Schedules

March 22 March 29 March March March 8 Denotes switch/change 15 SOUP-ER SUNDAY Orthodox Christian Fellowship** Swisher and A. Schrauf and D. Patel** Team A: A. Buyanskiy, Z. Cadman, B. Oleynik, N. Patel, C. Schrauf, J. Swisher, and J. Torbic. Team B: J. Cadman, N. McFarland, S. Patel, D. Stickles, E. Swisher, and L. Torbic. Swisher** D. Patel and R. Patel B. Haupt and A. J. Pettengill and S. GREETERS Bazilevskaya and M. Fedkin Bazilevskaya and M. Stickles Pettengill G. Cattell and H. Torbic M. Fedkin and B. D. McNulty and H. Torbic Cattell and B. LERS Haupt Captains:
D. Torbic and S. Oleynik . Fiori Team A Team B Team A Team B

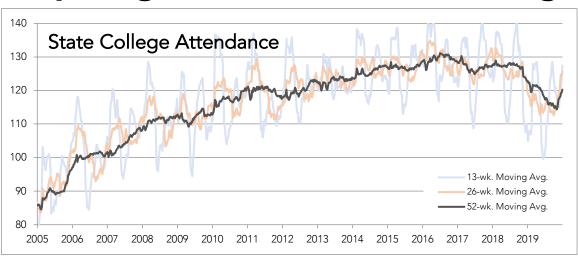
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HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH 119 S. Sparks Street RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED State College, PA 16801

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Preparing for the Next Growth Stage



Over the past 15 years, growth at the State College church has occurred whenever facilities were remodeled or expanded (2006, 2016) and clergy joined the parish (2008, 2009, 2013). If past trends continue, Fr. Ignatius' arrival may require the parish to add more worship space. Attendance is already up 10% year-over-year, which can already be seen in the long-term trendline (dark line, above).

ECAUSE SAVING FOR THE FUTURE is a priority of the parish, nearly \$15,000 (5%) of the Holy Trinity budget is placed into restricted capital improvement funds each year (routine maintenance is a separate line item). This has been providential: In 2018, these reserves enabled the Council to pay cash for the two mini split systems that drastically improved air quality in the Nave of the State College church. That same year, the Parish Council created the Capital Projects Fund using income from the rental of parking spaces at 119 S. Sparks. The plan was to pave the adjacent Trinity House lot and redesign both lots (119 and 123) to improve accessibility and add more capacity once enough money was put aside. But since any reconfiguration of the lots would require a costly engineering study, God revealed another option.

(continued, see PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE, next page)

Glorifying God and Offering Gratitude

HANKSGIVING IS AT THE HEART of the Christian life. Indeed, the whole of human existence can be understood as an individual making a decision to express either thankfulness or thanklessness toward his Creator. St. John Chrysostom famously departed this world with the words, "glory to God for all things." This is an expression of total thanksgiving on his part, even in the midst of his imprisonment, privation, mistreatment, bodily ailments, and political failure. As a truly mature Christian, St. John was able to leave this life in a spirit of forgiveness and complete thankfulness.

(continued, see FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK, next page)

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Thank God and Thank You! (continued from page 1)

It is probably not surprising then, that one of the names for our central act of worship is "the Eucharist." *Eucharist* is a Greek word which means "thanksgiving." When we come to church and celebrate the Eucharist, the priest intones, "let us lift up our hearts," which is a call for us to sacrifice our own hearts and our whole beings to God. He then prays, "let us give thanks unto the Lord." It is only by sacrificing our hearts and by entering into genuine thanksgiving that we can come into the saving and eternal union with God to which we are called.

In this spirit, I want to begin my ministry here by thanking God for the kindnesses he has shown us already in this place though you, his saints. "Great art thou, O Lord, and marvelous are thy works, and there is no word which sufficeth to hymn thy wonders!" Thank you to those who have greeted us so warmly, to those who

helped us move into our house, to those who have had us over for dinner, to those who have given us toys for our children. Thank you to those who have prayed for us and who have loved us even before you knew us. Thank you to those who have handled so much of the hard work of running the parish during the interim period. Thank you, most of all, for being a community committed to worshipping God "in Spirit and truth."

