

Our Lenten Journey Begins



For 46 hours, from February 19-21st, a group of THON participants from “Eclipse” remained standing and dancing in our parish hall in order to raise money for pediatric cancer.

Great Lent and Confession

For some Orthodox Christians, the coming of Great Lent brings with it a certain sense of dread. And it’s not about fasting, or almsgiving, or increased prayer; it’s about Confession. The Orthodox Church teaches in no uncertain terms that believers are to confess their sins regularly, and while the precise implications of this vary from region to region, the Church has for a long time drawn a hard line in the sand: at a minimum, believers must confess during Great Lent or Holy Week. In the United States, perhaps due to Roman Catholic influence, this expectation is often referred to as one’s “Lenten Obligation.” And for many believers, the “Lenten Obligation” is surrounded with a great deal of anxiety. But it really shouldn’t be, and here are some good reasons why:

- **Your priest actually loves you.** Even if you don’t think you’re a very good disciple. Even if you’re not around enough for your priest to know you by name. Even if you’re angry with him. Even if some of the things you have to confess are against him personally, your priest loves you. He desires that you be reconciled to God. He desires your spiritual healing and your eternal salvation. It’s not just his vocation; it’s not just his duty; your priest loves you and cares about you.
- **Your priest is not going to judge you.** That’s not why he’s there. Your priest is there as your advocate and as a true friend, hearing your sins on behalf of God and on behalf of the community.
- **You aren’t going to scandalize anyone.** Priests are real people who live in the real world. They know

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

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

Schedules

TELLERS		SERVERS
March 7	D. McNulty and M. Fiori	All Servers welcome each Sunday. <i>Altar Server</i> <i>Co-Captains:</i> <i>J. Cadman and</i> <i>S. Oleynik</i>
March 14	K. Cattell and M. Fedkin	
March 21	G. Cattell, D. McNulty	
March 28	M. Fiori, M. Fedkin	
April 4	K. Cattell, D. McNulty	
April 11	G. Cattell, M. Fiori	

■ FROM THE RECTOR’S DESK

Why Confession?

the temptations their flocks are facing. The majority of young people struggle with sexual sins of various types. That’s a fact. Many college students end up experimenting with drugs and with drunkenness. It’s a fact. It’s incredibly unlikely that you will be the first person or the only person to confess something to a particular priest, including very serious sins like adultery, abortion, rape, or murder. Your priest has heard it before, he’s not scandalized by you, and he wants to help you acknowledge your sin and heal from it.

- **Confession brings healing.** Ultimately, Confession is about our healing, maturation, and deification. All of us are sinners, as is clearly taught in the Holy Scriptures. Often, in Church communities, we try to hide our sin and paint a false veneer of “perfection” on ourselves. Such duplicity is corrupting and soul-destroying. It is true and right to say that “sin damages the sinner,” but what we do after we have sinned is more important than the initial moment of sin itself. St. John says to believers, “if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” (1 Jn 1:8). But then he tells us, “If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1:9). Hiding our sin is an act of hypocrisy, and it stands in the way of salvation. Acknowledging our failings, weaknesses, and misdeeds is the way toward growth, healing, and spiritual maturity. We cannot repent unless we first tell ourselves the truth about who we are and what we’ve been doing.
- **You might learn something about yourself.** Although the primary focus of Confession is on the testimony and contrition of the penitent (i.e. the “person confessing”), frequently Confession has an aspect of “dialogue” about it, with the priest either asking questions to the penitent or offering

Upcoming Liturgies:

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES:

LITURGY: Wed., March 17, 6pm
(I. Andzhievskaya, Prospora)

LITURGY: Fri., March 19, 6pm
(I. Andzhievskaya, Prospora)

LITURGY: Wed., March 24, 6pm
(R. Cadman & A. Swisher, Prospora)

ANNUNCIATION LIGURGY:

LITURGY: Thurs., March 25, 6pm
(A. Stickles, Prospora)

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES:

LITURGY: Fri., March 26, 6pm
(R. Cadman & A. Swisher, Prospora)

LITURGY: Wed., March 31, 6pm
(R. Cadman & A. Swisher, Prospora)

practical or theological advice. Typically, one of the aims of a confessor is to help the person confessing see themselves and their actions more thoroughly. A trip to Confession can often teach us something about our motives, the dynamics of our interpersonal relationships, or how situations in our lives relate to the teachings of the Church.

- **God might speak to you.** Confession, among many other things, is a place of prophecy. It is not uncommon for us to hear the voice of God in the counsel of our confessor. And while different priests have different giftings in regard to hearing confessions, and we oughtn’t hang on every word of a priest from every confession, sometimes God will speak to us through our priest in this context, and so we need to come ready to listen.

