

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Adult Study Groups Return this Month



The above icon of Christ saving a drowning Peter is an image of the synergy we are invited to have with God. When we keep our eyes on Christ, we can walk on water with Him; when we take our eyes off Him, we begin to drown and desperately need His salvation. God alone saves us, but we can become co-workers with Him as did Peter, whose epistles will be studied Wednesdays this Fall.

Helping God Out vs. Becoming Fellow Workers with God

October marks the return of two ministries for the spiritual edification of adults in the parish: Orthodoxy 101 and the Adult Ministry Group. **Orthodoxy 101** is perfect for all inquirers of the Orthodox Faith—its history, doctrine, and worship. The weekly, six-session course begins on Monday, October 14 at 7 p.m. and is loosely based on the late Fr. Tom Hopko’s four-volume catechesis, *The Orthodox Faith*, a.k.a. “The Rainbow Series.”

Beloved Brethren, last month I wrote of the 25-year experience of the Patriarchal couple of Abraham and Sarah. By way of recap, Abraham and Sarah were the aged couple and progenitors of ancient Israel much in the same way Adam and Eve were for the human race. At age 75 God called them forth their homeland and from all their family ties to go to a new place that God would eventually identify for them. God also promised them that He would give them a son and an heir of their own loins, a promise reaffirmed by God over the course of their lives (*Genesis 12:1-3; 16:1-16; 17:1-27; 21:1-7*).

Also beginning in October is the **Adult Study Group**. Led by Fr. David Smith, it is geared toward all adult parishioners as well as inquirers. Six sessions as well, the group will meet at 7 p.m. on select Wednesday nights following Vespers (which moves to 6 p.m. on October 16; see related story on page 3). Father will guide participants in an exploration of the Petrine epistles. Both studies take place in the Trinity House Conference Room and are open to everyone. ■

(continued, see FROM FR. DAVID’S STUDY, last page)

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
October 6	R. Schrauf and D. Patel	B. Haupt and A. Stickle	M. Fedkin and B. Haupt	Team B
October 13	Orthodox Christian Fellowship*	L. & M. Radomsky and L. Swisher	G. Cartell and H. Torbic	Team A
October 20	J. Cadman and J. Rush*	J. Cadman and J. Houser	M. Fiori and D. McNulty	Team B
October 27	C. Swisher and A. Swisher*	J. Cadman & R. Cadman*	M. Anthony and M. Fedkin	Team A
November 3	Camp Scholarship Benefit Dinner*	D. Patel and R. Patel	G. Cartell and B. Haupt	Team B
November 10	L. Georgiou and B. & N. Troyan	E. Bazilevskaya and M. Fedkin	M. Fiori and H. Torbic	Team A

* Denotes switch/change Team A: A. Bugynsky, Z. Cadman, B. Oleynik, N. Patel, C. Schrauf, J. Swisher, and J. Torbic. Captains: D. Torbic and S. Oleynik
 ** Denotes fast Team B: J. Cadman, N. McFarland, S. Patel, D. Stickle, E. Swisher, and L. Torbic.

■ FROM FATHER DAVID'S STUDY

Don't "Help God Out"; Cooperate with Him!

The article elicited several responses and quite naturally raised some questions. What I was driving at and aiming for, was not a wholesale dismissal of what we Orthodox call *synergy*, that is, our cooperation with God in His saving and sanctifying plan for this world and for each of us personally. Indeed, we are to cooperate with Him, which is to say, we are to “work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling” (*Ps. 2:12*), a salvation already made ours by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit! It is foundational and fundamental to the Faith of the Church that God is *always* the Lover of mankind and we are the Beloved; that God is the great Initiator of this tremendous love story with His fallen creatures; that He is the sole Source of grace and we are the recipients of His grace. And, because this relationship is one of gift and response, grace and response, we are free to either take it or to leave it, either relish and savor it and apply its healing balm to our broken lives or ignore and dismiss it to the eternal peril of our souls.

