saturday April 14. Many years!

### CHRISMATION

- Charles Doty was received into the Church through chrismation on April 14. Many years!

### AWARDS

- Katherine Radomsky was awarded a \$25,000 Dean's MFA Fellowship from the University of South Carolina for 2012-2013. Congratulations!

- Every mother needs to be cared for kindly.

*At times, mom needs her family to be extra thoughtful, extra sensitive, extra tender, and extra willing to help. We forget a mother's loving care in our own lives. Too often, mothers are pushed into a corner by children who have grown up and are too busy to care for them. All of the years of motherly concern are forgotten in the rush of their lives. You may not want to wish harm on your mother, but bringing her to the point where she feels like she is no longer needed, that no one cares for her, and that she is a nobody will hurt even the greatest mom in the world. Show her that you care for her.*

- Every mother needs to be prayed for daily.

*Why do mothers need so much prayer? Think of her responsibilities: time, energy, creativity, thoughtfulness and on and on. Remember all the prayers she has lifted to God on your behalf. She knows what you need. Pray for her. And don't just pray for her—pray with her.*

- Every mother needs to be honored nobly.

*Ask a godly mother how best to honor her and I believe that she will say, “The highest honor I can receive is for my sons and daughters—in whom I have invested my life—to serve the Lord Jesus Christ all their lives.” A godly mother longs to see her children obedient to God, active in the Lord's work at church, and growing in the wisdom and knowledge of God. Then she will see her own life as a wise investment in the lives of others. When she pours her own life into a son or a daughter, “they will rise up to call her blessed” (Proverbs 31:28). This will be the greatest honor a mother can receive.*

Godly mothers are the greatest blessing a parish can have: godly women producing godly children in a godly home where mom invests her life in the future of her children. I think that's worthy a hug or two, don't you? ■

## ■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

### Rolling Away the Heart's Stone by Abbot Nikon

Who shall roll away the stone from the door of the sepulchre...for it (is) very great? (*Mark 16:3*). Who rolled it away? An angel, at God's command. He will likewise roll away the stone of insensibility from our hearts, when the time is right for this. We must show faithfulness to the Lord during times of callousness, faintheartedness, doubts, coldness, times of sorrow, illness and various misfortunes. We must exert our willpower to strengthen faith in ourselves when, by God's allowance, it seems to be all but extinguished. He permits this in order that we may show again and again what it is we are striving for, where our choice lies.

There is a saying among the elders: a good deed is either preceded or followed by a temptation. A good deed, such as heartfelt prayer, or especially Holy Communion, will not pass without the devil taking revenge. He uses all his might to prevent fruitful prayer and/or communion. If unable to achieve this, he then tries to spoil everything after the fact, so that not a trace of the benefit acquired remains. This is very familiar to all those who have some experience in spiritual endeavor. For this reason it is necessary

to ask the Lord, with humility and contrition of heart, that He preserve us from the snares of the devil, who acts either directly upon the soul, or indirectly, through people subject to his power.

Do not be surprised at this. This warfare is fierce... We must surrender ourselves into the compassionate hands of God, acknowledging before Him our weakness and inability to guard ourselves from visible and invisible foes. Do not be afraid. The devil does not do what he would like, but only that which God allows him to do. Take a look at the book of Job.

May God's blessing always be with you. Never despair. May Christ's Cross always serve to remind you of God's boundless love toward fallen man. Is this thought not enough to inspire one to wholly give oneself over into God's hands? One must make at least a small effort to seek the Kingdom of God, and then the Lord will not leave such a person without His help and comfort. The Lord loves you! Have patience with the Lord. ■

*(The preceding was excerpted from Abbot Nikon: Letters to Spiritual Children from St. Nicodemos Publications.)*