

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Prepare Now to Return to Church



Although being physically together was impossible—as opposed to when this photo was taken (14 days before the stay-at-home order was issued)—the parish was united in celebrating Pascha at home; see the gallery that Deacon Mark assembled at holytrinity-oca.org.

EVERYONE CAN TAKE STEPS NOW to prepare to receive the life-creating Mysteries of Christ. Through new guidance issued by civil and ecclesiastical authorities, Holy Trinity in State College and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Beavertown now have a path forward for the gradual resumption of full parish life. The first step back is through the continuation of our ministries, which act as entry points into the life of the Church. There are several opportunities for Christian Education and fellowship for both adults and children through the parish's Zoom account (to join, visit holytrinity-oca.org/zoom; for assistance, call the Office at 814-231-2855). With the "stay at home" order being lifted in favor of the "Yellow Phase" of reopening (see pa.gov), "in-person" gatherings can safely resume.

(continued, see PREPARE TO RETURN HOME, last page)

Assurance, Instead of Panic

by Fr. Ignatius Hunter

ONE OF THE TRUE SPIRITUAL SICKNESSES of the modern age is a notion that we have essentially passed beyond history. History, we like to think, with all of its wars, famines, natural disasters, pestilences, and unpredictability, is somehow a thing of the past. But if this present crisis should teach us anything, it is that we have not passed beyond history. We have not created some impenetrable system, whether military, political, economic, or technological, that can utterly ensure a stable society and the continuation of "business as usual" in our daily lives.

(continued, see FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK, page 2)

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE COLLEGE, PA
PERMIT NO. 289

We Have Not Passed Beyond History

(continued from page 1)

We haven’t done it, and for all the recriminations and finger-pointing going on, we cannot do it. No matter how far, by God’s grace, our technology or knowledge may progress, we are always subject to forces beyond our control than we are actually in control of events. For the atheist, this must be a maddening thought, since we are always just one big comet, one trigger-happy dictator, a few degrees of global surface temperature, or one eradicated pandemic away from utter annihilation. But for Christians, there is assurance in place of panic. We do not know how the events of our individual lives will play out, but we do know God, and we know that He is good. For us, it is a matter of faith that “heaven and earth will pass away” (*Mt. 24:35*). There is nothing we can do to prevent that, nor should we want to. After all, the Apostles have taught us that we should think of ourselves as “sojourners” on the earth who are “looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells” (*2 Pt. 3:13*). As Christians, our ultimate aim is to be fully united to Christ in the kingdom of heaven. All other aims must be subordinate to this.

With that being said, it is not wrong for us to desire to build peace, security, and stability in this life. After all, the Lord says “blessed are the peacemakers” (*Mt. 5:9*), and the Holy Apostles encourage us to participate in the economy (*2 Th. 3:12*), to obey laws (*1 Pt. 2:13*), and to actively pray for our civil authorities, “that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (*1 Tim. 2:2*). And this principle applies to our work on a societal level as well; it is not wrong for us to want to help our country build better systems of medicine, finance, governance, etc. But while it is not wrong for us to work for stable and secure lives, it is very wrong for us to be arrogant about any security that we attain. Ultimately, peace and security are gifts from God, and they can be taken from us in an instant in spite of a our hard work and planning (*cf. Lk. 12:16–21*). We must always remember that we have not passed beyond history. We have not “arrived,” either as a species, as a

nation, or as individuals. We do not control the sun or the rain. We do not control the temperature, nor the movements of the depths. We do not even control the health or sickness of our own bodies. We are at God’s mercy; our fates are in His hands.

So let us not be arrogant, but rather thankful. Let us use anything that life may send our way—whether it be adversity and struggle or peace and stability—as a means of uniting ourselves to Christ. We know that “whom the Lord loves, He chastens,” and that His correction is not arbitrary, but is rather “for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness” (*Heb. 12:6,10*). We are in the midst of one of the great calamities of our generation. Let us use this adversity well and use it wisely, that we may redouble our dedication to God and our thanksgiving to Him for His mercies, both in this time and in times of more general stability and calm. ■

— Fr. Ignatius

Also From Father’s Desk...

