

# Engaging in Every Level of Mission



All funds raised by the Holy Trinity Sunday School directly benefited St. Andrew's Rescue Center in Kenya, which is administered by Fr. Eliakim Kulali. The center sponsors a school for the needy (pictured above), a feeding program, and medical treatments for those afflicted with foot parasites. Including this charity, nearly \$10,000 was raised and donated to various missions during Advent 2019.

IN PREPARATION FOR OUR LORD'S NATIVITY, the parish responded to His call to "make disciples of all nations," by supporting multiple levels of missionary activity. Beginning with ourselves through fasting and prayer, continuing to our immediate families through an Orthodox summer camp fundraiser, proceeding next to our community with *Matthew 25's* Thanksgiving and St. Nicholas/Angel Tree Drives, and ending with alms for an Orthodox outreach in Kenya, four distinct levels of missions were served. In addition to the \$4,000 that came in for camp and the \$2,672.75 donated for Thanksgiving meals (see last month's *Trisagion*), Christmas gifts were purchased for 26 families and \$2,148.74 was raised by the Sunday School to feed, educate, and medically care for our brethren in Kenya (see above). Glory to Jesus Christ! Thank you for your generosity! ■

## Special Parish Meeting to be Held January 19

ALTHOUGH INCLUDED in the 2020 Budget, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit's proposal for a refinanced mortgage through the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh requires a two-thirds vote of no fewer than 51% of the parish membership. The Parish Council has called a Special Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 19 following the Divine Liturgy. It will be chaired by our Dean, Fr. Mark Meholick; Archbishop Melchisedek will also attend as a show of the Archdiocese's support. If approved, equity from the new \$150,000 mortgage (at 0% APR for 25 years) will be used to build a 12' x 10' addition on the Chapel's east side to house its altar. ■

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## Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
January 5	J. Cadman and J. Rush**	J. Cadman and J. Houser	B. Haupt* and G. Cartell	Team A
January 12	Russian Ladies I*	J. Pettengill and S. Pettengill	M. Anthony and B. Haupt	Team B
January 19	L. Georgiou and D. Van Duin*	D. Patel and R. Patel	M. Fiori and H. Torbic	Team A
January 26	A.T. Pelikan and H. Torbic	E. Bazilevskaya and M. Fedkin	M. Fedkin and D. McNulty	Team B
February 2	I. Andzhiwsky and B. & N. Trojan*	B. Haupt and A. Stickle	M. Anthony and G. Cartell	Team A
February 9	Russian Ladies II	J. Cadman and J. Houser	B. Haupt and H. Torbic	Team B
* Denotes switch change      Team A: A. Bugynskiy, Z. Cadman, B. Oleynik, N. Patel, C. Schrauf, J. Seisler, and J. Torbic.      Captains: D. Torbic and S. Oleynik				
** Denotes fast      Team B: J. Cadman, N. McFarland, S. Patel, D. Stickle, E. Seisler, and L. Torbic.				

■ FROM FATHER DAVID’S STUDY

# God’s Time is Always the Right Time

To the Almighty, time is nothing. He has all the time in the world...and more! Trying to put things into perspective, St. Peter says “that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8). Playing with that a little, we could say that it’s only the second day after Nativity 2,000 years ago!

Of course, we who are bound by time wrestle, at times, mightily with God’s timing in our lives. We do not have the vantage point God does to Whom past, present, and future are all simultaneously one to Him, that is to say, contemporaneous, what someone has called “the Eternal Now.” Read the history of our ancestors of Israel and there you will find much waiting, much anticipation, much beseeching.

“How long, O Lord?” is the ancient yet ever new cry of the soul: How long wilt Thou forget me, O Lord? *Forever?* How long wilt Thou hide Thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?” (Ps. 12 [13]:1-2).

We are not the first to wonder at the unfathomable depths of God and His providence. And, we will not be the last, I’m sure. None of this makes sense as we wait with prolonged pain or worry or lack of answers. None of it. That is, as the psalmist proclaims elsewhere, “until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood,” he says (Psalm 72 [73]:17). Like all who wait on the Lord to renew their strength, to grant them answers to a life otherwise lived without answers, the psalmist leads us to the Holy of Holies—to the Holy One, the Holy Mighty One, the Holy Immortal One. “But I have trusted in Thy mercy,” he declares (Psalm 12 [13]:5). That God the Almighty permitted us to experience the Fall instead of rescuing us immediately so as to spare generations

upon generations of fallenness, remains a divine Mystery. *Why not now, Lord, why wait? Why later?* And what we hear is silence. But, it is not a wasted, barren silence. It is pregnant with the hope of the One risen with healing in His wings (Micah 4:2) because God foresees the Blessed Virgin who will bear into this darkened world the very Light Who is God in the flesh!