Abraham and Sarah were given the divine Word 25 years before its fulfillment: that God Himself would bless the earth through them and their seed (*Gn. 12:1-3*). In the meantime, they were to cooperate with God by doing what husbands and wives do together. God had not promised them a virginal conception—that was reserved for the singular and unique birth of the Son of God by the Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; an unprecedented act in all of human history!

The issue is when the ever-aging couple began to ponder this wondrous promise of God by using their fallen human reasoning. From that perspective the undeniable evidence of old age and all that that encompasses biologically, they truly wondered, “How can this be so? How can this happen given the circumstances?” Their question certainly isn't new for us. We've heard it before elsewhere, at least twice in the Biblical record: Once by another aged man, the priest Zachariah, father of the Forerunner and Baptist John (*Lk. 1:5-25*); and once by

the Mother of God herself (*Lk. 1:26-38*). We can only see what's before us, and from our fallen perspective it doesn't seem rational or make sense, thus it isn't possible.

The issue in the story of this blessed couple is that they operated out of fear rather than of faith. It was a momentary lapse to be sure, one of which they repented, but a lapse, nonetheless. Their fear was based on and rooted in their limited vision of the horizon, and so that's what they acted on insofar as they were able to see by fallen human wisdom. Their “helping God out” wasn't the issue *per se* as much as they went rogue when they did so! This is what we tend to do when fear takes over and we try to engineer the end result we want... Fear oftentimes compels us to try to force the hand of God or, at least, guide it, because fear is not faith in God. It is reactionary rather than responsive and it is based in our limitations. Faith, on the other hand, trusts in God Who holds us providentially in the hollow of His hand... Faith enlarges us; fear constricts us. Faith enriches us; fear depletes us...

There is no formula we can use in this spiritual life, this life of faith and obedience, that will guarantee or automatically produce what we want or yearn for, or even need. But God knows because God sees what we cannot due to our finite limitations. God knows we need a Rector. And one will come—in God's time. We have the word of our shepherd and Archbishop that he is searching for the right candidate among the candidates available to him. We have the Church full of the Word of God. We have the Holy Spirit Who continues to bless and sanctify us through the Word and the Mysteries of the Faith. Our interim arrangement may not be perfect insofar as we can see with our limited vision, but we also have not been abandoned and left without any means of God's grace! Far from it!

■ NEWS & NOTES

Extraordinary People Needed for Kenya OCMC Mission Trip

SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL [*via ocmc.org*] — Volunteers are needed to teach at the Diocese of Kisumu and West Kenya Youth Seminar this December. This event draws hundreds of youth, ages 15-35, from throughout the diocese. Individuals with a desire to impact the future leaders of the Church of Kenya are needed to apply here at *ocmc.org*. The dates of the mission trip are December 8-17, 2019.

Series on OCA Autocephaly to be Conducted at STOTS

SOUTHCANAAN, PA [*via oca.org*] — St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary here announces the 2019 October Lecture Series, “Autocephaly,” celebrating the 50th Year of Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). The lectures begin Tuesday, October 8, and continue on each of the following Tuesdays in the month. All are welcome.

For the OCA, it is fitting that the lectures will be held in the newly-renovated Convocation Hall, the site of the first All-American Sobor in 1970. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon will give the opening lecture, “Primacy and Service,” on the 8th at 7:30 p.m. In the following weeks, Autocephaly will be considered by OCA Archivist Alexis Liberovsky (Oct. 15); our Archdiocese's very own Fr. Thomas Soroka (Oct. 22); and OCA Chancellor Fr. Alexander Rentel (Oct. 29). Lectures will run for forty-five minutes, with fifteen minutes to follow for questions and answers. A light reception follows each lecture, finishing at 9 p.m.

Abortions are Decreasing, But Work Still Remains

WASHINGTON [*via marchforlife.org*] — A study estimated 862,320 abortions were performed in the U.S. in 2017, down from more than a million in 2011; the lowest rate since 1973. The March for Life celebrates this development but recommits to ending abortion through its ongoing work and annual event on January 24, 2020.

