

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Getting Ready for the New Church Year



During His Eminence's visit last month, Archbishop Melchisedek blessed new red altar server robes in anticipation for next month's celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The robes were gifts of generous donors to the parish's memorial fund. Memory eternal!

THE MONTHS OF August and September mark a transition point in the modern American consciousness, and this is especially evident in a university town such as ours. One academic year is coming to an end and another is about to begin. It is a wonderful coincidence, then, that our Holy Church transitions between liturgical "Church Years" on exactly September 1, basically at the same point that broader society is making its own transitions.

At Holy Trinity, the time just before the change in Church Years has traditionally been a time of self-reflection, self-evaluation, visioning, and prayer for discernment. This is a time for us to ask ourselves important questions about our life together and about the official ministries of our parish family. Given all of the changes in the world in the last five or six months, we may find ourselves tempted to want to go into what might be described as "maintenance mode" or "self-preservation mode."

Regardless of the challenges posed by the pandemic, such an approach cannot be reconciled with the gospel. For a church to truly be a church, it must be a body in ministry. With anything less, we will have become like the foolish servant from the gospel who hid his talent rather than investing it to further his master's purposes.

And just as we as a body are called to be in ministry, it should also be said that on an individual level each of us are called to certain ministries in the Church. Not all of these ministries are official, public, obvious, or easily recognizable, of course. But all of us have a calling to purposefully and intentionally use our lives in some form (or forms) of ministry. We are, after all, called "servants of God" throughout the Scriptures, and it is the duty of servants to render service. Our task now, as a body of believers, is to engage with God in discerning prayer and to ask ourselves questions about the public ministries of our parish and about our roles within them.

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

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Discerning our Calling Amidst Change (continued from page 1)

Our callings in the Church are not static, but are every bit as dynamic as our relationship with God is meant to be. So, let's ask ourselves some questions. What new ministries should we undertake at Holy Trinity? How might old ministries be modified to be more effective, beneficial, and God-pleasing? What ministries may need to be retired for a season? What now-retired ministries should be revived? What ministries might we as individuals want to participate in? Or what ministries might we even feel called to lead? These questions should be exciting for us, brothers and sisters. There is an endless amount of life-giving work set before each of us and before our parish family, should we choose to cooperate with God and to engage in it.

This past week, we sent out a survey to the parish asking for input on ministry participation for the fall. I encourage each parishioner to prayerfully fill the survey out, so that we have a sense of what we should plan for. Additionally, those who may be interested in under-taking new roles in ministry, particularly leadership roles, should contact me or our Director of Ministries, Dn. Alexander, about it, so that we can discuss the matter and exercise discernment. If you plan to minister with us this fall, and have not yet received a survey please contact the Parish Office at (814) 231-2855 or office@holyltrinity-oca.org.

This last Church Year has been a time of great transition in the life of our parish, and it is possible that the year ahead will bring a great number of transitions as well. But we need not fear change. Instead, we should look ahead with confidence, faith, and hope, entrusting ourselves to the providential care of Almighty God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Ignatius

Feast Days this Month

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

VESPERS: Wed., Aug. 5, 6pm
(A.T. Pelikan, Litiya)
(P. Doty, Icon)

LITURGY: Thurs., Aug. 6, 8am
(A. Stickles, Prosphora)



THE DORMITION (FALLING ASLEEP) OF THE THEOTOKOS

VESPERS: Fri., Aug. 14, 6pm
(A.T. Pelikan, Litiya)
(L. Radomsky, Icon)

LITURGY: Sat., Aug. 15, 9am
(A. Stickles, Prosphora)



Additional Liturgy:

DATE/TIME	FOR	PROSPHORA
Sat., Aug. 29, 9am	Beheading of St. John	A. Stickles



Chapel Breaks Ground on Altar

The Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Beavertown, Snyder County, broke ground last month on an addition that will increase the church's altar and nave areas by 20% and 70%, respectively. Follow the progress at facebook.com/chsoca. ■

To Be Truly Healed, We Need to Change

by Fr. John Guy Winfrey

[T]he Church is focused on the healing of mankind (salvation)... It is true that man needs spiritual therapy to enter into the fulness of Christ. But there is an unspoken reality that most don't want to think of related to the Church.