The Sacred Scripture teaches—and we believe as the Church—that in God’s own good time He sent forth His Son (Gal. 4:4). God’s time: There it is again! God’s time—a time full of meaning and purpose and fulfillment...and salvation! God’s time is always the right time, if we entrust ourselves to Him. Even when we’re waiting for a priest after God’s own heart. To all who spend their lives waiting and to whom time is precious—at the right time our God acts to fulfill His most holy will! And, lo, we shall be renewed like that of an eagle (Isaiah 40:31)!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! ■ — Fr. David

### A Prayer for the New Year

We ask you Lord to grant us Your wisdom, strength and power to be within us. We pray for all of us and especially for our health in the New Year. We pray that our Lord would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Help us in the new year, Lord, to fret less and laugh more; to teach our children to laugh by laughing with them; and to teach others to love by loving them. We know—when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem—that He came for us so that Love could be with us, and we could know You; and that we could share Your Love with others. **Amen.**

**Let Us Love Another! As Jesus Loves Us!**

— Fr. John and Mka. Carol Steffaro

## Bring Christ’s Sanctification Home

January and February have been reserved for the blessing of all the homes in the parish. Parishioners attending the Chapel are asked to contact Fr. David Smith directly at [frdavid@holyspirit-oca.org](mailto:frdavid@holyspirit-oca.org); those attending Holy Trinity will sign up online and in the Narthex later this month.

## Matins to Resume at Holy Trinity

Matins returns to Holy Trinity as a male ensemble for a four-week trial beginning January 12 at 9 a.m. Karen Cattell is currently gauging interest for a mixed choir to sing Matins as well, alternating Sundays with the men. Email [choir@holyltrinity-oca.org](mailto:choir@holyltrinity-oca.org) if you are interested.

## A New Parish Partnership for Rides

Want or need a ride to church? Simply call or text (814) 321-4473 to arrange a pickup time and location. The parish is now partnering with Uber to provide free door-to-door service for all who request it.

## Archdiocesan Retreat to be Held

The Archdiocese of Pittsburgh will conduct a retreat at Holy Resurrection Church (222 Mary St., in Belle Vernon) on Saturday, February 8. Presenter Archpriest Steven Voytovich will speak on the topic “Our Life in Christ in 2020.” It will occur from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and include an Akathist to St. Herman and lunch. To register, mail your name, contact information, and a \$10 check payable to the “Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and W. Pa. (OCA)” to P.O. Box 1769, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066. RSVPs must be received at the Chancery no later than Tuesday, February 4. To learn more, contact Fr. Bill Evansky at (724) 266-5009.

## Study Group Concludes this Month

This month, the Adult Study Group will meet on select Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Trinity House. The 3-week series on II Peter begins January 8 and concludes January 29. The study is open to all adults.

## Oops!

Last month, the “Your Generosity” section of FOR THE RECORD failed to mention that the Thanksgiving meal gift cards were donated by an anonymous donor. May this outpouring of love encourage others to do the same!

## Feast Days this Month

### THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

R. HOURS: Friday, Jan. 3, 8am  
VESPERS: Sunday, Jan. 5, 6pm  
(A.T. Pelikan, Litiya Bread)  
(L. Rush, Icon)  
LITURGY: Monday, Jan. 6, 10am  
(A.T. Pelikan, Prospophora)



### THE MEETING OF OUR LORD

VESPERS: Saturday, Feb. 1, 6pm  
(A. Stickles, Litiya Bread)  
(P. Doty, Icon)  
LITURGY: Sunday, Feb. 2, 10am



## Caroling in the Community

Chapel faithful walked the streets of Beavertown singing Christmas carols to the residents. Each family they sang to was given a candy cane with a note sharing the Chapel’s Nativity service schedule and welcoming them to worship with them this Christmas. Following the event, carolers returned to the rectory for hot chocolate, snacks, and lots of fellowship. ■

## For the Record

### BAPTISM

➤ **Lucia Anne Kerstetter**, daughter of Rdr. Evan and Elya (Irene), was baptized at the Chapel on December 28, sponsored by Mka. Brenda Smith. Many years!

### CATECHUMENS

➤ **Kelsi (Mary) Randall and Gina Lyter** were enrolled into the Holy Catechumenate at the Chapel on December 22. Many years!

## ■ NEWS & NOTES

### Join Us for March for Life and Sanctity of Life Sunday

SYOSSET, NY [*via oca.org*] — January 19, 2020, will be observed as “Sanctity of Life Sunday” in parishes of the Orthodox Church in America. The day serves as a prelude to the 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States; thus a “March for Life” will take place from the Mall to the US Supreme Court on Friday, January 24.

