

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Beginning Anew and Looking Forward



While parishioners at Holy Trinity in State College will take the first weeks of the new ecclesiastical year to decide how to proceed with their property, faithful at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Beavertown will soon take occupancy of their new altar addition. Glory to Jesus Christ!

The New Year and our Salvation

by Metropolitan Tikhon

THE FEAST OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR, September 1, in our contemporary Orthodox practice, has become an opportunity to consider and reflect on the natural world, those things that our great God, when He first created them and beheld all that He done, declared “very good” (*Genesis 1:31*). This day serves as an opportunity for us to further our knowledge and deepen our faith in God by contemplating the manifold blessings of creation.

(continued, see ENCYCLICAL FOR THE NEW YEAR, page 2)

WHEN WE SENT OUT the parish ministry survey last month, the lengthiest question asked had to do with a proposed “Site Plan and Feasibility Study” to be conducted by K&W Engineers and Consultants for a cost not to exceed \$15,000. From the responses we received to this question, one thing that became clear was that many people simply didn’t understand what was being asked. This is probably something we should have expected, because neither I nor any representative of the parish council had spoken to the parish much about this issue, how the discussion came about in the first place, or what needs the council had identified that led us to consider this course of action.

The idea of having an architect give us a site plan and feasibility study was birthed out of two primary impetuses.

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

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Schedules

TELLERS		SERVERS	
September 6	G. Cartell and D. McNulty	All Servers Each Sunday <i>Altar Server Captains: J. Cahnan and S. Oleynik</i>	
September 13	K. Cartell and M. Fiori		
September 20	M. Anthony and M. Fedkin		
September 27	K. Cartell and D. McNulty		
October 4	G. Cartell and M. Fiori		
October 11	D. McNulty and M. Fedkin		

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

What Steps Will We Take This Year? (continued from page 1)

First of all, there was the issue of persistent overcrowding in the holy temple during Sunday liturgies, most especially Holy Pascha. This overcrowding even led to health concerns—with some people actually fainting during the Divine Liturgy on occasion—until two air handling units were installed. The second reason was that the parish council had been considering a targeted site survey to prepare to pave the Trinity House parking lot. The council found the bids that they received to be of excessive cost, due in large part to the stringent code work that needs to be done before anything can be modified or constructed in the borough of State College. The costs of the limited site survey—before the paving work could even be contracted—were found to be in the range of \$10,000.

At this point, the council began to explore other options, and found out that for a relatively small additional investment, they could hire a firm to do a *comprehensive* master site plan that included all of the properties and grounds at the parish's State College and Beavertown campuses. This plan, crafted from extensive interviews with everyone in the parish, would be a reflection of our vision and goals as a community. It would help us understand the value of our existing properties, and give us a tangible path to a bright future with new facilities that are better suited to our needs and desires as a parish. So, for no more than \$5,000 more, we would have architectural drawings of a "Master Site Concept"—a concrete plan of action for the future that takes into account all borough code regulations, costs, etc. We would also receive sketches and site-planning work for the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at no additional cost.

When I arrived in February, these plans were already being put in place, and—with my own enthusiastic support and agreement—we began to set up to accept the bid and to begin holding guided "town hall" meet-

Holy Days this Month



NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

VESPERS: Tues., Sept. 7, 6pm
(A. Stickle, *Litya Bread*)
(L. Rush, *Icon*)

LITURGY: Wed., Sept. 8, 8am
(A. Stickle, *Prospophora*)



EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

VESPERS: Sun., Sept. 13, 6pm
(A. Stickle, *Litya Bread*)
(L. Radomsky, *Icon/Cross*)

LITURGY: Mon., Sept. 14, 9am
(A. Stickle, *Prospophora*)

ings for the parish in the late spring. Unfortunately, the global-scale events of the spring and summer occurred, and we felt both unwilling and unable to proceed at that time.

However, I think this process is a very important one, and I believe we need to engage with it sooner rather than later. Although it began in terms that I would describe as somewhat "reactive," it promises us the opportunity to become "pro-active" about our future together as a community. We have had problems with overcrowding; we're going to have them again, and probably sooner than we think. We need to work to address this. In terms of our role as evangelists in this community, this is vital. If people come and find they have nowhere to stand, they will leave, and many people who probably would have found Orthodox Christianity and salvation in Jesus Christ may indeed be lost. We cannot solve this problem in the near term, but it's one that we need to make every effort to address within the span of the next ten to fifteen years. But we cannot address it at all unless we take the first step; and this is what the K&W survey and resultant site plan represents to us.