If the Church is to heal each of us, she must say, "What you are doing is going to destroy you. It isn't healthy. You must repent (renounce what you are doing and change your ways)."

I have heard a great many people say that they go to church to "feel good". In other words, they are not going there to be healed and changed, but only to receive palliative care, get a pat on the back and be told, "You're great." But, if one went to a therapist would he expect the therapist to simply say, "You're great just the way you are." Not for a second. (The one who seeks therapy admits there is something broken.) But so many of the various Christian groups do just that in the belief that they will be able to attract more people.

The Church must call sin, sin. She must do so not to cause guilt (a very unhealthy emotion; shame is an altogether different matter), but so that the illness might be known and healed through working with the penitent. Like all healing, spiritual healing grows

Our Last and Only Resort

If the first and lowest operation of pain shatters the illusion that all is well, the second shatters the illusion that we have, whether good or bad in itself, is our own and enough for us. Everyone has noticed how hard it is to turn our thoughts to God when everything is going well with us. We "have all we want" is a terrible saying when "all" does not include God. We find God an interruption. As St. Augustine says somewhere, "God wants to give us something, but cannot, because our hands are full—there's nowhere for Him to put it." Or as a friend of mine said, "we regard God as an airman regards to his parachute; it's there for emergencies but he hopes he'll never have to use it." Now God, who has made us, knows what we are and that our happiness lies in Him. Yet we will not seek it in Him as long as He leaves us any other resort where it can even plausibly be looked for. While what we call "our own life" remains agreeable we will not surrender it to Him. What then can God do in our interests but make "our own life" less agreeable to us, and take away the plausible source of false happiness?

— C.S. Lewis (+1963)

by degrees and in steps, and sometimes it never completely heals without a "spiritual limp."

Thank God, the Orthodox Church is willing to name sin. Thank God she will not embrace the passions of the age and call them good, because she is concerned with the healing of every soul, rather than simply giving palliative care until they die. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Fr. John was the pastor of St. Katherine Mission in Burleson, TX. He suddenly reposed on May 25, 2020. Memory eternal!

Look to the Vine

You need only to look at the vine to be reminded of your own nature, that is, if you observe it intelligently. No doubt you remember the image used by the Lord in which he says that he is the vine and the Father the vinedresser. Each of us who have been grafted onto the Church by faith he calls branches, and he urges us to

bear much fruit so as not to be rejected as useless and thrown onto the fire... [I]t is human souls that He calls his vineyard, and the hedge He has put round them is the security of His commandments and the protection of the angels "for the angel of the Lord will encamp around those who fear Him." By establishing in the Church apostles in the first place, prophets in the second, and teachers

in the third, He has surrounded us as though by a firmly planted palisade... He also requires that we allow ourselves to be weeded, [that is, to renounce the worldly ambitions that burden our hearts]... Freed from the profitless burden of earthly aspiration, that person can breathe again.

— St. Basil the Great (+379)

On Holy Scripture and Social Justice

by Fr. Rodney Torbic

**Defend the poor and fatherless:
do justice to the afflicted and needy.**
— *Psalm 81 [82]:3* (KJV)

Justice is elusive in the world and requires diligent pursuit among God’s believers. The Lord is the Guide for shining light on existing injustices and rectifying them. Justice administered daily in the world by human beings requires vigilant attention. Disparities in the administration of justice will come to light and need to be addressed. Trust in the Lord is necessary throughout life that justice will prevail in the end.

**Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy
throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.**
— *Psalm 88 [89]:14* (KJV)

The way a community administers justice reflects the prevalent moral standards. Victims of injustices deserve the opportunity to pursue redress and seek correction. The justice system’s attention to victims determines if victims are being respected. Dealing with victims on a daily basis requires attentive care and compassion. Being fully attentive to victims of violence makes a lasting impact on the listener.

**I have done judgment and justice:
leave me not to mine oppressors.**
— *Psalm 118 [119]:121* (KJV)

The appeals directed to the Lord God for help by the oppressed are wisely-placed. God knows of the hearts of individuals charged with the administration of justice. The justice system needs safeguards present to assure remedies exist for injustices. The fair administration of justice provides the community with acceptable results. Wisdom from the Lord is necessary for the extreme cases in the justice system.

What is God’s Will for Us?

Now that is the will of God which Christ both did and taught: Humility in conversation; steadfastness in faith; modesty in words; justice in deeds; mercifulness in works; discipline in morals; . . . to be able to bear a wrong when done; to keep peace with the brethren; to love God with all one’s heart; to love Him in that He is a father; to fear Him in that He is God; . . . to prefer nothing whatever to Christ, because He did not prefer anything to us; to adhere inseparably to His love; to stand by His cross bravely and faithfully; . . . in torture, that confidence wherewith we do battle; in death, that patience whereby we are crowned—this is to desire to be with fellow-heirs with Christ; this is the commandment of God; this is to fulfil the will of the Father.
— St. Cyprian of Carthage (+258)

**To receive the instruction of wisdom,
justice, and judgment, and equity.**
— *Proverbs 1:3* (KJV)

Every person has a part in the administration of the community’s justice system. Individuals working in the system have a responsibility to maintain their integrity. Citizens have responsibilities to provide adequate resources for the justice system. The workers in the justice system need support and reasonable work conditions. Fairness and impartiality in the administration of justice are required hallmarks.

**To do justice and judgment is more
acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.**
— *Proverbs 21:3* (KJV)

The administration of justice can be challenging and difficult to put into practice. Often times simplistic viewpoints are put forth to resolve complex justice issues. Human lives are at stake in the justice system and great care is required as a result. Every person is affected by the way justice is administered in a local community. Great wisdom goes a long way in ensuring the justice system is fair and effective. ■

■ NEWS AND NOTES

Project Mexico Needs Your Help to Build Homes in 2021

TIJUANA, MEXICO [via *projectmexico.org*] — For the first time in 32 years, Project Mexico will not be building secure and safe homes for families here this summer. This has caused a crisis within the organization leading to the entire staff being furloughed or working with reduced hours. Even though most building trips will be delayed until 2021, you can still help support the boys at St. Innocent Orphanage. Simply log on to *volunteer.projectmexico.org* to learn more.

Husband-and-Wife Team to Lead October Online Retreat

MUNSTER, IN. [via *ancientfaith.com*] — In these hard times, many people are looking inward, hoping to benefit in some way from the changes going on around them and within them. If this sounds like you, plan to spend an afternoon with a priest and a psychologist. Fr. Nicholas and Dr. Roxanne Louh will help you understand where you are, and they will give you the keys to unlock what’s holding you back from the renewal and transformation God has in mind for you. The online retreat, entitled *Renewing You*, takes place on Saturday, October 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those registering at *ancientfaith.com* will receive login credentials several days before the retreat.

Campus Ministry Readies Fall Virtual Programming

BROOKLINE, MA. [via *ocf.net*] — Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) made the difficult decision to cancel its popular college conferences this year. The national campus ministry will more than make up for this loss of programming with *OCF Everywhere*, a comprehensive offering of virtual small groups, retreats, discussion groups, and prayer opportunities in which our Penn State chapter will participate, in addition to its Thursday on-campus meetings. Pray for our students as they adapt to new challenges!