Let us continue to offer genuine thanksgiving to the Lord in this place, being confident that true thanksgiving will lead to true love, and true love will draw in our neighbors, leading them to join us in our everexpanding, ever-resounding, glorious and life-giving hymn of praise: "glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men!"

- Fr. Ignatius

■ PARISH COUNCIL

Planning for the Future (continued from page 1)

What if the parish redirected funds that would have eventually gone toward the lot engineering study and applied it to a professional Master Site Plan (Feasibility Study) for the *entire* State College church campus? To get an understanding of what this would entail, Council researched what other parishes had done, including Holy Apostles in Mechanicsburg. They recommended engineer Bob Hoffman, a lifelong State College resident whose firm conducted the land development, site design, associated parking, stormwater management, and approvals for their commmunity's new church.

Mr. Hoffman joined the February Council meeting to explain further: For a fee not to exceed \$15,000, he would conduct impartial and dispassionate "charates"—meetings in which all stakeholders resolve conflicts and map solutions—with the entire parish to determine facility needs for the next decade and beyond. Does it make

sense to stay in town or purchase land? If the former, he would assess both the church and Trinity House—for identification of useful life, accessibility issues, and all operational and maintenance costs. Carefully reviewing your feedback, he would create a list of priorities and needs, including the expansion of worship space. Then his firm would develop a conceptual site design for future building expansion, parking and site enhancements, architectural plans for capital planning, and renderings for fundraising purposes. The parish would have a clear picture on all the costs and benefits involved.

Obviously, Lent is not the time to make a decision, but instead an opportunity for us to pray, reflect, and provide input to the Council (council@holytrinity-oca.org) so an informed decision can be made when the time comes. Council has also asked Fr. Ignatius to explain more about the options we have in the weeks to come.

Choir Moves to Weekly Rehearsals

During Lent the State College choir will hold rehearsals each Saturday evening starting at 4:45 p.m. and ending five minutes before Vespers. The location will be inside Trinity House up in the Atty Lounge to maintain a quiet prayerful environment in the Nave.

Parenting Conference Now Online

A recording of the Orthodox Parenting Conference conducted virtually last month is now available online at *facebook.com/saaot*. It features eight half-hour sessions with expert speakers on wide-ranging topics such as evangelism, discipline, education, and technology.

Chapel Supports a Mission Priest

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center assigned Fr. Parthenios Eliakim to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, whose faithful have made a \$50 per month commitment to him. Also a recipient of the Sunday School's advent fundraiser, Fr. Eliakim administers Kenya's St. Andrew Rescue Center, which sponsors a school for the needy, a feeding program, and medical treatments.

Fun Night Draws Biggest Ever Crowd

The Chapel of the Holy Spirit's "Family Fun Night" at the Middlecreek Area Community Center on Sunday, February 9 drew the largest group they have hosted thus far. The Chapel has been hosting these events for six years which have been averaging between 20 and 25 in attendance. February's event, however, drew in nearly 40 guests with many attending for the first time. The event began with fellowship and a menu consisting of hot dogs, snacks and desserts. The gym was then filled with laughter, fun, and excitement as participants joined in a fun filled game of kickball for all ages! Several of the children also took advantage of a craft activity run by Chapel faithful. To top it off, one person inquired into the Orthodox Church and requested more information. The entire evening was a true blessing and a testimony to the goodness of God Who has blessed the Chapel with this ministry to the Snyder County community. Please pray that more lives will be touched by the Chapel's continued outreach.

Holy Days this Month

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

VESPERS: Tue., Mar. 24, 6pm @ CHS

LITURGY: Wed., Mar. 25, 6pm (E. George, Icon) (A. Stickles, Prosphora)



Additional Liturgies:

DATE	TYPE/FOR	PROSPHORA
Wed., Mar. 4, 6pm	Presanctified	OCF
Fri., Mar. 6, 6pm	Presanctified	OCF
Sat., Mar. 7, 9am	St. Theodore	OCF
Wed., Mar. 11, 6pm	Presanctified	OCF
Fri., Mar. 13, 6pm	Presanctified	OCF
Wed., Mar. 18, 6pm	Presanctified	OCF
Fri., Mar. 20, 6pm	Presanctified	OCF
Sat., Mar. 21, 9am	Memorial	OCF
Fri., Mar. 27, 6pm	Presanctified	OCF
Wed., Apr. 1, 6pm	Presanctified	Sunday School
Fri., Apr. 3, 6pm	Presanctified	Sunday School
Wed., Apr. 8, 6pm	Presanctified	Sunday School
Fri., Apr. 10, 6pm	Presanctified	Sunday School
Sat., Apr. 11, 9am	Lazarus	Sunday School