■ NEWS & NOTES

Encyclical for the New Year: Creation and the Mystery of our Salvation

(continued from page 1)

These words, what God has created is "very good," reveal to all people of faith a profound mystery, namely that our God is nothing other than the source of all good, because he is himself very good. He is not the source of wickedness, evil, decay, or sin, but of life, love, and goodness. Jesus Christ is for us the supreme testimony of this mystery. The One by whom all things were created, himself became truly a human, born in the fullness of time, while remaining true God. His death on the cross, resurrection from the dead, and his presenting himself, his resurrected body, "living after his passion (*Acts 1:3*)" to his apostles, points to the last days when creation will be restored, and will do nothing else than reveal the glory of God: the oaks will whirl (*Ps. 29:9*), the river of God will be full of water (*Ps. 65:9*), the threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil (*Joel 2:24*), both the sanctuary and the mighty firmament of the heavens will praise God (*Ps. 150:1*). In those days, what was spoken of in the holy scriptures will come to pass, "For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people (*II Cor. 6:16*; quoting *Lev. 26:12, Jer. 32:38, Ez. 37:27*)."

Creation reveals this mystery to us, the mystery of our salvation. From the first days to the last days, God beholds creation and it is very good, because the Creator, who is also our Redeemer, is very good. Amidst so much uncertainty, suffering, distress, and anxiety, which we are experiencing presently, the mystery revealed to us once again should give us comfort and consolation. The goodness and the love of God remain with us, no matter what else happens. The mystery given over to us in creation should also serve to challenge us to have proper stewardship of it. God has

given us the gift of creation ultimately for our life here and now, and to lead us to the life in the age to come. Having lordship over creation does not mean that we can destroy or do violence to the earth, but that we can live here and now, and that we can remain alive in Christ Jesus to the ages of ages.

I pray that all Orthodox Christians can each use [the Church New Year, September 1, as an opportunity] to come to a deeper and more profound faith in our Creator by reflecting on all that He has created.

OCMC Helping Areas Impacted by COVID-19

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL [via ocmc.org] — Economic impacts from the novel coronavirus are threatening some missionary dioceses' ability to meet expenses, including priest pay and ministry funding like food and supplies for orphanages. In keeping with its mandate to help local churches grow and thrive, the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) covered costs in more than 30 countries from Nigeria to the Philippines to the Caribbean. The missions agency thanks all those who pitched in to help carry out Christ's great commission.

Parish Forum Now Online

CRANBERRY TWP., PA [via ocadwp.org] — The 2020 Parish Forum held this July attracted over 150 people from across the country, and its materials and sessions are now available at ocadwp.org/2020parishforumonline.

Kenya's Fr. Kulali Could Use a Hand Once Again

LUANDA, KENYA [via *Fr. Mark Meholick*] — In addition to educating and treating people with foot infections, Fr. Eliakim Kulali has recently been taking care of the mission parish in the village of Mumias, which consists entirely of recent converts to Orthodox Christianity from Islam. The church is in the process of building a brick church to replace their temporary edifice. Your gifts sent to Holy Trinity with the memo "Kenya Mission" will be sent directly to the outreach.

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

Christians: Don't Be Mean!

by Gary Thomas

Consider the life Paul calls us to in 1 Corinthians 13, a life of love. Love is patient when others mess up. Love is kind. Love isn't rude or easily angered and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love always protects. There's no attack in love.

If you are arrogant, harsh, impatient, unkind, and judgmental instead of compassionate, patient and gentle, you are not acting as one of "God's chosen people" regardless of how many graduate degrees you have, how many Bible verses you know, how many books you have published, how big your church, organization, or social media impact is or even how well you control yourself sexually. It doesn't even matter if you are "right" on the issue if you are acting in a wrong manner. You're adding to the overall problem rather than being part of the solution.

One of the greatest temptations to be mean, of course, is when we catch someone else in a sin. We've all read of the Pharisees who caught a woman in the act of adultery (obviously and discriminatorily letting the man go!) and demanded she be publicly shamed, which Jesus refused to do. The Pharisees were right in thinking adultery is wrong; they were wrong in that they were acting in a mean instead of a redemptive way...

