

# What Makes a “New” Year?

by Fr. John Reeves

Every New Year people make resolutions to change behavior. Most of the time it has to do with drinking or eating less, giving up smoking, starting a new exercise regime, or something similar in the field of self-improvement. Polls are taken, surveys are completed, and the results are typically the same. Whatever the resolution at the New Year, the resolve wanes and the old behavior soon reasserts itself.

The civil New Year coincides with the Church’s own call, not to resolution but to repentance in the Feast of our Lord’s Theophany at the River Jordan. It was the cry of John the Baptist—“Repent”—that stirred the consciences of Galileans and Judeans, Pharisees and fishermen. It prepared the way for Jesus’s revelation to the world as the Son of God at his baptism in the River Jordan, the worship of the Trinity made manifest.

To take a change in our behavior seriously, we need to move beyond resolution to repentance. Resolution is based upon our own willpower. Because we tend to lack that willpower, or the ability to sustain it for very long, we soon lapse back into the old conduct.

Yet the call to repentance is far greater than another soon to be broken New Year’s resolution. Repentance is based first of all on a “change of mind” to quote the Greek. But this “change of mind” is not

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## Help Fill our Vans to the 40<sup>th</sup> March for Life!

Answering a call from the Holy Synod of Bishops, strongly encouraging all clergy and laity to attend, Holy Trinity will provide free transportation to the 40<sup>th</sup> March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 25. The trip is being coordinated by our campus and Sunday School ministries, and all are welcome to travel with us.

The rally is held on the National Mall beginning at noon. This year our group will park at nearby Union Station so we can immediately meet up with our fellow Orthodox Christians participating in the peaceful demonstration. We will join them in the march up to the Supreme Court where a prayer service will be led by Metropolitan Tikhon.

Holy Trinity’s two 15-passenger vans will depart from the church parking lot promptly at 7 a.m., and return at 10 p.m., stopping each way at the Sheetz in Duncannon at 8:30 a.m./p.m. to pick up and drop off Chapel members. Participants should wear warm clothing, pack a lunch, and bring money for a dinner stop on the way home. RSVPs to [info@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:info@holytrinity-oca.org) are appreciated.

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## Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Tellers	Servers**
January 6	A. Swisher and C. Swisher	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	G. Cattell and M. Stevens	Team B
January 13	J. Cadman and M. Leathers	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	M. Fedkin and R. Schrauf	Team A
January 20	J. Miranda and L. Rush	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	R. Patel and S. Stevens	Team B
January 27	P. Doty and M. Thompson	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	B. Haupt and G. Cattell	Team A
February 3	E. Files and M. & G. Anthony	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and R. Schrauf	Team B
February 10	D. Patel and K. Oleynik	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team A
* Denotes Fast				
** Team A: C. Doty, N. Fedkin, A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, S. Oleynik,, D. Stickles, Jo. Stickles, and J. Swisher				
Team B: J. Cadman, M. Doty, P. Doty, K. Kucheryavyy, A. Malobabich, J. Miranda, B. Oleynik, and Je. Stickles.				

■ CELEBRATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

# 2013 Home Blessing Schedule

The entire month of January following Theophany is set aside for home blessings. The process is simple: start by determining your preference (*first, second, third*, etc.) among the shifts listed below for your particular location. Next, submit your choices through the form at [holytrinity-oca.org](http://holytrinity-oca.org), email them to [info@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:info@holytrinity-oca.org), or write them on the sign-up sheets placed in the Narthex.

After placing your request, you will be contacted within 48 hours with confirmation of your exact appointment time. Every effort will be made to accommodate your date and time choices, personal availability, and any special needs you may have.

Blessing shifts have been purposely scheduled to not coincide with traditional meal times, which gives Fathers John and Basil an opportunity to eat with their families. The best way for you to show hospitality is to have your home clean and brightly lit. If possible, have a candle and bowl ready.