I Will Bless the Graves of your loved ones upon request this month, continuing the ancient tradition of greeting the dead with the joyful message of the Resurrection. To schedule a time, contact the Parish Office (814-231-2855 or office@holyltrinity-oca.org).

Church School Teachers will close out the year with their students using the following class schedule (to participate, visit holyltrinity-oca.org/zoom):

- **Grades K-1:** Sunday, May 10 at 10 a.m.
Sunday, May 24 at 10 a.m.
Sunday, May 31 at 10 a.m.
- **Grades 2-3:** Thursday, May 14 at 4 p.m.
Sunday, May 24 at 7 p.m.
- **Grades 4-5:** Sunday, May 10 at 9:15 a.m.
Sunday, May 17 at 9:15 a.m.
Sunday, May 24 at 9:15 a.m.
- **Grades 6-8:** Sunday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Grades 9-12:** Saturday, May 9 at 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 23 at 4 p.m.

How then should we live?

- **First**, live as though in the coming of Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God has been inaugurated into the world and the outcome of history has already been determined. (Quit worrying.)
- **Second**, love people as the very image of God and resist the temptation to improve them.
- **Third**, refuse to make economics the basis of your life. Your job is not even of secondary importance.
- **Fourth**, quit arguing about politics as though the political realm were the answer to the world’s problems. It gives it power that is not legitimate and enables a project that is anti-God.
- **Fifth**, learn to love your enemies. God did not place them in the world for us to fix or eliminate. If possible, refrain from violence.
- **Sixth**, raise the taking of human life to a matter of prime importance and refuse to accept violence as a means to peace. Every single life is a vast and irreplaceable treasure.
- **Seventh**, cultivate contentment rather than pleasure. It will help you consume less and free you from slavery to your economic masters.
- **Eighth**, as much as possible, think small. You are not in charge of the world. Love what is local, at hand, personal, intimate, unique, and natural. It’s a preference that matters.
- **Ninth**, learn another language. Very few things are better at teaching you about who you are not.
- **Tenth**, be thankful for everything, remembering that [everything in the world] belongs to God. . .

It is worth noting that when Roman soldiers [asked John the Baptist] how they should live, he told them to be content with their wages and to do violence to no one. They were in charge of the world in their day—or so they could mistakenly think. My few bits of advice are of a piece with that beloved saint’s words. ■

EDITOR’S NOTE: Fr. Stephen Freeman is Pastor Emeritus of St. Anne Church and author of the Glory to God podcast on ancientfaith.com.

Prepare to Return Home

(continued from pg. 1)

Since all of us need to be “churched,” Confession is the next step in returning. Do not wait until the “Green Phase” to avail yourself; make use of one of the several sessions that have been added. For those who cannot venture out for whatever reason, an appointment for a confession by phone may be made through the Office; absolution will be performed when you are able to come. The last step, of course, is Communion itself. Refer to the Commonwealth’s guidelines and parish calendar to see what services are taking place at each location and phase of reopening. Our goal is for the doors of the Church to never be locked during Liturgy and always have room for visitors; please help us achieve this by only attending the location you normally do. In the meantime, take advantage of the extra “Open Houses” and pray for the health and salvation of the world. ■

For the Record

YOUR GENEROSITY

- In addition to the \$50 that the Chapel gives monthly, **\$390** was raised for Mission Priest Fr. Eliakim Kulali and his daughter Larissa’s medical bills. The overage supports the Kenya food bank he runs. **Thank you!**

GRADUATIONS

- Graduating this month from the Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Penn State are **Michael Collins** (B.S., Civil Engineering), **Nicholas Goussetis** (B.S., Supply Chain and Information Systems, **Christina Sartalis** (B.S., Marketing), **Charissa Skoutelas** (B.A., Classics & Anc. Med. Studies), and **David Witmer** (B.A., Philosophy). **Many years!**