With these uplifting thoughts in mind, let us prepare to greet the Great Fast and its “Lenten Obligation” with joy instead of trepidation. Confession may not be the most inherently pleasant thing, but like regular physical exams or teeth cleanings, it’s something that is good for us and can be of immense benefit. Truly, if we use it correctly, it is a return to the grace we received in baptism. ■ — *Fr. Ignatius*

■ NEWS & NOTES

Lenten Potlucks

With Lent starting this month, the parish will continue its custom of holding a potluck after Wednesday presanctified liturgy. The potluck will begin shortly after the service, around 7:30pm. Please come, bring a Lenten dish to share, and enjoy this time of fellowship.

New Parish Council Secretary

Maria Fiori was elected by vote of the parish council to fill the position of parish council secretary following the departure of Leslyn Radomsky. Her term will be up at the end of 2021.

Tuesday Readings in Lent

Each Tuesday evening during Lent this year, the parish will host a reading of the life of a saint. This will be a quiet time to come listen and meditate. If you are interested in reading aloud, please contact Father. If there is interest, this event may be livestreamed via Zoom.

Coffee Hour Set to Return in March

We are all looking forward to the return of coffee hour on Cheesefare Sunday March 14 – with Hi-Way pizza! The new coordinator, Megan Leathers, is looking for families willing to bring a dish to share once every few months. If you are interested in details or in sharing food, please contact Megan at fellowship@holytrinity-oca.org.

The Teaching

Continued from previous page

that you may find peace of mind in their words. Do not desire schism; rather make peace between opponents. Judge justly; show no favor in reproving failures. Do not be of two minds whether something shall or shall not be. Do not be in the habit of stretching out your hands to receive, but closing them when it comes time to give. When you earn something by your hands, give a ransom for your sins. Do not be reluctant to give, and do not grumble when you give, for you will know just who is the good paymaster of future recompense. Do not turn from your brother in need; share everything with him, and reckon nothing your own; for if you share what is deathless, how much more things that perish.

Do not take your hand from your son or daughter; rather, from their youth teach them the fear of God.

Do not boss around your [workers] who hope in the same God, lest they wind up not fearing the God who is over both you and them, for he comes to call not with respect of persons, but those whom the Spirit has prepared. You [employees] be subordinate to your superiors as to God’s representative, with modesty and respect.

Hate all hypocrisy and everything that displeases the Lord. Do not abandon the commandments of the Lord. Keep what you have received without adding or subtracting anything. In church confess your failures. And do not come to your prayer with an evil conscience. This is the way of Life.■

New Icon of Sts. Thekla and Photini

Fr. Mark Meholik, dean of the Eastern Deanery of the Archdiocese of Western PA, recently completed and delivered our new icon of Sts. Thekla and Photini, which Father blessed on February 7th. Fr. Mark is also scheduled to work on a double icon of Maria of Paris and Elizabeth the New Martyr, as well as individual ones of Moses the Ethiopian and Olga of Alaska. If you are interested in sponsoring additional icons or temple furnishings, please contact Father.



The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles

The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles (*The Didache*)
I

There are two ways: one of Life, and one of Death. There is a big difference between the two Ways. Here is the Way of Life.

You shall love, first, the God who made you, and second, your neighbor as yourself – all those things you would not wish done to you, don’t you be doing to someone else. What these words teach is this:

Bless those who curse you and pray for your enemies; and keep a fast for those who persecute you. Where is the credit if you love those who love you? Do not Gentiles do the same? Love those who hate you and you will have no enemy.

Hold back from self-indulgent passions and desires. If someone gives you a slap on the right cheek, turn to him the other and you will be perfect. If someone forces you to go for a mile, go two with him. If someone takes your cloak, give him your tunic too. If someone takes what is yours, do not demand it back...

Give to everyone who asks you, and do not refuse, for the Father wants all to receive something from our own gifts. Blest is the one who gives according to the commandant, for he is blameless. Woe to the recipient; for if someone receives in need, he shall be blameless; but if he be not needy, he will testify why he took and to what end; finding himself in prison, he will be examined concerning what he did, and he shall not get out of there until he repays the last dime...

II
The second command of the Teaching: Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not molest children. Do not whore. Do not steal. Do not practice magic; do not take [abortion-inducing] drugs. Do not murder a child by abortion, nor kill it once it is born. Covet nothing that belongs to your neighbor. Do not perjure yourself. Do not bear false witness. Speak no evil. Hold no grudge. Do not be two-faced, nor speak out of both sides of your mouth, for double-dealing

is the snare of death. Your word shall be neither false nor empty, but always full of intended action.

Claim no more than your due; take nothing by force; do not be a hypocrite, nor be disagreeable, nor arrogant. Plot no evil against your neighbor. Hate no one. Rather, expect there will be individuals you will have to reason with, individuals you will have to pray for, and individuals you will love more than your life.

