

# Mine Eyes Have Seen Thy Salvation

When the Righteous Simeon takes the forty day old infant Jesus in his arms, he pronounces him the Christ: “A Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel” (cf. *Luke 2:29-32*). With these words, we conclude our forty day celebration of God’s revelation to us in His Son: as Man, as Trinity, as Messiah. Each aspect of His manifestation is essential for us to understand who Jesus is and thereby understand what He has come into the world to do. Jesus is not revealed to us as prophet, or teacher or rabbi; rather as Saviour, God-with-Us, Emmanuel, the Son of God, the Anointed-one, that is, the Christ.

Simeon’s blessing, the song that we sing daily at Vespers, is a thanksgiving that God allowed him to live long enough to see that day, i.e. the Coming of the Lord. Yet it is also an ominous prophecy—a warning—that the child was “appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that would be opposed” (*Luke 2:34*).

God’s manifestation to us is at the same time both a joy and a warning. It is a joy because the prophecies of the Messiah’s coming have been fulfilled. It is a warning because the Messiah comes to set things right. And woe be to those who think they already are.

Our joy ends, therefore, on a somber note. It foreshadows the Cross and the pain of the Mother of God personally at her son’s crucifixion (*Lk. 2:35*):

Simeon could die in peace but Mary would follow her son to the Cross.

God has come in the flesh; this Jesus is God’s own Son, this is the Messiah, promised of old. We celebrate this trifold manifestation of Who He is. But now we look to the Cross; we await His Passion and His Resurrection. Only then will the purpose of His revealing to men be made clear, why He has come into the world.

Let us open our eyes to behold His purpose and like Simeon, bless God saying: “Mine eyes have seen thy salvation,” beholding Christ in our hearts, and in our lives, as the Elder did in his arms.

— Fr. John

## The Meeting of our Lord and Savior in the Temple



**WHAT:** *Divine services commemorating the presentation of Christ by His mother forty days after His birth (Luke 2:22–40).*

**WHEN:** *Friday, February 1, 7 p.m. (Great Vespers, Litiya, and the Blessing of Candles) and Saturday, February 2, 9 a.m. (Liturgy)*

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH  
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## Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Tellers	Servers**
February 3	E. Files and M. & G. Anthony	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Fedkin and R. Schrauf	Team B
February 10	K. Oleynik and B. Schrauf	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team A
February 17	Russian Ladies	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	S. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team B
February 24	K. Cattell and D. Van Duin	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	M. Fedkin and M. Stevens	Team A
March 3	E. George and M. Stevens	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team B
March 10	C. Strauss and P. Doty	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	S. Stevens and G. Cattell	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.				

■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When Conscience Calls Us to Act by Fr. Basil Biberdorf

A challenge arising from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. “Obamacare”) is the determination from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that private companies are obligated to provide all contraceptives described by the Act. These include contraceptives that act, or have the potential to act, as abortifacients (i.e., they cause abortions). Some of these companies with leaders guided by Christian beliefs have responded with legal action. The most prominent of these is Hobby Lobby, a chain of arts and craft stores, but closer to home the law has also been challenged by Conestoga Wood Specialties based in East Earl, Pennsylvania.

Conestoga is of particular interest to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit because one of the two plants they operate in Snyder County is in Beavertown across the street from our Chapel’s lot. Conestoga’s corporate leaders are part of a Mennonite group that rejects abortifacient birth control and have chosen to omit such coverage for their employees as a matter of conscience. In early December, Conestoga announced their intent to oppose the HHS mandate and initiated legal action, hoping to avoid \$95,000 per day in penalties. After an initial injunction, the U.S. District Court in Philadelphia ruled against Conestoga in January. Conestoga is appealing the decision.

What does this mean for us? For starters, as Orthodox Christians, it is not necessary for us to affirm Mennonite teaching in order to stand with opponents of this mandate on the basis of conscience. The mandate to pay for abortion-causing drugs is giving offense to the corporate leaders of Conestoga Wood Specialties just as it should to every Orthodox Christian, business owner or not. Indeed, even the priests who paid Judas for his betrayal knew that claiming Judas was

The Blessing of Beaver Creek



*Last month on the Feast of Theophany, members of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit processed to Beaver Creek to bless its waters and the entire community. The event was the front page feature of the Daily Item, a newspaper with a circulation of more than 25,000.*

the one who actually committed the act would not absolve them of their complicity (cf. *Matthew 27:6*). It is impossible for us as Christians to believe that the only guilty ones are those who *use* the deadly drugs, and not also those who, under compulsion of the law, *paid* for them for that *specific purpose*.