School Drive Still to be Determined

The annual Back-to-School Drive will still take place this month, but the exact needs of the underprivileged student that the parish serves each year are still being determined by our partner agency, Strawberry Fields. Look for ways in which you can help in an upcoming Sunday bulletin, the weekly “This Week at Holy Trinity” email, or at *holyltrinity-oca.org*.

Homeless Ministry Adapts to Serve

The monthly “in-person” dinners at Centre House are postponed indefinitely, but the homeless shelter’s staff are now distributing volunteer-made meals daily! Advance sign-up is required; call (814) 231-2855 or visit *holyltrinity-oca.org/homeless* to participate.

Akathist to St. Herman to be Sung

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the canonization of St. Herman, we will sing an Akathist dedicated to the Alaskan missionary saint and unofficial patron saint of the parish. It will be chanted after Great Vespers on Saturday, August 8 at the State College church.

Ring in New Year with Prayer, Lunch

On Tuesday, September 1 at noon in State College, join Fr. Ignatius in praying for the Ecclesiastical New Year. Plan also to bring a packed lunch or order in. Following the brief service asking God to bless us and our parish as we start anew, there will be an opportunity to finish the lunch hour together in fellowship.

For the Record

- CATECHUMEN
- **Karen Rath** was enrolled by Abp. Melchisedek into the Holy Catechumenate on July 26. **Many years!**
- CITIZENSHIP
- **Nader Gerges** became an American citizen on July 8 at a ceremony in Philadelphia. **Many years!**
- YOUR GENEROSITY
- *The Matthew 25 ministry made a \$100 donation last month to begin a new partnership with Tides, a State College organization supporting families that are grieving the death of a loved one.*

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
26 St. Jacob, Enlightener of Alaska Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i>	27 Great-martyr and Healer Panteleimon	28	29 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	30	31	August 1 Procession of the Life-giving Cross Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
2 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i>	3 “Hats and Hugs Made with Love” Knitting Group, 1pm-2:30pm <i>@ Trinity House Conference Room</i>	4	5 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Great Vespers, Litya, and Blessing of Fruits for Transfiguration, 6pm	6 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Divine Liturgy, 8am <i>(Hours, 7:40am)</i>	7 Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Penn State Executive Committee Meeting, 4pm <i>via Zoom</i>	8 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Akathist to St. Herman of Alaska, following Confessions, following
9 St. Herman of Alaska Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i>	10 40-Day Memorial for Wadih Maalouf, 11:30am	11	12 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm <i>@ Parish Hall and holytrinity-oca.org/zoom.</i>	13 St. Tikhon of Zadonsk	14 Great Vespers, Litya, and Blessing of Flowers for the Dormition, 6pm	15 DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS Divine Liturgy, 9am <i>(Hours, 8:40am)</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
16 Image of Christ “Not-Made-by-Hands” Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i>	17	18 Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm	19 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	20	21	22 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
23 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i>	24	25	26 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	27 Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Penn State Weekly Meeting, 7pm <i>@ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, University Park</i>	28 Great Vespers, 6pm	29 Beheading of St. John the Forerunner Divine Liturgy, 9am <i>(Hours, 8:40am)</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
30 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i>	31	September 1 Church New Year (Indiction) Moleben for the New Church Year, 12n	2 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	3 Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Penn State Weekly Meeting, 7pm <i>@ 124 Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, University Park</i>	4	5 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following

Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Saturday 15 DORMITION Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
Sunday 2 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Discipleship Study, following	Sunday 16 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship/Study, following
Tuesday 4 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Tuesday 18 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Wednesday 5 Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD , 6pm Blessing of Fruits, following	Saturday 22 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
Saturday 8 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Sunday 23 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship/Study, following
Sunday 9 St. Herman of Alaska Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Discipleship Study, following	Monday 24 “Hats and Blankets for Babies” Outreach, 6:30pm
Tuesday 11 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Tuesday 25 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Friday 14 Great Vespers and Litya for Dormition, 6pm	Saturday 29 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
	Sunday 30 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship/Study, following

August 2020