Anger over a sin is appropriate. A group of believers saying "Enough is enough, this kind of behavior can't be tolerated anymore" is doing the Lord's work. That's what societal change is all about! God hates sin, and so should we. There's a time and place to reprobate evil acts. But the way we talk about individual sinners, especially when we don't know the full story, is the portal to us being lured into sin by adopting a mean-spirited response to sin.

There's a fascinating reality about the way Jesus touched lepers. People were astonished that he could

Christians are Never Safe

The Christian doctrine of suffering explains... the world we live in. The settled happiness and security which we all desire, God withholds from us by the very nature of the world: but joy, pleasure, and merriment, He has scattered [broadly]. We are never safe, but we have plenty of fun, and some ecstasy. It is not hard to see why. The security we crave would teach us to rest our hearts in this world and oppose an obstacle to our return to God: a few moments of happy love, a landscape, a symphony, a merry meeting with our friends, a bath or a football [game], have no such tendency. Our Father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home.

— C.S. Lewis (+1963)

touch them without becoming leprous himself. Can we touch hateful people without becoming hate-filled? Can we stand against abuse without becoming abusive? We never feel more justified doing evil than when we are self-righteously confronting evil. Remember, it's not just about being "right." It's about responding like Christ...

Remember: the same Bible that discounts sexual immorality also discounts meanness. Let's be consistent. No hateful speech toward anyone, Christian or non-Christian, the "pure" or the fallen. Challenge mis-behavior, but realize that God specializes in redeeming people who have misbehaved.

The people of God are to be different, in every way. Not just in our sexuality, but in our speech, in our temperament and manner, and in our love of grace and mercy. Let us be truly devoted to each other's welfare, not overly wise in our own sight, and committed to doing no harm to anyone.

Let's be different. Let's not be mean. ■

Therefore, throughout the month of September, we will be having a series of short presentations at the end of the Sunday liturgy, discussing the nature and scope of the proposal. These presentations will be available (as will the entire liturgy) via livestream, and will be linked on our website, so that those who are not able to attend worship at this time will still be informed of what we are talking about.

Finally, on October 4, after the Divine Liturgy, we will be holding an informal parish meeting (including a Zoom component for those who are not able to be present with us in person) in which we can discuss the proposal as a group. As a part of this meeting, we will conduct a "straw poll" in order to get a sense of congregational support once the matter has been communicated at length. If we don't have decisive congregational support at that time, then we will formally turn down the K&W proposal, and let the matter drop.

I would encourage all the faithful to pray over this issue in the coming month and to prepare to participate in the October meeting, because one way or another, we need a sense of where God is going to lead us as church family in the coming years, and if this is not the way for us to proceed, then we need to set to work to find another, in accordance with God's will for us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Ignatius

Church School Comes Home this Fall

Director of Christian Education Dn. Mark Oleynik will present a special webinar on Monday, September 14 at 7 p.m. to offer parents valuable tips and resources on teaching the Faith to their children in lieu of in-person and virtual Sunday School this fall. The session, accessible by holytrinity-oca.org/zoom or (814) 231-2855 will preview Holy Trinity's "Church School @ Home" curriculum, and educate parents on the importance and methodologies of spiritual education around the home altar. A time for Q&A will follow the presentation.

Study Group on Scripture Forming

Father Ignatius Hunter will lead a hybrid in-person and virtual Fall Adult Study Group on the Holy Scriptures on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The course will run for five weeks beginning September 8 and is open to all (members, catechumens, inquirers, etc.). Come to Trinity House or join remotely via holytrinity-oca.org/zoom. Following a brief hiatus on October 13th and 20th, Orthodoxy 101 will then be offered—same night and time.

Bookstore to Reopen on Sept. 13

The Holy Trinity Bookstore, located in the lower level of the State College church, will reopen on Sunday, September 13, following the Divine Liturgy. We thank Rdr. Matthew Finke for his many years of service and hard work transforming the bookstore from a small corner of the Parish Hall to the large selection of books, artwork, music, and liturgical items it is today. He passes the reins to Anna Stickle, who also manages the Parish Library. If Sundays are not convenient for you, Anna is happy to open the bookstore by appointment. Simply email bookstore@holytrinity-oca.org or call 814-231-2855.