March Bookstore Feature

This month's featured book is *The Life and the Wisdom of St. Porphyrios*, translated by John Raffan. In his gentle manner, St. Porphyrios—who reposed in 1991 and is one of the most beloved of recent saints—counseled and guided an untold number of people through difficult hours of illness, mourning, loss of faith, pain, and death. This book is both a story of his incredible life and a collection of his stories and words of counsel; the saint speaks with a warmth and joy which comforts and brings hope to the sorrowful and hurting. You can find this title and more in the Bookstore, which is located in the Parish Hall of the State College church.

For the Record

RECEPTION

Nader Gerges was received into the Orthodox Church by confession on February 1. Many years!

■ LENTEN DRIVE 2020

Matthew 25 and Sunday School to Come Together to Combat Student Hunger

Every Lent, Holy Trinity's *Matthew 25* ministry conducts a special drive to help others according to our Lord's commandment to minister to the least among us. Last year, by teaming efforts with the Sunday's School and its popular "*Soup*-er Sunday" fundraiser, \$5,300 was raised for Centre Volunteers in Medicine, a free medical and dental clinic for those in need.

This year, *Matthew 25* volunteers chose to focus on the hungry among us by naming The Lion's Pantry as the beneficiary of the 2020 Lenten Drive; and they are grateful that the Sunday School will again join in. The Lion's Pantry is a student-run food bank at Penn State which opened in 2014 to tackle the growing problem of student hunger and food insecurity. The pantry provides free food, toiletries, and household goods to students who might have to choose between making a tuition payment and eating. Even though the Lion's Pantry receives support through an endowment created by the Class Gift of 2017, all food and distribution expenses are covered by charitable organizations like Holy Trinity.

There are several ways to donate your time, talents, and treasure to this endeavor. Monetary donations can be placed in the basket after each Sunday Liturgy this Lent or online at *holytrinity-oca.org* (select the *Matthew 25* option). For those who prefer a more personal touch and wish to serve Christ through buying tangible items, buy and place one more of the critically needed goods (see sidebar) in one of the bins at the State College church. Volunteer opportunities are also available this Lent. If you are interested in giving your time as an individual or as a family, email *lionspantrypsu.volunteer@gmail.com*. Please prayerfully give as you are able, and may God bless you and our goal of raising \$5,000 in cash and supplies to eliminate student food insecurity at Penn State.

Critically Needed Items

The Lion's Pantry accepts non-perishable, **unopened** and unexpired food and toiletry items. Donations can be dropped off at Holy Trinity before or after any service or at Trinity House daily from 9am to 2:30pm.

Food

- > Cereal
- > Oatmeal
- > Rice
- > Snacks
- > All gluten-free items (pasta, crackers, etc.)
- ➤ All beans (except baked beans)
- > Canned fruit
- > Canned meats
- > Jelly
- Condiments
- > Pasta sauce

Body and Home Care

- > Shampoo
- > Conditioner
- > Lotion
- ➤ Body wash
- > Toothpaste
- > Paper towels
- > Dish detergent
- > Laundry detergent
- ➤ Paper products (towels, toilet paper, and tissues)

■ NEWS & NOTES

Out of the Cold Will Serve Dinner to Expand Outreach

STATE COLLEGE [via ootc3.org] — Continuing its partnership with Out of the Cold (OOTC), State College's emergency homeless shelter, Holy Trinity is sponsoring a table at OOTC's third fundraising dinner. The event takes place on Monday, March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center. To RSVP for the free dinner—which features Lenten options—call (814) 238-0833 ext. 20 by March 9. Proceeds from the free will offering will go toward the organization's goal of providing a year-round overnight shelter and more options for affordable housing. ■

ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

What is "Orthodoxy" Anyway? by Fr. Daniel Kovalak

If you look up the word "orthodox" in the dictionary, it says, "conforming to doctrines or practices that are held to be right or true by an authority, standard or tradition." (Orthodox with a capital "O" specifically refers to our Church.) It's good to occasionally remind ourselves of this meaning.