As in past years, the parish will provide free transportation to the annual event. There is no cost to attend; The trip is fully sponsored by our campus and Sunday School ministries. The pilgrimage departs from Trinity House promptly at 6:30 a.m., and returns by 11 p.m., stopping each way at the Sheetz near Duncannon at about 8 a.m./p.m. to pick up and drop off Chapel members. Participants should wear warm clothing, pack a lunch, and bring money for snacks or souvenirs. (RSVPs to *events@holyltrinity-oca.org* are appreciated.)

Pilgrims will join fellow Orthodox from around the country in a peaceful witness to the sanctity of all human life. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon will lead a delegation of bishops, clergy, monastics, seminarians and faithful from the Orthodox Church in America as they join other Orthodox Christian bishops, clergy, and faithful participating in the annual march.

A rally is held on the National Mall at noon. At the conclusion of the rally, Metropolitan Tikhon will preside at a prayer service for those who have fallen victim to abortion over the past four decades.

For those unable to travel, our OCF at Penn State will host a memorial service at 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center on Thursday, January 23 at 7 p.m. All parishioners and the public are invited to attend. Email *orthodox@psu.edu* for details.

### 2020 Marks 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canonization and Tomos

SYOSSET, NY [*via oca.org*] — The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America released a proclamation announcing the anniversary celebrations for the Canonization of St. Herman of Alaska, and the Reception of the Tomos of Autocephaly. The statement, which can be read in full at *oca.org*, reads:

“In 2020, the Orthodox Church in America will celebrate the anniversary of two foundational events in her history: the reception of the Tomos of Autocephaly from the Venerable Russian Orthodox Church, and the canonization of Our Venerable Father Herman, Elder and Wonderworker of Alaska... [We] give glory to God for these wonderful gifts that have allowed the Church to take root in North America...

“Throughout this anniversary year, the Orthodox Church in America will honor [St.] Herman of Alaska. The Psalmist assures us that ‘God is glorified in the council of his saints (*Ps.89.7*),’ and so as we celebrate this holy man, St. Herman, as we come to know his deeds, and works, and words, all of us will come to know evermore the glory of God revealed in him. We exhort everyone to come to this same knowledge, to have their faith strengthened and nourished by honoring this great saint for all Orthodox Christians...

“[T]hese anniversaries will be marked by three Divine Liturgies concelebrated by the Holy Synod and guest hierarchs and clergy. The first will be at the Memorial Day Pilgrimage at St. Tikhon’s Monastery, May 25, 2020. The second will be take place during the annual pilgrimage to Spruce Island, Alaska, August 9, 2020. The third will be at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Fall Regular Meeting of the Holy Synod, November 14, 2020. In addition to these Churchwide celebrations, dioceses and deaneries will also celebrate these anniversaries in different ways.”

## ■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

### The Best Time for the Church by Metropolitan Onuphry

The ground under a Christian’s feet can be compared to a swamp. We have to continually labor, and move forward, because after all, if we stand in one place then we are guaranteed to sink. Without even noticing it, the Christian will sink lower and lower, until he drowns in his own stony insensibility. That is the nature of times of calm. This applies to the laity as well as the clergy. Everything inside him unnoticeably goes sour. He squeaks like an old floorboard, and reads his morning and evening prayers without any feeling. The soul unloiled with grace squeaks, and then dies, like a consumptive old hag...

Christ clearly outlined the paradigm of the relationship between the world and the Church: “They persecuted Me and they’ll persecute you, too,” “Those who kill you will think that they are doing God’s service.” As soon as the world begins to love us we cease to be servants of Christ and become slaves to the world; and this is the most terrible falsification there can be in life. Looking at my home iconostasis, I don’t see there a single person who lived a stagnant pious life and yet entered the world of Light. Looking at me from every icon is either a martyr’s blood, or bloodless martyrdom. The algorithm of the devil’s “work” with the Church is something we well know. It is simple to the point of naiveté and therefore extremely effective.

In the early days of Christianity, satan shouted in the “media” of those days that “Christians are depraved and cannibals,” that “they slaughter infants at meetings, drink their blood, and then have orgies...” According to his contemporaries, Lenin literally quaked at the mere mention of the Church and of Christ. Within a couple of decades they were shooting the clergy “for connections with counterrevolutionaries,” for “working for foreign spies,” for “organizing conspiracies with the aim of overthrowing the Soviet government” and for “abetting Western special services”. It’s the twenty-first century now, and satan’s arguments are the same: It’s

the same old broken record, and we can recognize the handwriting. But true Christians have lived, live, and will live by only Christ and the Gospels. Of course you can slander them, kill them, and put them in prison, as has happened many times in history, but they will continue to love God, the Church, and their Motherland. This is because we have only one God.