III
My child, flee every evil man and everyone like him. Do not be hot-tempered, for anger leads to murder; nor jealous, nor quarrelsome, nor passionate, for out of all this murders originate. My child, do not be lascivious, for lustfulness leads to sexual license; nor have indecent conversation, nor give seductive looks, for out of all this adulteries originate. My child, do not look for the future in omens, because it leads to idolatry; nor cast spells, nor make astrological forecasts, nor use magic, nor wish to see such things, for out of all this idolatry originates. My child, do not be dishonest, because lying leads to theft; nor money-loving, nor a braggart, for out of all this thefts originate. My child, do not grumble, because it leads to blasphemy; nor be stubborn, nor evil-minded, for out of all this blasphemies originate.

Be meek, for the meek will inherit the earth. Be patient, and merciful, and without malice, and quiet, and good, and ever trembling at the words which you have heard. Do not exalt yourself, nor let yourself be insolent at heart. Do not get yourself involved with the high and mighty, rather walk with the just and the lowly. Accept events that befall you as good, knowing that nothing happens apart from God.

IV
My child, night and day remember the man who tells you the word of God. Honor him as the Lord; for where they speak of his lordship the Lord is present. Every day seek out members of the holy company so

A Call to Repentance

There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.” And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.” But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he

answered his father, “Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!” And he said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.”



Of what great blessings in my wretchedness have I deprived myself! From what a kingdom in my misery have I fallen! I have wasted the riches that were given to me, I have transgressed the commandment. Alas, unhappy soul! Thou art henceforth condemned to the eternal fire. Therefore before the end cry out to Christ our God: Receive me as the Prodigal Son, O God, and have mercy upon me. – *Doxastikhon at Lord I Call, Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

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
28 Prodigal Son Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i>	March 1	2	3	4	5	6
		Bible Study, 7pm ZOOM	Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following			Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
7 Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare) Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Vespers of Cheesefare Wednesday, 6pm	Sixth and Ninth Hour, 4pm Confessions, 4:30pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	Vespers of Cheesefare Friday, 6pm OCF @ Home, 7pm ZOOM	Sixth and Ninth Hour, 11:45AM General Memorial for clergy and monastics, 6pm	Choir rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
14 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare) Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i> Forgiveness Vespers, 6pm	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6pm	Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6pm	Confessions, 4pm-6pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30PM	Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, 6pm	Confessions, 5pm-6pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm	Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
21 Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i> Procession with icons, 11:30am	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Reading of the Life of St. Anthony (1-45), 6pm	Confessions, 4pm-6pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30PM	Vesperal Divine Liturgy for Annunciation, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 8pm	Confessions, 5pm-6pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm	Choir rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
28 St. Gregory Palamas Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i>	29	30	31	April 1	2	3
		Reading of the Life of St. Anthony (46-94), 6pm	Confessions, 4pm-6pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30PM		Confessions, 5pm-6pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm	Memorial Divine Liturgy, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following
4 Sunday of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy, 10am LIVE <i>(Hours, 9:40am) or Typika @ Home</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Spiritual reading, 6pm	Confessions, 4pm-6pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30PM	OCF – Stump the Priest, 7pm ZOOM	OCF Service Trip (tentative) Confessions, 5pm-6pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm	Great Vespers, 6pm LIVE Confessions, following

Chapel Calendar

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

Tuesday 2 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Sunday 21 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> † Catechesis, 1:30pm via Zoom†
Saturday 6 Great Vespers, 6pm, Confessions, following	Monday 22 “Hats and Blankets for Babies”, 6:30pm
Sunday 7 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> † Study of missionary saints, 1:30pm	Tuesday 23 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Tuesday 9 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Wednesday 24 Annunciation vesperal Divine Liturgy; soup/bread potluck follows; 6pm
Saturday 13 Great Vespers, 6pm, Confessions, following	Saturday 27 Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy, hours 9:40am Great Vespers, 6pm, Confessions, following
Sunday 14 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> † Catechesis, 1:30pm via Zoom†	Sunday 28 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> † Catechesis, 1:30pm via Zoom†
Monday 15 Small compline with canon of repentance, 6pm	Tuesday 30 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Tuesday 16 Choir Rehearsal, 6pm	Wednesday 31 Presanctified Liturgy; soup/bread potluck follows, 6pm
Wednesday 17 Presanctified Liturgy; soup/bread potluck follows, 6pm	Saturday 3 Great Vespers, 6pm, Confessions, following
Saturday 20 Great Vespers, 6pm, Confessions, following	Sunday 4 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> †

† to join remotely, visit holytrinity-oca.org/zoom.

LIVE this service will be livestreamed on YouTube (visit holytrinity-oca.org/YouTube).

March 2021