Now, one need not have a Ph.D. to realize that to suggest anything is "right" and "true" these days borders on sheer arrogance (at least intolerance) especially in a religious context. And whereas "orthodoxy", since the earliest days of Christianity, has been understood as a *positive* attribute and desired quality of faith, today it appears as something to be attacked on every level as old-fashioned, boring, dull, quirky and/or irrelevant... [I]n an age of doctrinal relativism—with accountability to no authority but the self, no standard beyond what makes us happy, and holding only the traditions we make up as we go along—it's not surprising that anything labeled "orthodox" today scratches a place that doesn't itch for modern man, devoid of absolutes—moral, legal, spiritual or otherwise.

This, of course, is nothing new. Since the fall of Adam, man has always been at enmity with God. The Old Testament patriarchs, priests and prophets faced the "unorthodoxy" of their times. In Judges 17:6 we read, "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes." Man has always sought to justify his own actions, rationalize his own sins, and look for loopholes, even in God's law. It just seems that now— with instant, late-breaking news from around the world on countless cable channels all vying for ratings by delivering us the most sensational and gruesome stories imaginable—we're beginning to see the global results and consequences of the chaos caused by a rejection of "orthodoxy."

Today, everything is subject to debate, argument, personal opinion and challenge. Even sports now offer

the opportunity to challenge and overturn an official's call by means of an instant replay. (Maybe at the Judgment, God will show us the instant replay of our life to justify His decision on our fate?!)

This also relates to the liturgical life of our Holy Church and our involvement in that divine life. Who, for example, will argue that prayer and fasting are not essential elements of the Christian life? In the Church, we pretty much stipulate this. Consistent with the meaning of the word "orthodox," we have a definitive Authority, divine standard and long-standing Tradition on prayer and fasting that conforms to doctrines and practices we hold to be right and true. This is, among other things, what the Church recalls for us in our annual approach to Great Lent.

The "orthodox" teaching on prayer begins, "Two men went up into the temple to pray," (*Luke 18*) then, by way of comparison between the two, incites us to ask ourselves "which one was *orthodox*?" Christ teaches that the publican's prayer was "justified" rather than the pharisee's. According to God's standard, prayer offered in humility, reverence and repentance is "right" and "true." Likewise, the "orthodox" teaching on fasting begins, "And when you fast" (*Matthew 6:16*), and then proceeds to detail the "right and true" way to fast.

Here's the Gospel truth! We can reject it, say we believe it yet act as though we don't, or accept what is right and true and act accordingly. But the fact that we are free to choose our response does not negate the validity and "orthodoxy" of the teaching... Our Holy Church calls us to do many things. There are those who may denounce and reject some [of these things]. Let us strive to resist such temptations and resolve to make a determined effort to truly *be* "orthodox"—in doctrine and practice, in faith and life, holding and propagating that which is right and true, and all for the glory of God. \blacksquare