What can we do? I have sent a letter on behalf of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit to Andrew Hahn, the president of Conestoga Wood Specialties, expressing our support for their decision to hold to their conscience and a willingness to help as we can. The Chapel now has a regular litany petition for those enterprises and individuals pursuing civil disobedience for the sake of upholding the sanctity of life, which is consistent with historic Christian practice. The early Christians, when ordered to sacrifice to the emperor as though he were a god, professed their loyalty to the empire but refused to worship any but the True God. Many became

■ 2012 FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

INCOME – BUDGETED		
CATEGORY	2012	2011
Weekly Offerings	\$192,542	\$186,485
Deacon Support Appeal	\$4,655	\$5,155
Parking	\$3,568	\$2,155
Candles/Flowers	\$3,164	\$2,872
OCF Funding Appeal	\$2,000	\$1,580
Missions Appeal	\$1,405	\$1,946
Discretionary Fund	\$1,000	\$920
Interest	\$409	\$858
Other Budgeted Income	—	\$766
TOTAL BUDGETED	\$208,743	\$202,737

INCOME – NON-BUDGETED		
Funds	\$12,183	\$25,081
Building	4,991	10,890
Memorial	2,695	
Bookstore	2,603	3,351
Icon (Designated)	1,894	7,705
Other Funds Income		3,135
Appeals	\$27,319	\$9,476
Alaska Mission Trip	20,005	
Matthew 25	2,929	3,192
Campus Ministry & THON	1,579	2,552
Deacon Isaac Scholarship	1,165	
“Soup”-er Sunday	657	694
IOCC (Disaster Relief)	180	1,358
OCMC (Missions)	50	551
Other Appeals Income	754	1,129
TOTAL NON-BUDGETED	\$39,502	\$34,557
TOTAL INCOME	\$248,245	\$237,294

Chapel of the Holy Spirit

INCOME		
Weekly Offerings	\$32,899	\$30,782
Building Fund	\$1,930	\$10,125
Chapel Special Appeals	\$610	—
Property Appeals/Transfers	—	\$16,854
TOTAL INCOME	\$35,439	\$57,764

EXPENSES – BUDGETED		
CATEGORY	2012	2011
Personnel	\$120,040	\$117,217
Mortgage	\$19,445	\$19,267
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$17,466	\$17,068
Outreach & Fellowship	\$8,477	\$8,205
Utilities	\$5,489	\$5,311
Liturgical	\$4,756	\$4,814
Christian Education	\$4,046	\$3,944
Office Administration	\$3,846	\$3,806
Physical Plant	\$3,690	\$3,954
Discretionary Fund	\$3,147	\$1,027
Missionary/Seminaries	\$3,000	\$3,000
Coffee Hour	\$1,998	\$1,710
Insurance	\$1,611	\$1,660
All-American Council	\$1,491	\$6,130
Refurnishings	\$891	\$219
Other Budgeted Expenses	\$568	\$347
TOTAL BUDGETED	\$199,961	\$197,679

EXPENSES – NON-BUDGETED		
Funds	\$16,305	\$29,168
Appeals	\$29,678	\$6,254
TOTAL NON-BUDGETED	\$45,983	\$35,422
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$245,944	\$233,101

TOTALS		
INCOME	\$248,245	\$237,294
EXPENSES	\$245,944	\$233,101
NET GAIN	\$2,301	\$4,193

EXPENSES – NON-BUDGETED		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,666	\$57,764
TOTALS		
NET GAIN	\$16,773	—

## Holy Trinity to Host Child Abuse Recognition Training

Stewards of Children of Centre County will offer a free child abuse recognition training seminar in the Holy Trinity Parish Hall on Tuesday, February 26 from 7-9 p.m for all clergy, staff, Sunday School teachers, and leaders whose ministries interact with children. Other members of the parish and broader community are also encouraged to attend. RSVP to [info@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:info@holytrinity-oca.org) or call 231-2855 to ensure enough materials are obtained.

## Workshop a Great Opportunity to Practice Singing; Join Choir

On Saturday, February 9, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., the Holy Trinity Choir will hold a clinic for all current and potential members. Fr. John, Bob Roberts, and Karen Cattell will work on vocal technique, pitch, intonation and balance, sight reading, and the role of the choir in Orthodox worship.

## Bridge of Hope Team Forming

Last month, Bridge of Hope gave a stunning presentation dramatizing the difficulties of newly-single mothers facing homelessness. They then asked us to become a partner church if enough are interested. If you are willing to join a team of volunteers who befriend, support, and counsel women struggling to work and raise children, sign the list in the Narthex or see Maria Stevens.

## Altar Servers and the Flu Season

In order to reduce the possibility of spreading flu at church, altar servers are asked to not serve in the altar with cold or flu-like symptoms, including runny nose and/or cough. While the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist do not transmit disease, contaminants on other surfaces do. Holy Trinity’s altar server ministry is open to all boys ages 8 and up; new acolytes are always welcome. See Dn. Alexander Cadman to learn more.