■ YOUTH MINISTRY

Committee Forms to Help Endow Orthodox Summer Camp Scholarships

Parents of middle and high school students are teaming up to find ways to enable parish children to attend summer camp at Antiochian Village. Three fundraisers have been planned to help parents afford the tuition that will enable kids to have a life-changing experience of the Orthodox Faith that the immersive camping program provides. Possible ideas to support those interested in receiving a scholarship is a free Mexican-themed luncheon served by the children on Sunday, November 3 (a free-will offering would be accepted). Also suggested is a “Rake-a-Thon” conducted by the kids at the homes of several parishioners this fall; or raising money through babysitting services provided at the church for parents on a Friday night in December.

If you are a parent of a teen who might benefit from attending Orthodox summer camp, please see Corene Swisher or Matushka Jennifer Cadman by the end of October (call the Parish Office at 814-231-2855 or visit holyltrinity-oca.org/myinfo if you need their contact information). They plan to assemble a team made up of parents and kids who can come up with ideas and goals for creating a camp scholarship fund.

Sunday School and Junior OYA to Unite for a Fun Trip to the Chapel

Students of the middle school Sunday School class are planning a visit to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit to attend the Divine Liturgy there. The trip will coincide with a Junior Orthodox Youth Association (Jr. OYA, grades 5-8) outing to a corn maze near Lewisburg, about 20 miles from the chapel. Participants will depart from Holy Trinity on Sunday, October 20 at 8:15 a.m. RSVP with Dn. Mark Oleynik as soon as possible so appropriate transportation can be secured. ■

■ CAMPUS MINISTRY

Will You Be Able to Help Your Child?

Early one October morning, Sheri E. Warsh, a mother of three, stepped out of the shower to a ringing phone. On the other end, her 18-year-old son's college roommate delivered terrifying news. Her son—270 miles away at the University of Michigan—was being rushed by ambulance to an emergency room in severe, unrelenting chest pain... "I was scared out of my mind, imagining the worst," Warsh said. In a panic, she called the ER for details about the medical emergency. What she got instead was a rebuff from a nurse. "She asked me how old my son was, and when I said 18, she told me I had no right to talk to the doctor," Warsh said...

Moms and dads who still think of themselves as protectors and advisers, even after their children become legal adults, often don't consider the real-world implications of that milestone birthday. They and their children need to think about the unthinkable in advance. Three forms—HIPAA authorization, medical power of attorney, and durable power of attorney—will help facilitate the involvement of a parent or other trusted adult in a medical emergency:

- **HIPAA authorization:** *[This] is like a permission slip. It allows healthcare providers to disclose your health information to anyone you specify...*
- **Medical power of attorney (POA):** *In signing a medical POA, you appoint an "agent" to make medical decisions on your behalf in case you are incapacitated and can't make such decisions for yourself...*
- **Durable power of attorney:** *As an additional step, young adults might consider appointing a durable power of attorney, enabling a parent or other designated agent to take care of business on their behalf. If the student becomes incapacitated or if he or she is studying abroad, the durable power of attorney would be able to, for example, sign tax returns, access bank accounts, and pay bills...*

Bishops Designate October 6 as College Student Sunday

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America has designated October 6, 2019 as Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) College Student Sunday (CSS). On this day, parishes recognize and honor their Orthodox college students and take a special collection to support the work of OCF.

OCF continues to support a network of 350 on-campus chapters, including here at Penn State, while also providing dynamic programming through district and regional retreats, College Conference, Real Break, and the Summer Leadership Institute. "As OCF strives to reach and impact all college students on as many campuses as possible, we can only reach our full potential with the greater support of the Church," said Dn. Marek Simon, Executive Director of OCF. "We are already making a huge difference, and still there is so much more we can do. Share in our commitment to keep college students engaged in their Orthodox Christian faith through your support on College Student Sunday."

Our Penn State chapter will commemorate CSS through a special Coffee Hour and Bake Sale on Sunday, October 13. All proceeds benefit OCF. Thank you for your support!