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
March 1 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare) Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am All-Parish Photo, 11:45am Blini/Pancake Luncheon, 12pm Forgiveness Vespers, 6pm NEWTIME OCF Day of Prayer Service, 9pm	GREAT LENT BEGINS Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6pm NEWTIME	3 Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6pm	4 Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6pm Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) at Penn State: Dinner at Holy Trinity, 7:30pm	6 Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	7 St. Theodore of Tyre Memorial Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Choir Rehearsal, 4:45pm @ Trinity House Atty Lng. Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
Sunday of Orthodoxy Matins, 9am EDT (No Sunday School) Divine Liturgy, 10am EDT Children's Icon Procession, 11:45am Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers, 4pm @ St. Nicholas Serbian Church, 971 St. Clair Rd., Johnstown	9 Forty Martyrs of Sebaste	Catechesis, 10am @ T.H. Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave. Parish Council Mtg, 7pm @ Trinity House Conf. Room DIFFERENT DAY	11 Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	12	Catechesis (a.k.a. "Orthodoxy 2.0"), 10am @ Trinity House Conference Room Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	14 Choir Rehearsal, 4:45pm @ Trinity House Atty Lounge Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
St. Gregory Palamas Matins, 9am Sunday School, 9am (All classes begin in the Parish Hall) Divine Liturgy, 10am Deanery Vespers, 5pm @ Nativity Church, 151 Alexander St., Madera	16	17	18 Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	19 OCF at Penn State: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spirit- ual Center, University Park	20 Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	Memorial Saturday Memorial Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am) Choir Rehearsal, 4:45pm @ Trinity House Atty Lng. Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
Veneration of the Precious Cross Matins/Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Jr. OYA (gr. 5-8), 12pm @ TBA Diocesan Vespers, 5pm @ Allison Park Orthodox Youth Assoc. (OYA, gr. 9-12) College Night, 6pm @ Trinity House	23	24 Catechesis, 10am @ Trinity House Conference Room	ANNUNCIATION Confessions, 4:30pm Vespers and Divine Liturgy, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	26 Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel Catechesis, 10am @ T.H. OCF at Penn State: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spirit- ual Center, University Park	27 Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	Sunday School "Soup-er Sunday" Food Prep., 4:30pm @ Parish Hall Choir Rehearsal, 4:45pm @ Trinity House Atty Lng. Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
St. John of <i>The Ladder</i> (Climacus) Matins & Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am "Soup-er Sunday" Sunday School Charity Lunch, 12pm @ Parish Hall Deanery Vespers, 4pm @ Nativity Ch., 50 Koleski Club Rd., Osceola Mills	30	St. Innocent, Apostle to America Lenten Vespers with the Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt, 6pm	April 1 St. Mary of Egypt Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal, 7pm OCF at Penn State: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spirit- ual Center, University Park	Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Akathist, 7:30pm	Annual Parish Work Day to Prepare for Pascha, 9am- 1pm (Breakfast Provided) Choir Rehearsal, 4:45pm @ Trinity House Atty Lng. Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
5 St. Mary of Egypt Matins, 9am Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Deanery Vespers at Holy Trinity, 4pm (a Lenten Meal follows)	6 Hats and Hugs Made with Love Knitting/Crocheting Ministry, 1pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	7 Catechesis, 10am @ Trinity House Conference Room Parish Council Meeting, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room DIFFERENT DAY/WEEK	8 Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	Q Catechesis, 10am @ Trinity House Conference Room OCF at Penn State: Dinner and Pascha Preparation Workshop, 7pm @ 124 Pasquerilla Spirit- ual Center, University Park	Confessions, 4:30pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 6pm	Lazarus Saturday Hours/Div. Liturgy, 8:40am Altar Soc. Decorating, 11am First Confessions, 3:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Youth Pascha Worksp., 4pm Great Vespers w/Litya, 6pm Confessions, following

Chapel Calendar

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

Sunday 1	Tuesday 17			
Forgiveness Sunday Ch Hours/Divine Liturgy, 9:40am	Choir Rehearsal, 6pm			
Fellowship/Study, following	Wednesday 18			
Forgiveness Vespers, 6pm Pro	Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm			
Tuesday 3	Friday 20			
Choir Rehearsal, 6pm Ak	cathist, 6pm			
Wednesday 4	Saturday 21 Vespers/Confessions, 6pm			
Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Ve				
Friday 6	Sunday 22			
Akathist, 6pm Ve	Veneration of the Cross			
	Hours/Divine Liturgy, 9:40am Fellowship/Study, following			
Vespers/Confessions, 6pm				
Sunday 8	Monday 23 Knitting Outreach, 6:30pm			
Sunday of Orthodoxy				
Hours/Divine Liturgy, 9:40am Fellowship/Study, following	Tuesday 24			
I All	Annunciation Great Vespers, 6pm			
Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Wednesday 25			
AN	ANNUNCIATION Vespers/Divine Liturgy, 6pm Friday 27			
Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm				
	cathist, 6pm			
Akathist, 6pm	Saturday 28			
	espers/Confessions, 6pm			
Memorial Divine Liturgy, 9am (Hours, 8:40am)	Sunday 29			
Vespers/Confessions, 6pm St.	St. John of <i>The Ladder</i>			
	Hours/Divine Liturgy, 9:40am Fellowship/Study, following			
St. Gregory Palamas Hours/Divine Liturgy, 9:40am	Tuesday 31			
T 11 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 1	Choir Rehearsal, 6pm			

March 2020