

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

New Veneration Icons Blessed



The new icons were “churched” by being placed on the altar on the eve of the Ascension, then blessed by Fr. John before the liturgy.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES (CHUCK) BEECHAN, who fell asleep in the Lord last June, new icons of Christ, the Mother of God, and the Holy Trinity (Hospitality of Abraham) were blessed and presented on the Feast of the Ascension. Fashioned by renowned iconographer Dmitry Shkolnik (who also rendered the icons on the iconostasis, east altar wall, and ceiling), they are the parish’s first hand-painted icons offered for veneration by the faithful, replacing prints from 1993.

We now turn our attention to the wall icons that will fill the vacant spaces on both sides of the nave. Only \$1,500 of the eight-icon program is yet to be pledged. You can learn more or donate through the virtual tour and subscription forms on holytrinity-oca.org. ■

My Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

by Alexei Listvinsky, OCF Vice President

“If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.”

— Psalm 136 [137]:5

IBELIEVE I SPEAK FOR ALL my fellow travelers, the students and supervisors of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) Real Break Jerusalem 2018 trip when I say, we will never forget Jerusalem.

(continued, see ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY, page 6)

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
June 3	P. Doty and D. Van Duin	J. Fryncko** and J. Houser	G. Cattell and M. Fedkin	Team B
June 10	I. Andrzhiievsky and A. Pelikan*/**	E. Miranda and TBD	E. Ashmore and B. Haupt	Team A
June 17	L. Radomsky* and J. Miranda**	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team B
June 24	H. Torbic and M. Thompson**	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	M. Fedkin and R. Patel	Team A
July 1	SUMMER POTLUCK	M. Fedkin and J. Fryncko	G. Cattell and B. Haupt	Team B
July 8	M. Leathers and A. Ashmore	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	E. Ashmore and H. Torbic	Team A

* Denotes switch change
 ** Denotes fast

Team A: Z. Cadman, B. Oleynik, J. Torbic, C. Schrauf, E. Scisber, and J. Scisber.
 Team B: J. Cadman, C. Legaspi, N. McFarland, S. Patel, D. Stickle, and I. Torbic.

Captains:
 D. Torbic and S. Oleynik

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Being a “Child-Friendly” Parish, Part IV

By the time a child reaches the Pre-K stage, his attention span has gotten longer, theoretically two to five minutes per year of life. He should be encouraged to stand for short periods of time during the liturgy, especially for those moments of liturgical action such as a censuring, “Blessed is the Kingdom,” the Entrances, the Creed, and the Eucharistic prayer. Part of this is practical as well as respectful. If he already is learning to stand reverently, head bowed, hands folded during family prayers, he’ll learn to associate a like posture and attitude in church as “a time to pray.”

When the above liturgical moments have passed, a quiet “time to sit, now” can be used to transition. Since sitting still for age-appropriate periods of time in both Pre-K and K is re-enforced socially of children in their classes, the same can and should be expected at church as well. Take care to help your child not to sit with his back to the altar, in order to train him to focus on what is taking place in the altar and on the ambon. Sitting near the front of the church can be helpful by this age.

A liturgically oriented book, with plenty of pictures, can help re-enforce an attitude of prayer. See especially *The Sacred and Divine Liturgy* in the narthex (and available for purchase in the bookstore). It’s a very good resource for use during the Liturgy, as well as for instruction at home. Needless to say, without teaching in the home, Sunday mornings are guaranteed to be more trying.

It should go without saying that books with a non-religious theme are not acceptable during church. It sends mixed messages, and guess which message tends to win out. During Kindergarten, religious books can be used even more effectively because reading skills are now developing.

In short, expect what is age-appropriate behavior, and don’t accept what is not. A four-year old is light years

Feast Day this Month

HOLY APOSTLES PETER & PAUL

VESPERS: Thurs., June 28, 7pm

OBEDNITSA: Fri., June 29, 8am
(A.T. Pelikan, Prospora)



beyond a two-year old. But all of this being said, one size does not fit all. Each child is different. Simply don’t let him take the emphasis off liturgy for others at church. Use the nursery as needed. Your child, and you, will learn with time.

(TO BE CONCLUDED...) ■

From the Rector’s Desk,
Fr. John

Also From Father’s Desk...