Everyone and everything in the home is blessed to bring Christ’s sanctification to them, making us and our homes a small church in essence. As with any Orthodox sacrament, there is absolutely no charge to have your home blessed. Requests can be made by anyone affiliated with Holy Trinity or the Chapel (members, catechumens, visitors, etc.). ■

LOCATION	AVAILABLE DATES AND TIMES	
<b>Eastern Centre County (16801, -27, -28, -51)</b> <i>including Downtown State College, State College (South Atherton), Boalsburg, Centre Hall, Houserville, Lemont, and Pine Grove Mills.</i>	Tuesday, January 8	2 p.m. – 5 p.m., 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
	Thursday, January 10	10 a.m. – 12 noon, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
	Saturday, January 12	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Wednesday, January 16	10 a.m. – 12 noon, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Friday, January 18	10 a.m. – 12 noon, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Tuesday, January 22	7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
	Wednesday, January 23	2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
<b>Penn State Campus (16802)</b>	Tuesday, January 22	7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
	Wednesday, January 23	10 a.m. – 12 noon
<b>Western Centre County (16803, -68, -70)</b> <i>including State College (North Atherton), Park Forest, Pine Grove Mills, Port Matilda, and Stormstown.</i>	Wednesday, January 9	10 a.m. – 12 noon, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Friday, January 11	10 a.m. – 12 noon, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Tuesday, January 15	10 a.m. – 12 noon, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
	Thursday, January 17	10 a.m. – 12 noon
	Saturday, January 19	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Thursday, January 24	10 a.m. – 12 noon, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
<b>Northern Centre County (16823, -53)</b> <i>including Bellefonte, Milesburg, and Zion.</i>	Thursday, January 17	7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
	Tuesday, January 22	10 a.m. – 12 noon
	Saturday, January 26	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
<b>Snyder County (178xx)</b>	Sunday, January 13	12 noon – 4 p.m.
	Sunday, January 20	12 noon – 4 p.m.
<b>Other Locations/Make-ups</b>	Sunday, January 27	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Tuesday, January 29	10 a.m. – 12 noon, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Wednesday, January 30	10 a.m. – 12 noon, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
	Thursday, January 31	10 a.m. – 12 noon, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Reader, I do say that if we fulfill at least the spirit, if not the law of the Canon, that each choir member ought to see his/her participation in the choir as seriously as the ordained clergy take their ministry. I don’t know any priest who thinks that he can say on some Sunday, “I don’t want to serve because I want to sit with my wife,” or, “I don’t feel like serving today,” or, “I’m angry, one of the altar boys offended me, so I don’t want to serve this morning.”

As seriously as the ordained clergy need to take their ordination, so you ought to as church singers. Canonically, they are an order of the Church, to begin with. I’m not proposing that we fulfill the letter of the law by having you all ordained, but I think we ought to at least incarnate the spirit of the law, which implies a great responsibility, a great sense of duty and a privilege that is given to him or her as a church singer. This, then, should create in all of us, whether or not we are ordained clergy, a real sense of humility. We should give thanks that God has been pleased to call us who were created from the dust of this earth to participate in the heavenly liturgy and to offer up praises with His angels to join the perpetual hymn of “Holy, holy, holy.”

We jump in and we jump out. Some of us jump in on time and some of us jump in a little bit late. In

## A “New” Year (continued from page 1)

merely one of the intellect but a change in our hearts and souls as well. Our minds may reason that “x” is a bad habit, but unless we replace our love for “x” with a love for God, our behavior will not match what we’ve reasoned the good to be. In other words, to give up gluttony or lust means we must replace our idolatry of food or sensuality with love of God. To give up any vice, we must do the same. This is the basis of repentance.

We must love God more than any thing. In so doing, our heart, strength, mind, and soul are then

my opinion, being in church for that first “Amen” is a sign, an indication of one’s humility. And where humility is, indeed, a virtue, its opposite is a sin. The sin is not disturbing other people. The other people in the church are not the object of our worship. It is rude, but not necessarily sinful, to disturb other people. But it is sinful to be presumptuous and prideful that one can jump in and sing with thousands of archangels and ten-thousands of angels at one’s own whim. “This Sunday I feel like singing, and next Sunday I won’t sing. I want to sit with my wife.” Leave that Hallmark-card kind of sentimentality for restaurants, concerts, and cinemas.