School Drive a Huge Success

Thank you to the generous donors who helped the parish provide nearly \$2,000 in school supplies for 43 area children last month. In addition to the supplies, an anonymous donor also gave gift cards to each family to help with incidental school costs throughout the year.



Parish Knitters Have Been Busy!

The parish has two very active knitting ministries—"Hats and Hugs Made with Love," which meets first Mondays at 1 p.m. at Trinity House and "Hats and Blankets for Babies," which meets fourth Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Chapel. Recently the State College group was able to donate 33 hats, 8 cocoons, 6 blankets, 5 angel gowns, and 3 envelopes to preemies and newborns. Newcomers welcome; call 814-231-2855 to learn more. ■

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
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: Stump the Priest, 7pm <i>via Zoom†</i>	4	5 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
6 Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i> Strategic Planning Presentation with Justin Houser, 11:45am LIVE One-Year Memorial for Robert Souder, following	7 “Hats and Hugs Made with Love” Knitting Group, 1pm-2:30pm <i>@ Trinity House</i> Great Vespers with Litya for the Nativity of the Theotokos, 6pm	8 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS Divine Liturgy, 8am <i>(Hours, 7:40am)</i> Adult Study Group, 7pm <i>@ Parish Hall & via Zoom†</i>	9 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm <i>@ Parish Hall & via Zoom†</i>	10	11	12 Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
13 Sunday Before the Elevation Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i> Strategic Planning Presentation with Bob Hoffman of K&W Engineers and Consultants, 11:45am LIVE Great Vespers with Litya, 6pm	14 ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Divine Liturgy, 8am Parents’ Session: <i>Church School @ Home, 7pm via Zoom†</i> PSU Student Open House, 7pm-10pm <i>@ T.H.</i>	15 Adult Study Group, 7pm <i>@ Parish Hall & via Zoom†</i>	16 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	17	18	19 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
20 Sunday After the Elevation Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i> Strategic Planning Presentation with Dn. Alexander Cadman, 11:45am LIVE	21 Penn State Student Open House, 7pm-10pm <i>@ Trinity House</i>	22 Adult Study Group, 7pm <i>@ Parish Hall & via Zoom†</i>	23 Conception of St. John the Forerunner Confessions, 4pm-6pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	24 New Martyrs of Alaska: Ss. Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut	25	26 St. John the Theologian Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
27 Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i> Strategic Planning Presentation with Fr. Ignatius Hunter, 11:45am LIVE	28 Penn State Student Open House, 7pm-10pm <i>@ Trinity House</i>	29 Adult Study Group, 7pm <i>@ Parish Hall & via Zoom†</i>	30 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	October 1 Protection of the Theotokos Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Penn State: Virtual Game Night, 7pm <i>via Zoom†</i>	2	3 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
4 Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i> Parish “Town Hall” Meeting on Strategic Planning/Master Site Plan Proposal, 11:45am <i>@ Nave & via Zoom†</i>	5 “Hats and Hugs Made with Love” Knitting Group, 1pm-2:30pm <i>@ Trinity House</i> Penn State Student Open House, 7pm-10pm <i>@ Trinity House</i>	6 St. Innocent of Alaska Adult Study Group, 7pm <i>@ Parish Hall & via Zoom†</i>	7 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm <i>@ Parish Hall & via Zoom†</i>	8	9 St. Tikhon, Enlightener of North America	10 Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following

Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday 5 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	Sunday 20 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship & Study, follow
Sunday 6 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study on Discipleship, follow	Tuesday 22 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Monday 7 Great Vespers/Litya, 6pm	Saturday 26 Prosphora Baking Workshop with Mka. Brenda, 10am-12:30pm <i>(bring a potluck brunch dish to share)</i>
Tuesday 8 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Great Vespers/Confess., 6pm
Saturday 12 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	Sunday 27 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship & Study, follow
Sunday 13 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship & Study, follow Great Vespers/Litya, 6pm	Monday 28 “Hats and Blankets for Babies” Ministry, 6:30pm
Tuesday 15 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Tuesday 29 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Saturday 19 Beaver Fair Outreach Begins <i>(through September 26)</i> Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	Saturday October 3 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
	Sunday 4 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship & Study, follow

† to join, visit holytrinity-oca.org/zoom or call 814-231-2855.

LIVE this service will be livestreamed at holytrinity-oca.org and YouTube (holytrinity-oca.org/YouTube).

September 2020