I will conduct Strategic Planning Meetings for each ministry this summer at Trinity House for the purpose of evaluating effectiveness and adherence to Holy Trinity’s vision and mission. Some ministries might be reoriented; some might be discontinued. Both leaders and members are invited to participate in the discussion according to the following schedule:

- **Altar Servers** — Sunday, July 15 at 4:30 p.m.
- **Altar Society** — Wednesday, June 13 at 7 p.m.
- **Bookstore** — Wednesday, June 20 at 1 p.m.
- **Choir** — Tuesday, June 12 at 7 p.m.
- **Greeters** — Tuesday, June 19 at 1 p.m.
- **Lending Library** — TBD
- **OCF** — Sunday, August 19 at 7 p.m.
- **OYA/Jr.OYA** — Saturday, June 16 at 4:30 p.m.
- **Matthew 25** — Thursday, July 19 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Men’s Fellowship** — TBD
- **Women’s Ministry** — Tuesday, June 5 at 7 p.m.
- **Young Adult Fellowship** — Mon., Jun. 25 at 7 p.m.

New System Will Connect Parish

Holy Trinity and the Chapel are transitioning to a new Church Management System (ChMS) to better equip our clergy, staff, and ministry leaders. Entitled “Realm” the new system allows leaders to communicate directly to their ministries and parishioners to one another. It also enables users to see their own giving and manage their personal data and privacy settings, securely and conveniently from holyltrinity-oca.org. Look for details there, in your inbox, and in your mailbox this month.

Holy Trinity to Host OLLI Course

Holy Trinity is honored to once-again host the first of a three-part Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) series exploring how religious traditions help people cope with death and dying. Fr. John will participate on the panel of instructors. Classes begin on November 1 and run weekly; tuition is \$30. (OLLI membership required; participants must be 50 years or “better.”) Email info@holyltrinity-oca.org for details.

You Can Still Give to Stop Suicide

In April, a team from Holy Trinity participated in the annual Out of the Darkness Walk to prevent suicide. Donations are still being accepted through June 30. If you would like to contribute, contact walk coordinator Evan Ashmore at evanash@gmail.com.

Annual Altar Retreat Scheduled

Mark your calendars! The annual retreat for current and prospective altar servers will take place on Sunday, July 15 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The fun afternoon for all boys aged 8 and up includes a refresher course, dinner, and concludes with a Spikes Baseball Game and fireworks. Fr. John will also discuss with participants how serving contributes to Holy Trinity’s mission and vision. Look for more details in next month’s *Trisagion*.

Support Alum’s Mission Trip

Penn State OCF alumnus Lara Haluszczak will join a team of adults to build a home for a family in need through Project Mexico this August. She is asking for your prayers and help in defraying the trip’s cost. Learn more by emailing lara.haluszczak@gmail.com. Thanks!

■ NEWS AND NOTES

OCF Opens Registration for Leadership Institute

BROOKLINE, MA [*via ocf.net*] — Registration is open for the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) Summer Leadership Institute, a four-day training program focused on teaching college students the knowledge, skills, and practices of excellent Orthodox leaders. It will be held from August 15-18, 2018 at the St. Iakovas Retreat Center in Kansasville, WI. Students will participate in workshops led by OCF staff and student leaders as well as experts in Orthodox theology, spirituality, and pastoral ministry to help prepare them to be Christ-centered servant-leaders. To learn more or to register, visit ocf.net.

Teams Build Up the Church

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL [*via ocmc.org*] — Consider joining an OCMC Orthodox Mission Team in 2018. Help build up the Church around the world: Alaska (Jul. 10-19, Jul. 20-31); Albania (Jun. 12-30, Sep. 17-24); Ghana (Aug. 6-21); Guatemala (Jun. 18-30, Aug. 1-8); Kenya (Aug. 8-20, Nov. 28-Dec. 8); Indonesia (Jun. 26-Jul. 9, Jul. 3-16); Jamaica (Aug. 2-11); Mexico (Aug. 11-18). Team applications and details are available at ocmc.org or call (877) 463-6787, ext. 142 for more information.

For the Record

BIRTH

- **George Alexander Reeves**, son of former member **Nicholas Reeves** and his wife, **Leiza**, and grand-son of **Fr. John Reeves**, born May 22. Many years!

CATECHUMENS

- **Bradley and Melissa (Missy) Kerstetter** were enrolled into the Holy Catechumenate on May 6 at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. May God grant them many years!
- **David Witmer** was enrolled into the Holy Catechumenate on May 13 at Holy Trinity. May God grant him many years!

We Will Never Forget Jerusalem (continued from cover)

I and some of my fellow Orthodox Christians from Penn State were blessed with the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land as part of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship's Real Break program. There were a multitude of deeply meaningful spiritual moments during our sojourn through the Holy Land, but for the sake of brevity, I will focus on one.