You sing with angels, that’s secondary to sitting with any husband or wife or children. We stand before the throne of God, and when we realize that, every other consideration, all of our own personal likes and dislikes, become secondary. I’m giving my opinion now, and hopefully it humbles all of us. It’s a humiliation, that in its end, should be something that elevates us, that exalts us, something that gives us wings. ■

EDITOR’S NOTE: *The Right Rev. Basil is the Bishop of Wichita and Mid-America of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. His article first appeared in the newsletter of PSALM: The Pan-Orthodox Society for the Advancement of Liturgical Music and appears here courtesy of antiochian.org.*

oriented in the same direction. And God provides the grace lacking in us by nature to accomplish that which God alone can accomplish in us. New Year’s resolutions tend to fail because we refuse to give up our love for a certain behavior, even though we might have reasoned that it is bad for us. We consequently do not rely on God’s help to amend our conduct. Repentance is that ongoing process of striving to love God above all else with our behavior changing as a consequence of that love, both our love for Him and His, for us.

So, will it be New Year’s resolutions or a *new* year of repentance and ultimate joy? ■

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

# To Our Present and Future Singers by Bp. Basil (Essey)

There are few ministries of the Church that require the devotion and the dedication that church singing does. You who lead the singing as well as you who follow the leader are precious gifts to your parishes. You are as important to the parish as is the holy table itself. As there can be no liturgy without the holy table, there can be no liturgy without you. This is not to compliment you or increase your pride, but rather to put a little fear and awe in you, so you know what your responsibilities are. Church singing...is not something one does for personal fulfillment. It is first and foremost a duty, a duty of those to whom God has given musical talents. It is sinful, in my opinion, for someone not to sing who has been given the gift to sing. *Sinful!* You join the angels, and do that which the angels do perpetually. That's not an interest, avocation, or a hobby; it is a duty. Angels were created to serve and to praise, and you have been given voices for that same purpose.

I love to remind our church singers of the fact that we physically jump into something that goes on perpetually. We jump in and join with the angels for a couple of hours, and then we jump back out. The liturgy does not begin with “Blessed is the Kingdom” and your “Amen,” and it doesn’t end with “Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers” and your “Amen.” Those phrases only define the time that we participate in the liturgy which goes on perpetually before the throne of God...[sung by] the angels who lead us in our singing. Those are the voices we need to hear and with which we blend our voices. What can sound beautiful to us can sound like cacophony at the throne of God, if we are not singing with the angels.

St. John Chrysostom tells us that while the priesthood is something that takes place here on earth, and is an ordinance established here on earth, yet it

## Want to Learn How to Lead Our Congregatrion in Worship?

*On Saturday, February 9, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., the Choir will host a special meeting and rehearsal for all current and potential members. Holy Trinity Choir Directors will introduce vocal technique, pitch, intonation, balance, and sight reading, with instruction geared toward new members. Please see Robert Roberts or Karen Cattell or email [choir@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:choir@holytrinity-oca.org) for more infromation.*

is something that is super-heaven, because the priest and the deacons do that which angels dare not do. The angels stand in awe, not at the priest or bishop or deacon, but at what they’ve been permitted to do by God’s grace. If John Chrysostom wrote a book on choirs, as he did on the priesthood, I’m sure he would say that while being a choir member, cantor, or reader is something earthly, it is also something heavenly. That the angels stand there, perhaps not in awe, but at least with a little bit of jealousy, because you who are flesh and blood have been called upon to serve in the same ministry that they have been created for.