RECOGNITIONS

- **Jude Swisher**, son of Brandon and Corene Swisher, and his colleague, Sam Herring, were named WIN Magazine’s Journalists of the Year for their national podcast, Home Mat Advantage. **Many years!**
- **Charissa Skoutelas** and **David Witmer** will represent the Department of Classics & Ancient Mediterranean Studies and the Department of Philosophy, respectively, in the College of the Liberal Arts as their departments’ student marshals as part of Penn State’s 2020 commencement. **Many years!**

The Inherent Violence of Modernity

by Fr. Stephen Freeman

The calm voice at the helm says, “Make it so...” and with it, the mantra of modernity is invoked. The philosophy that governs our culture is rooted in violence, the ability to make things happen and to control the outcome. It is a deeply factual belief. We can indeed make things happen, and, in a limited way, control their outcome. But we soon discover (and have proven it time and again) that our ability to control is quite limited. Many, many unforeseeable consequences flow from every action. If I am working in a very self-contained environment, then the illusion of total control can be maintained for a very long time. If, say, I am building a watch, my actions and their results can remain on a desktop. However, when the scale of action begins to increase, the lack of true control begins to manifest itself. Actions on the level of an entire society or culture are beyond our ability to manage. A culture is not a very large watch. But we think it is. That delusion lies at the very heart of the philosophy of modernity...

The work of “making it so,” is always an act of violence. We take what is not so and force it to be otherwise. Whether it is the violence of a plow making a field suitable for planting, or the violence of creating a parking lot, human beings have formed and shaped their world by “making it so,” for all our existence. The field and the parking lot, as innocuous and innocent as they may be, also create consequences that were not part of the plan. The only means of dealing with these consequences are to employ more violence to alter things yet again (requiring yet more violence, ad infinitum), or to treat the consequences as an acceptable change...

Modernity has as its goal the creation of a better world with no particular reference to God—it is a secular

concept. As such, that which constitutes “better” is, or can be, a shifting definition. In Soviet Russia it was one thing, in Nazi Germany another, in Consumer-Capitalist societies yet another still. Indeed, that which is “better” is often the subject of the political sphere. But there is no inherent content to the “better,” nor any inherent limits on the measures taken to achieve it. The pursuit of the better (“progress”) becomes its own morality.

The approach of classical Christianity does not oppose change (there is always change), nor does it deny that one thing might be better than another. But the “good” which gives every action its meaning is God Himself, as made known in Christ. In classical terms, this is expressed as “keeping the commandments.” Those commandments are summarized in the love of God and the love of neighbor. There are other elements within the commandments of Christ that minimize and restrict the use of violence.

There is, for example, no commandment to make the world a better place, nor even to make progress towards a better world. The “better world” concept is, historically, a heretical borrowing from Christianity, a secularization of the notion of the Kingdom of God, translated into terms of progressive technology and laws (violence). Instead, the management of history’s outcomes is considered idolatrous. Only God controls the outcome of history...

This picture of the modern world can, in the modern Christian mind, provoke an immediate response of wondering what can be done to change it. The difficult answer is to quit living as though modernity were true. Quit validating modernity’s questions. Do not ask, “How can we fix the world?” Instead, ask, “How should Christians live?” and give the outcome of history back to God.

Virtual Adult Study Group to Begin

Fr. Ignatius will lead a virtual adult education series on the Catechetical Lectures of St. Cyril of Jerusalem each Thursday at 7 p.m., now through Pentecost. All are welcome to participate. The study group will be held through the parish’s Zoom account, which can be accessed via holytrinity-oca.org/zoom. Those without a computer or are looking for information or instructions on how to join may call (814) 231-2855 at any time.

Join Us for Virtual Coffee Hour!