After crossing through the courtyard in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem, we entered the Holy Sepulcher. We walked around the enormous stone structure and saw the Chapel of Longinus the Centurion, St. Mary of Egypt's gate, and the small building containing Christ's tomb, which we would later venerate.

We then ascended a few sets of stairs which lead us to Golgotha. Beautiful mosaics and paintings adorned the ceilings and walls, some bearing marks of the hundreds of years they had been keeping vigil over the holy site. Christ, the Apostles, the Seraphim and the Cherubim

were wonderfully depicted, yet they only emphasized the feeling of holiness that one feels here.

After waiting in line with dozens of other pilgrims, we finally approached the "Place of a Skull." To prostrate down before and kiss the place where our salvation was worked, was a blessing that I felt unworthy of. Mere seconds after those in our group had finished, the line was stopped, and a monk came out to read a compline service. We attended the service, separate from the line, behind a small velvet rope. Although not a Greek speaker, I was able to enter into to the service, the monk's rapid, rhythmic, continuous "Kyrie Ellison"—s drawing us deeper into the mystical aura of the place.

Though in truth the service was fairly short, it felt like an intersection of eternity. This brief eternity ensured we will never forget Jerusalem; for we worshipped at the place of the crucifixion—at the very foot of the God who lived and died for us. ■

Our Vocation

Everyone has a calling. God creates every human being in His image and likeness for everlasting life. There are no mistakes and no accidents... Everyone has a vocation... There is a divine plan and purpose for everyone... God knows every person from the foundation of the world and provides their unique life and the specific conditions of their earthly way that are literally the best possible... conditions for them... God works together with each one of us so that by suffering what we must on this earth we may attain to life everlasting in the age to come.

Everyone has the same calling... Every person has the same vocation, which is to be a saint... Since Christ has

been glorified and the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all flesh, there is no excuse for those who know and believe this and experience it in the life of the Christian Church, not to be saints. Everything possible has been done to secure this. There is nothing more that God can do. All is given and all is fulfilled. The rest is up to us... Some will sanctify their lives being married; others will be single. Some will do it in clerical orders; others as lay people. Some will be monastic; most will live in the everyday secular world... In the eyes of God none is better than the other. None is higher or more praise-worthy.

Each must find his or her own way and glorify God through it. Ultimately, this is all that matters... The will to find God's will is essential. All that is needed

to discover the will of God and to do it is the pure desire to see, to hear, to understand, and to obey. God does the rest... To find our vocation in life we have to pray to God to show it to us, and to guide us into it for His Name's sake, and ultimately, for our own sake.

We must accept who we are, where we are, when we are, and how we are and struggle to sanctify our real state of existence by the grace of God; resisting the world, the flesh, and the devil and gaining the Spirit of God through Christ in the Church... We must go to God Himself and say with a pure heart: 'Thy will be done!' And He will see that we find our vocation and calling in life and become the saints that He has willed us to be from the beginning."

— Fr. Thomas Hopko (1939-2015)

What's the Manner? by Dn. Mark Oleynik

When was the last time you visited someone's house and they washed your hands and feet? Do you eat your meals without the benefit of knives, forks, spoons, napkins, or plates? Do you regularly pull a couch up to the table and have supper with your family? Have you seen the borough's city gates on the outside of town? Where is the threshing floor in your house?

These may sound like strange questions in today's world but if you lived in Biblical times you probably wouldn't think twice when answering. We who live among the green and pleasant hills of Pennsylvania are not apt to appreciate certain biblical pictures and references for their full significance. Our social organizations, our climate, and our occupations are among the many factors which tend to reduce our appreciation of what we read in the Bible and how life was lived in ancient times. The manners and customs of the Bible are as different from ours as, "... the east is from the west. They sit when you stand; they lie when you sit; they do to the head what you do to the feet; they use fire when you use water; you shave the beard and they shave the head; you move the hat, they touch the breast... you go out to take a walk, they go up to enjoy the fresh air..." (James Freeman, *The East and the West*, 1854).

To a child, learning the Scriptures can be demanding enough, but trying to contextualize the many ancient and foreign notions is a completely different challenge. That's why our Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme this year is "What's the Manner?" Through the study of biblical manners and customs, including such things as home life, food, clothing, music, farming, plants, etc., Scripture will come to life as VBS paints a vivid picture of the culture, enhancing the students' understanding.

This year's VBS will be conducted June 18-21 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. beginning with a light dinner each evening. (The schedule has been compressed to make it more fun and faster-paced; there will be no

session on Friday this year.) All students four (4) years of age through rising sixth graders are encouraged to attend. To register, visit holyltrinity-oca.org. There is no fee to attend but early registration is requested so that plans may be accordingly.