It’s a holiness. It’s not your ministry. It’s a ministry that belongs to the Church, and you respond to the call as well as recognize that the gift which you specifically fulfill in the church was, traditionally, and in some sense still is, an ordained ministry. The choir was not some club that existed in Church for those with some particular musical talent. To be a church singer was an ordained office within the Church. Canon 15, from the Council of Nicea, the Council of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, makes its point clear that only canonical singers should be appointed for that kind of ministry in the Church. That means “one set apart” for that particular ministry. Today we might call them Readers. While I’m not saying that every choir member must be a tonsured

## Our Parish Family is Growing!

All Holy Trinity women are invited to a baby shower luncheon for Timea Veres. It takes place at 12 noon on Saturday, January 12 at the residence of Deacon Mark and Matushka Kelly Oleynik, located at 125 Wildernest Lane in Port Matilda. For those wishing to buy a gift, Timi is registered at the Target on North Atherton Street. For questions or to RSVP, please see Mka. Kelly.

## Marriage Retreat to be Offered

Married couples are invited to attend a marriage enrichment at Antiochian Village (140 Church Camp Trail in Bolivar) taking place the weekend of February 15-18. Pres. Kerry Pappas will speak on the topic of "Sacred Image, Sacred Marriage." In the meantime, visit Holy Trinity’s Facebook page ([facebook.com/holytrintysc](https://facebook.com/holytrintysc)) to discover the eight marriage-busters you should give up today.

## OCF Invites You to THON

In recognition of the many ways the Holy Trinity parish family contributes to campus minstry, the Penn State Orthodox Chrisitan Fellowship invites you to stand with them in support of children with pediatric cancer at THON 2013. Plan to visit the Bryce Jordan Center anytime during the 46-hour period that begins at Friday, February 15 at 6 p.m. Upon arrival, text Becky Oliver, OCF President, at (908) 672-2732 to get directions to the section where fellow supporters are located.

## “Real Break” Registration Open

Registration for Orthodox Christian Fellowship’s 2013 “Real Break” trips opened last month. Students travelling during Penn State’s Spring Break (March 2-10) have the option of serving in New Orleans or Honduras (\$650 or \$1,400, respectively, not including airfare). A \$150 deposit is required up front for the weeklong transformative and edifying mission trip; full payment is due by January 31. For full details, visit [www.ocf.net](http://www.ocf.net).

## Archdiocese to Sponsor Family Skating Party in Pittsburgh

For only a few dollars per person, families can enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Pittsburgh’s Market Square on Sunday, January 27. Admission includes admission to The Rink at PPG Place, skate rental, and lunch). Contact Elizabeth Goehring at (412) 369-7098 or [elizabethgoehring@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethgoehring@gmail.com) by January 17 if you are interested.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Schmemann Lecture

On Friday, January 18 at 7 p.m., St. Vladimir’s Seminary (575 Scarsdale Road in Yonkers, NY) will offer a free lecture as part of their many “Mind and Spirit Moments” offerings. Dr. Peter Brown, Princeton University Professor Emeritus of History will present "Constantine, Eusebius, and the Future of Christianity," in honor of the late Fr. Alexander Schmemann. Visit [svots.edu](http://svots.edu) for details.

## CHS Begins New Bible Study

Fr. Basil Biberdorf, priest-in-charge of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, will lead inquirers in finding Christ throughout the Old Testament via a new study beginning January 27 at 6 p.m. The group will meet each week at 845 Center Ave., in Beaver Springs. Call the Chapel at (570) 541-8895 for info.

## For the Record

BIRTH
➤ <b>Victor Michael Herman van Duin</b> , son of Adri and Diana van Duin, was born December 30 and placed at home on January 1, 2013. <b>Many years!</b>
CATECHUMEN
➤ <b>Brian Troyan</b> was enrolled into the Holy Catechumenate on December 16. <b>Many years!</b>
FAREWELL
➤ <b>Samuel Leathers</b> , Choir member and Vespers cantor, moved to Boulder, Colorado, December 27 to pursue a new job opportunity. His wife, <b>Megan</b> , will join him in April. <b>Many years!</b>