If your child attends college out of state, fill out the forms relevant to the home state and school state to avoid any challenges. If the school has its own form, sign that one too, Warsh says. "When the doctor or medical institution sees it, you want them to be familiar with it and recognize it," she says.

Once the forms are completed, it's a good idea to scan and save them so they're readily available on a smartphone or home computer. You don't need a lawyer to do this. Many websites have forms that can be downloaded. But a lawyer's involvement can benefit in making sure you're using the right form, explaining it, and advocating on your behalf in case something goes wrong. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This article originally appeared online at consumerreports.org and was written by Susan Feinstein.*

This parish continues to live and thrive by the hand of God Who sustains her in His providence. Do not doubt that nor let us deplore it. For this is God at work in our midst, the very God we call Master and Lord... We are called to be patient and to cooperate with God as we wait together. For God will act in His own time to give to us a priest after His own heart. That is the desire of our hearts, isn't it, to have a priest after God's own heart? In the meantime, we may need practice the spiritual discipline of restraint, reigning in our understandable urges to take matters into our own hands. Brethren, this is a time of gestation for our own spiritual growth both as a parish and as her baptized as we wait on the Lord to act. Let us trust Him by listening to His Word and by staying on the course that is before us. ■

— Fr. David

Holy Day this Month



Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-Gusher of Thessalonica

VESPERS: Fri., October 26, 6pm

LITURGY: Sat., October 26, 9am

(I. Andzhievskaya, Prospkhora)

■ LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Liturgics Teacher to Conduct Reader Training at HTOC

Save the date: Hieromonk Herman, liturgical editor for St. Tikhon's Monastery Press and lecturer of Spirituality and Liturgics at St. Tikhon's Seminary, will come to Holy Trinity the weekend of November 15-17 to conduct a workshop for all current and prospective readers in the parish. The four-session seminar will take place in the Atty Lounge of Trinity House. It will be recorded and serve as a companion to his 12-part video series that introduces the *Typikon* to chanters and choir directors. The parish will offer this course free of charge to anyone who is interested in chanting in church, provided he or she is willing to be seen in the video that Fr. Herman will put online. For more information, see Rdr. Matthew Finke. ■

Vespers Moves to 6pm for a Time

Beginning Saturday, October 12, all Vespers services this Fall will be at 6 p.m., whether it be Wednesday, Saturday, or the eve of a Great Feast. This trial run is aimed at standardizing evening service times for newcomers, allowing study groups or evening meetings to take place immediately after daily vespers, and helping parents with young children participate more fully in festal services by starting and concluding them an hour earlier. This change will impact Confessions on Wednesday as well: Beginning October 16, Fr. David will hear them *before* daily vespers starting at 4:30 p.m. Help us evaluate the effectiveness of this pilot study: please share your feedback by phone, 814-231-2855, or by email, info@holyytrinity-oca.org.

Council Preparing 2020 Budget

The Parish Council will present a 2020 budget at the Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 10. It will be drafted at a special meeting on Saturday, October 12 and finalized on Wednesday the 16th (both meetings are open to the public and will be at Trinity House). The proposed budget will be featured in the November *Trisagion*.

October Featured Bookstore Title

Roman Commander Placidus was a man of great power and influence. He and his family wanted for little, yet he knew there had to be more to life. Baptized into the Christian faith as Eustathius, he faced trials beyond anything he had ever experienced on the battlefield. His faith was challenged, but that same faith gained him eternal life. Meet this great man in Ancient Faith Publishing's first graphic novel, *The Cross and the Stag*, written to inspire both children and adults. You can find it on the "Featured Book" shelf outside the newly expanded bookstore in the Parish Hall.

Peaceful Demonstration for Life

Life Chain Sunday will be held Sunday, October 7, in State College, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Attendees are asked to gather at 1:45 p.m. at 900 West College Ave. to receive the proper signage. All are encouraged to attend and show reverence for all innocent life.