Let’s honor our mothers together on Sunday, May 10 with another virtual Coffee Hour together, this time on Zoom (via holytrinity-oca.org/zoom). After you finish the Typika, join the conversation at 11 a.m.! Come and go as you please; we will keep the line open until 1 p.m.

Update on Summer Camp; Fund

As of May 1, approximately half of Orthodox camping programs had canceled for 2020, including Antiochian Village. Parents who are able to find a camp this season may continue to use up to \$800 per child from the scholarship fund. As an alternative, parents may also roll over their scholarship for 2021 sessions or donate their scholarship to a camp of their choice so they are able to weather the loss this year and open next year. Contact the office at (814) 231-2855 to learn more.

“Hats and Hugs Made with Love”

During our “winter break” and “stay-at-home” order, Holy Trinity’s knitting group members have continued to produce hats, scarves, blankets, *premie* cocoons, and wraps/gowns for the most vulnerable of us. We were able to give to the nursery at Mount Nittany Medical Center, to UPMC Harrisburg’s neonatal intensive care unit, and the Clinton County Children and Youth bereavement program. The ministry supplies patterns, yarn, needles, thread and fabric as needed and hopes to resume regularly scheduled gatherings in June. Future gatherings are planned the first Monday of each month from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., alternating between the Trinity House and Wyndtree Court Commons in Bellefonte. All are welcome to join in our efforts! Contact Leslyn Radomsky at (814) 234-3038 to learn more.

Greeters Ministry to Expand in May

April was a mix of challenges and joys for our church family, as many ministries adapted to a new reality. The Greeters Ministry made up for the loss of in-person contact by making weekly check-in calls to seniors and communicate specific information. Considering how joyful greeters feel when making calls, and the gratitude they receive, a greeter asked: “Why keep these blessings to only our small group of greeters? I suggest that we open the invitation to anyone in the parish to join the group...This way we share the blessing and have more people involved, and it also alerts everyone else that they may be getting a call from someone. If we get a huge number of people who would like to be involved, we could do a prayer-pal set up instead, and leave the rest up to the greeters ministry.” So, in May, the Greeters ministry will be exploring ways to expand their contributions to the goal of “staying together while apart.” If you would like to get involved, call (814) 231-2855 or email info@holytrinity-oca.org.

The Parish Library is Still Open

Reading spiritual books is a great way to keep our minds focused on God during a time when our ability to participate in the services is limited. The library is still open and accessible at holytrinity-oca.org/lending-library. Books can be searched for using the category dropdown menu, or by typing in an author or title keywords. To check out a book, simply use the online form or email Anna Stickles (librarian@holytrinity-oca.org), indicating the title of the book you would like to check out. You can choose to have it left on the Trinity House porch with your name on it or dropped off at your house. Also please contact Anna about how to return books you are done with, or what titles you would like to see added.

May Bookstore Feature

Now an e-Book, *Becoming Orthodox* chronicles the long and difficult journey of 2,000 Protestants who found their way home to the Orthodox Church. This revised edition includes a new epilogue and is available for download at store.ancientfaith.com. Don’t forget: many Bookstore titles are now available for pickup or delivery at holytrinity-oca.org, with more being added daily.