As always, adult and teen helpers are needed (*especially as teachers*). Please contact me at (814) 380-6031 or dnmark@holyltrinity-oca.org for more information. ■

Children Learn Love of God by their Parents' Example

Every Orthodox parent wants their children to grow up attending Sunday Liturgies and staying active in the life of the Church throughout their lives. Yet many parents don't demonstrate the importance of having a personal relationship with God in from on their children. If you do not make God important, neither will your child.

Children observe their parents. They see hypocrisy and know when you are not following through with the teachings of the Church throughout the week. They hear when you take the Lord's name in vain. They notice when you reserve prayer to weekend service. They notice you only speaking of God on Sunday morning.

Making the sign of the cross, lighting candles and burning incense only on Sundays teaches your children to compartmentalize their own faith, and leaves them defenseless in a world filled with temptations and distractions from things that are of a spiritual nature. If you do not demonstrate the importance of prayer before your children, you will leave them defenseless in a world that hates Christ. Your children need to pray with you, read the scriptures with you, be taught the faith by you.

If you do not make your home a domestic church, your children will be lost to Christ and Orthodoxy will not be lived out beyond your own grave. If they do not see you living a committed life in Christ, they will turn from the faith, and Orthodoxy will not survive into the next generation.

— Abbot Tryphon

Holy Trinity Calendar

All events take place at 119 South Sparks Street in State College, unless where noted.
Events listed at **Trinity House** take place at 123 South Sparks Street, in State College.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 PENTECOST: FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY Festal Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am "Kneeling" Vespers of Pentecost, 12pm Annual Parish Picnic/Patronal Feast 1pm-4pm @ <i>Holmes-Foster Park</i>	28 Day of the Holy Spirit <i>(Divine Liturgy at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, 10am; Patronal Picnic follows at the Rectory.)</i>	29	30 Vespers, 5:30pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>	31	June 1	2 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
3 All Saints Sunday Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	4	5 Women's Ministry Strategic Planning Meeting, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i>	6 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	7	8	9 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
10 All Saints of America Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am 40-Day Memorial for Jane Radomsky and One-Year Memorial for Mka. Barbara Oleynik, 11:45am	11	12 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.</i> Choir Ministry Strategic Planning Meeting, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i>	13 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Altar Society Strategic Planning Meeting, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i>	14	15	16 Orthodox Youth Assoc. (OYA) / Jr. OYA Strategic Planning Meeting, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
17 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am One-Year Memorial for Chuck Beechan, 11:45am	18 Vacation Bible School (VBS) Begins: Theme: "What's the Manner," 5:30pm-8pm @ <i>Parish Hall (Registration, 5pm)</i>	19 Vacation Bible School, 5:30pm-8pm @ <i>Parish Hall (Registration, 5pm)</i>	20 Vespers, 5pm Confessions Vacation Bible School, 5:45pm-8pm @ <i>P.H. (Registration, 5:35pm)</i>	21 Vacation Bible School, 5:30pm-8pm @ <i>Parish Hall (Registration, 5pm)</i>	22	23 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	25 Young Adult Potluck and Ministry Strategic Planning Meeting, 6pm @ <i>Trinity House</i>	26 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm-8:30pm	27 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	28 Great Vespers, 7pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>	29 HOLY APOSTLES SS. PETER AND PAUL Obednitsa with Holy Communion, 8am <i>(Hours, 7:40am)</i>	30 Great Vespers, 6pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>
July 1 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	2	3	4 <u><i>Independence Day</i></u> <i>(Trinity House and Parish Offices Closed; No Daily Vespers)</i>	5	6	7 Great Vespers, 6pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>

Chapel Calendar

All events take place at the new building (145 North Kern Street) in Beavertown, unless where noted.

Saturday 2 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Tuesday 19 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Sunday 3 All Saints Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study of "Our Life in Christ" Podcast, following	Saturday 23 Great Vespers, 6pm
Tuesday 5 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Sunday 24 Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study of "Our Life in Christ" Podcast, following
Saturday 9 Great Vespers, 6pm	Monday 25 Women's "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Knitting/Crocheting Outreach, 6:30pm
Sunday 10 All Saints of America Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> One-Year Memorial for Earl (Noah) Lyter, following	Tuesday 26 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Tuesday 12 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Saturday 30 Great Vespers, 6pm
Saturday 16 Great Vespers, 6pm	Sunday July 1 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study of "Our Life in Christ" Podcast, following
Sunday 17 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	Note New CHS Phone Number: (570) 541-8594

June 2018