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
29 Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Third & Sixth Hours, 9:40am)</i>	30	October 1 Protection of the Theotokos Choir Rehearsal, 7pm	2 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions, following	3 OCF at Penn State: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm <i>@ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</i>	4	5 Great Vespers, 6pm
6 St. Innocent of Alaska Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> 40-Day Memorial for Sylvia Pelikan, 11:45am Life Chain Sunday, 1:45pm-3pm <i>@ 900 W. College, State College</i>	7 Knitting Group: "Hats and Hugs Made with Love," 1pm <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i>	8 Homeless Ministry, 4pm <i>@ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.</i>	9 St. Tikhon, Enlightener of North America Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	10 OCF at Penn State: Dinner and Hayride/Cookout <i>(departare time 6:30 p.m. from Pasquerilla Spiritual Center)</i>	11	12 Special Parish Council Budget Meeting, 9am <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions , following
13 Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council College Student Sunday Sunday School, 9am <i>(All classes begin in the Parish Hall.)</i> Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> OCF Coffee Hour/Bake Sale, following	14 Orthodoxy 101, 7pm <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i> RETURNING MINISTRY	15 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm	16 Confessions, 4:30pm Vespers, 6pm NEW TIME Parish Council Meeting, 7pm <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i>	17 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm <i>@ 124 Pasquerilla Center</i>	18 Apostle and Evangelist Luke	19 Memorial Saturday—St. Demetrius Great Vespers, 6pm
20 Middle School Sunday School Class / Jr. Orthodox Youth Association Road Trip to Chapel and Corn Maze <i>(departs 8:15am, returns 5:30pm to/from Holy Trinity parking lot)</i> Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	21 Orthodoxy 101, 7pm <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i>	22	23 Apostle James Confessions, 4:30pm Vespers, 6pm Adult Study Group, 7pm <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i> RETURNING MINISTRY	24 OCF at Penn State: "Stump the Priest" Night, 7pm <i>@ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</i>	25 Great Vespers, 6pm NEW TIME	26 Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 9am <i>(Hours, 8:40am)</i> Great Vespers, 6pm
27 Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	28 Orthodoxy 101, 7pm <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i>	29 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm	30 Confessions, 4:30pm Vespers, 6pm Adult Study Group, 7pm <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i>	31 St. John (Kochurov) of Chicago OCF at Penn State: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm <i>@ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center</i>	November 1	2 Archdiocesan Assembly (all day) <i>@ Mingo Junct., OH. (Our delegation will depart 6pm from HTOC on Friday.)</i> Reader Vespers, 6pm
3 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am (turn clocks back one hour)</i> Sunday School, 9am EST Divine Liturgy, 10am EST <i>(Hours, 9:40am EST)</i>	4 Knitting Group: "Hats and Hugs Made with Love," 1pm <i>@ Wyndtree Court Commons, Bellefonte</i> Orthodoxy 101, 7pm <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i>	5	6 Confessions, 4:30pm Vespers, 6pm Adult Study Group, 7pm <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i>	7 Great Vespers, 6pm NEW TIME OCF at Penn State: Dinner at Holy Trinity, 7pm <i>@ Trinity House Ministry Center</i> NEW TIME	8 Archangel Michael Divine Liturgy, 8am <i>(Hours, 7:40am)</i>	9 Great Vespers, 6pm

Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 5 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Saturday 26 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
Sunday 6 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study of the Orthodox Spirituality, following	Sunday 27 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study of the Orthodox Spirituality, following
Tuesday 8 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Monday 28 Women's Knitting/Crocheting "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Outreach, 6:30pm
Saturday 12 Reader Vespers, 6pm	Tuesday 29 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Sunday 13 Fathers of the 7th Council Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	Saturday Nov. 2 Reader Vespers, 6pm
Tuesday 15 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Sunday 3 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am (turn clocks back)</i> Divine Liturgy, 10am EST <i>(Hours, 9:40am EST)</i> Fellowship and Study of the Orthodox Spirituality, following
Saturday 19 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Tuesday 5 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Sunday 20 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Ard's Farm Corn Maze and Ice Cream Youth Outing with Holy Trinity, follows	Saturday 9 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
Tuesday 22 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	

October 2019