Holy Trinity Calendar

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 3 Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women Typika @ Home Churches (download at holyltrinity-oca.org or have a copy mailed to you each week by making a request to 814-231-2855.)	4 OCF @ Home Chapel: Compline and Akathist to St. Xenia, 8pm <i>via ocf.net</i>	5 OCA Church School: Grades 9-12, 3:30pm <i>via oca.org</i>	6 OCA Church School: Grades 3-5, 3:30pm <i>via oca.org</i>	7 St. Alexis Toth OCA School: Grades 6-8, 3:30pm <i>via oca.org</i> OCF @ Home, 9pm (<i>ocf.net</i>) Adult Study Group on St. Cyril of Jerusalem, 7pm <i>via Zoom</i> †	8 St. John the Theologian OCA Church School: Grades 3-5, 2pm <i>via oca.org</i>	9 Open House for Personal Prayer and Meditation, 1pm-4pm Choir Rehearsal, 4pm YELLOW HTOC Church School: Gr. 9-12, 4pm <i>via Zoom</i> †
10 Sunday of the Paralytic Typika @ Home Churches HTOC Church School: Grades 4-5, 9:15am; K-1, 10am <i>via Zoom</i> † Virtual Coffee Hour, 11am <i>via Zoom</i> † HTOC Church School: Grades 6-8, 6:30pm <i>via Zoom</i> †	11 St. Cyril & Methodius OCF @ Home Chapel: Compline & Akathist of Thanksgiving, 8pm <i>via ocf.net</i>	12 Open House, 1pm-4pm OCA School: Grades 9-12, 3:30pm <i>via oca.org</i> Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Housing Transitions</i> , 217 E. Nittany Ave.	13 Midfeast of Pentecost Open House, 1pm-4pm OCA Church School: Gr. 3-5, 3:30pm <i>via oca.org</i> Confessions, 4pm-7pm YELLOW Parish Council Meeting, 7pm <i>via Zoom</i> †	14 Open House, 1pm-4pm OCA School: Grades 6-8, 3:30pm <i>via oca.org</i> HTOC Church School: Gr. 2-3, 4pm <i>via Zoom</i> † OCF @ Home, 9pm (<i>ocf.net</i>) Adult Study Group, 7pm†	15 Open House, 1pm-4pm Confessions, 4pm-7pm YELLOW OCA Church School: Grades 3-5, 2pm <i>via oca.org</i>	16 Open House for Personal Prayer and Meditation, 1pm-4pm
17 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Typika @ Home Churches HTOC School: Grades 4-5, 9:15am and Grades 6-8, 6:30pm <i>via Zoom</i> † Orthodox Youth Association (grades 9-12) Activity, 6pm @ <i>Parish Hall</i> YELLOW	18 OCF @ Home Chapel: Paraklesis, 8pm <i>via ocf.net</i>	19 Open House, 1pm-4pm OCA Church School: Grades 9-12, 3:30pm <i>via oca.org</i>	20 Open House, 1pm-4pm OCA Church School: Grades 3-5, 3:30pm <i>via oca.org</i> Confessions, 4pm-7pm YELLOW	21 Ss. Constantine & Helen Open House, 1pm-4pm OCA School: Grades 6-8, 3:30pm <i>via oca.org</i> OCF @ Home, 9pm (<i>ocf.net</i>) Adult Study Group on St. Cyril, 7pm <i>via Zoom</i> †	22 Open House, 1pm-4pm Confessions, 4pm-7pm YELLOW OCA Church School: Grades 3-5, 2pm <i>via oca.org</i>	23 Open House, 1pm-4pm Choir Rehearsal, 4pm YELLOW HTOC Church School: Gr. 9-12, 4pm <i>via Zoom</i> † Great Vespers with Confessions, 6pm GRN
24 Sunday of the Blind Man Matins, 9am GREEN Divine Liturgy, 10am GREEN , else... Typika @ Home Churches HTOC School: Grades 4-5, 9:15am; K-1, 10am; and 2-3, 7pm <i>via Zoom</i> †	25 OCF @ Home Chapel: Compline & Akathist of Thanksgiving, 8pm <i>via ocf.net</i>	26 Open House, 1pm-4pm	27 Leavetaking of Pascha Confessions, 4pm-7pm (if GREEN , Confessions end at 6pm) Great Vespers with Litiya for the Ascension, 6pm GREEN	28 ASCENSION Adult Study Group, 7pm† Divine Liturgy, 8am (Hours 7:40am) GREEN , else... Open House, 1pm-4pm	29 Open House, 1pm-4pm Confessions, 4pm-7pm	30 Great Vespers with Confessions, 6pm GREEN , else... Open House, 1pm-4pm
31 Fathers of the First Ecum. Council Matins, 9am GREEN Divine Liturgy, 10am GREEN , else... Typika @ Home Churches HTOC Church School: Grades K-1, 10am <i>via Zoom</i> †	June 1 “Hats and Hugs Made with Love” Knitting Group, 1pm-2:30pm @ <i>Trinity House Conference Room</i> GREEN	2 Open House, 1pm-4pm	3 Open House, 1pm-4pm Confessions, 4pm-7pm (if GREEN , Confessions end at 6pm) Vespers, 6pm GREEN	4 Open House, 1pm-4pm Adult Study Group on the Catechetical Lectures of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, 7pm <i>via Zoom</i> †	5 Open House, 1pm-4pm Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm YELLOW * Altar Society Decorating for Pentecost, 7pm (if GREEN , decorating moves to Saturday, 11am.)	6 Memorial Saturday Liturgy, 9am YELLOW * Open House, 1pm-4pm Choir Rehearsal, 4pm YELLOW Vespers, 6pm YELLOW * (if GREEN , Litiya will be served, no reservation req'd.)
7 PENTECOST Festal Matins, 9am GREEN Divine Liturgy, 10am YELLOW * Vespers, 6pm YELLOW * (if GREEN , “Kneeling” Vespers of Pentecost and the Parish Picnic/Patronal Feast follow Liturgy, no reservation req'd.)	8 Day of the Holy Spirit Divine Liturgy, 8am YELLOW * Vespers, 6pm YELLOW *	9 Third Day of the Holy Trinity Divine Liturgy, 8am YELLOW * Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ <i>Housing Transitions</i> , 217 E. Nittany Ave.	10 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm GREEN Parish Council Meeting, 7pm @ <i>Trinity House</i> or <i>Parish Hall</i> & <i>via Zoom</i> †	11	12 Annual Men’s BBQ, 6pm @ <i>Trinity House</i> (rescheduled from Bright Friday) GREEN	13 Great Vespers with Confessions, 6pm GREEN , else... Open House, 1pm-4pm