The time of persecution is the best time for the Church. In such times we only have to do one thing to be saved—to be faithful to God and our Mother Church. In fact, everything in this world is very, very simple. This is because God Himself is simple. In the world there is Good and Evil. There is Universal Love, and there is universal hate. The Savior gave us the commandment of love. Everything that bears in itself love, light, goodness, mercy, and compassion one way or another has its source in God. This is because He is Good. Everything that bears hatred, destruction, war, calls for murder, and the thirst for murder has its source in hell, regardless of what clothing of motivation or intentions satan dresses his evil in.

Our true citizenship is in the Kingdom of God, and we have to exert much effort in order to receive our eternal registration there. What we are living through now is, in fact, a process of growth and maturity. A comfort zone never gives dynamic growth. This applies to any system, no matter what kind. Growth is only possible in labor and difficult circumstances, in the most adverse conditions. Then our inner reserves come to the fore, and we gain new experience: To perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.... For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness... Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble (*2 Pet. 1:6–10*). ■

EDITOR’S NOTE: His Beatitude ONUPHRY is the Metropolitan of Kiev and First Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.



# 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 After the Nativity of Christ Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:35am)</i> <i>(No Sunday School)</i>	30	31 Great Vespers, 6pm <b>NEW TIME</b>	January 1, 2020 Circumcision of our Lord St. Basil the Great Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours 9:35am)</i> <i>(No Vespers)</i>	2 St. Seraphim of Sarov	3 Royal Hours of Theophany, 8am <b>NEW TIME</b>	4 Great Vespers, 6pm
January 5 Sunday Before the Theophany Eve of the Theophany Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:35am)</i> Great Vespers/Litiya/Blessing of Water, 6pm <b>NEW TIME</b>	6 THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST Festal Matins, 8am Divine Liturgy, 9am	7 Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner	8 Confessions, 4:30pm Four-Year Memorial for Jordon Swisher, 5:30pm Vespers, 6pm Adult Study Group, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	9	10	11 St. Theodosius the Great Great Vespers, 6pm
12 Sunday After the Theophany Sunday School, 9am <i>(All classes begin with prayer in the Parish Hall)</i> Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Installation of Council Officers, 12pm	13 Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) at the Penn State Spring Involvement Fair, 11am @ HUB Alumni Hall	14 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.	15 Confessions, 4:30pm Vespers, 6pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	16 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm OCF at Penn State: "Welcome Back" Dinner & Spring Preview, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center, University Park	17 St. Anthony the Great	18 Great Vespers, 6pm
19 Sunday School, 9am Matins with the Greeting of Abp. Melchisedek, 9am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 10am Parish Special Meeting, 11:45am	20	21	22 Confessions, 4:30pm One-Year Memorial for Luidmila Listvinsky, 5:30pm Vespers, 6pm Adult Study Group, 7pm @ Trinity House Conf. Rm.	23 OCF at Penn State: Dinner and Prayer Night, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center, University Park	24 47 <sup>th</sup> MARCH FOR LIFE <i>(Church vans depart at 6:30am, return by 10pm.)</i>	25 Great Vespers, 6pm
26 Sunday School, 9am Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Junior Orthodox Youth Association <i>(Jr. OYA, grades 5-8)</i> Monthly Activity, TBA	27	28	29 Confessions, 4:30pm Vespers, 6pm Adult Study Group, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	30 Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs Choir Rehearsal, 7pm OCF at Penn State: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center, University Park	31	February 1 Altar Society Meeting, 10am @ Trinity House Conference Room Great Vespers/Litiya/ Blessing of Candles, 6pm Confessions, following
February 2 MEETING OF OUR LORD Zacchaeus Sunday Sunday School, 9am Festal Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am OCF Super Bowl Party, 6pm @ Trinity House Att'y Lounge	3	4	5 Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	6 OCF at Penn State: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Center, University Park	7	8 Archdiocesan Retreat for Clergy and Laity, 10am-2pm @ Holy Resurrection Church, Belle Vernon Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following

# Chapel Calendar

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

Wednesday 1 St. Basil the Great Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	Sunday 19 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Special Parish Meeting, 11:45am <i>(via teleconference)</i> Fellowship/Study, following
Saturday 4 Baptism of Wesley, Naomi, & Noa Hoffman and Todd Enders, 10am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Tuesday 21 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Friday 24 March for Life 2020 <i>(rides depart at 8am from the Duncannon Sheetz.)</i>	Friday 24
Sunday 5 Eve of the Theophany Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Great Vespers/Litiya/ Blessing of Water, 6pm	Saturday 25 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
Tuesday 7 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Sunday 26 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship/Study, following
Saturday 11 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Monday 27 Knitting Outreach, 6:30pm
Sunday 12 Sunday After Theophany Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Outdoor Blessing of Water, 12pm @ Beaver Springs	Tuesday 28 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Tuesday 14 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Saturday, Feb. 1 Great Vespers/Litiya/ Blessing of Candles, 6pm
Saturday 18 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Sunday 2 MEETING OF THE LORD Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship/Study, following

January 2020