## Luncheon to Benefit Missions

Building upon the success and parish enthusiasm of similar events in 2012, the Men’s Fellowship will host a Mission Luncheon on Sunday, February 24 in the Parish Hall following the Divine Liturgy. A free will offering will be accepted for the sit-down meal, which will feature delicious seasoned sausage and casseroles. There is no charge to attend; all proceeds from a free-will offering will support the work of past and future missions at Holy Trinity.

## Night of Basketball, Food, Fun

Cheer on the Penn State Nittany Lions as the Men’s Basketball team takes on Iowa in a February 14 “Brightout” to defeat pediatric cancer on the eve of THON. Wear bright colors to win prizes and enjoy 10¢ hot dogs. Penn State students meeting the Orthodox Christian Fellowship at 8:45 p.m of Bryce Jordan Center’s Gate A will receive free admission, courtesy of OCF.

## Young Adult Bowling Social

On Saturday, February 23 at noon all young adults are invited to Northland Lanes on Martin Street in State College. Pizza and two hours of bowling will be provided; participants just need to bring money for shoes. For more information, email Megan Leathers at [youngadults@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:youngadults@holytrinity-oca.org).

### For the Record

#### DEATH

- **Rev. Deacon Joseph C. Mell**, 59, of St. Nicholas Church in McKees Rocks, fell asleep in the Lord on January 19. Memory eternal!

#### ELECTION

- **Dr. Melody Thompson** was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary. Many years!

#### NEW MEMBERS

- **Paul & Carol Supko** and **Lynda Hutton** transferred membership to Holy Trinity. Welcome!

martyrs for their disobedience, but it was far better to disobey man than to disobey God. As Christ says, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!” (*Luke 12:4-5*).

I encourage each of you to join with the Chapel in praying for our neighbor, Conestoga Wood Specialties, particularly its leaders and its employees, that they would prevail in their fight to uphold the sanctity of life. We can please God, or we can please men, in this instance, and we know where our desire should be. ■

## More Pro-Life News & Notes



### PARISHONIERS STAND FOR THE UNBORN AT MARCH FOR LIFE

Last month a combined group of 20 parishioners from Holy Trinity and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit braved 20° temperatures and snowy weather to witness for unborn children. Thanks to the artistry of Patty Doty, the group was able to process this year with large icon-adorned banners displaying the church’s name and location, which later completed a makeshift chapel when Metropolitan Tikhon led dozens

of Orthodox Christians in a memorial service for the millions lost to abortion. We are blessed that each year our delegation has grown and diversified. Check out [holytrinity-oca.org](http://holytrinity-oca.org) or [facebook.com/holytrinitysc](https://facebook.com/holytrinitysc) to see photos and make plans to attend the 41<sup>st</sup> March for Life on January 22, 2014!

**LOCAL PRO-LIFE GROUP TO HOLD BENEFIT AUCTION**  
Centre Co. Concerned Citizens for Human Life will host a silent auction on Saturday, February 9, at 9 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in State College. Several items are up for sale including autographed Penn State footballs, antiques, jewelry, and full family vacations! A breakfast, lunch, and dessert menu will also be available.

### TEEN ESSAY/ORATORY CONTEST

Area teens are invited to write/speak on any bioethical issue from a pro-life perspective. Prizes will be awarded (first place is \$200). Essays or written copies of speeches are due February 22. Learn more at [centralpaprolife.org](http://centralpaprolife.org).

### BISHOPS REMEMBER THE

#### 54 MILLION DEAD

The Assembly of Bishops, a body made up of every Orthodox hierarch on this continent, issued an encyclical last month strongly defending the Church’s unabashedly pro-life position. It states that children developing in the womb must be afforded every protection given to those outside the womb. The full Agreed Statement on Life can be found at [assemblyofbishops.org](http://assemblyofbishops.org).

## ■ SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP Raising Orthodox Children by Dn. Mark Oleynik

Holy Trinity’s Church School has several upcoming opportunities for parents to further an involvement in the spiritual upbringing of their children:

- **Gertrude Hawk Fundraising.** To the delight of many, our Sunday School will once again sell Gertrude Hawk chocolates to supplement various Sunday school activities. The sale will be conducted during the month of February (the last day to place your order will be Sunday February 24). See your favorite Sunday school student to place an order or pick up an order brochure at the church (you will also be able to order online).

Contact Laura Rush if you have any questions. It’s a double winner: you get some great chocolate and the students get some extra support.

- **Parents’ Session.** On Sunday, February 10, following Liturgy, parents are invited to a meeting in the Nave. It will last until 12:30 p.m. (child care will be provided). This short session, and others that will follow, is intended to provide a forum for parents to discuss various aspects of the Church, the raising of Orthodox children, and parenting in general. **All** parents are invited (including parents of younger children not yet enrolled in Sunday school, as well as parents of older children, as responsibilities never cease).
- **Vacation Bible School.** It’s not too early to mark your calendar for our annual Vacation Bible School! VBS will be conducted June 17-21 (the first week after local schools are dismissed for the summer) and will be conducted in the evening (as it was last year). ■