Chapel Calendar

All events take place at 145 North Kern Street in Beavertown, unless where noted.

Saturday 2 Open House, 9am-4pm	Sunday 17 Samaritan Woman Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) YELLOW , or Typika @ Home CHS Church School, 12pm <i>via FreeConferenceCall.com</i> or 508-924-5540
Sunday 3 Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women Typika @ Home Churches (visit holyltrinity-oca.org or have a copy mailed to you each week by calling 814-231-2855) CHS Church School, 12pm <i>via join.FreeConferenceCall.com/holytrinity-oca.org</i> or call 508-924-5540	Saturday 23 Open House, 9am-4pm Confessions, 4pm
Saturday 9 Open House, 9am-4pm Confessions, 4pm	Sunday 24 Sunday of the Blind Man Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) YELLOW , or Typika @ Home
Sunday 10 Sunday of the Paralytic Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) YELLOW , or Typika @ Home Virtual Coffee Hour, 12pm <i>via FreeConferenceCall.com</i> or call 508-924-5540	Monday 25 Hats and Blankets for Babies, 6:30pm GREEN
Saturday 16 Open House, 9am-4pm Confessions, 4pm	Tuesday 26 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm GREEN
	Saturday 30 Great Vespers w/ Confessions, 6pm GREEN , else: Open House, 9am-4pm Confessions, 4pm

† to join, visit [holyltrinity-oca.org/zoom](https://www.holytrinity-oca.org/zoom) or call 814-231-2855.

YELLOW event takes place **only** if the county where it is held is in the “Yellow Phase” of re-opening or above (see pg. 1)
Services marked with an asterisk (*) require reservations scheduled online or through the Parish Office.

GREEN event takes place **only** if the county where it is held is in the “Green Phase” of re-opening (see pg. 1).

May 2020