

# THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Looking Forward to the Future



The newly illumined Servant of God Ian Ashmore is carried around the baptismal font by Godparents Pdn. Alex and Mka. Jennifer Cadman

## Gearing Up for Renewed Ministries

When I wrote in this space last month, I issued a call to the faithful to practice a preparatory rest throughout the Paschal season in anticipation of coming work. By God’s grace, we have fulfilled the 50 days of the holy Paschal season, and now it is time for us to lay up plans and to prepare ourselves for action. The COVID-19 pandemic truly represented a “hard stop” for basically every aspect of the life of our parish, and while a number of our normal patterns of activity have returned, there is much important and even critical work that remains undone. So, as God will give me strength, I will lay out much of the coming agenda and the things that I think we need to be working on for at least the rest of this year.

to strangers” as an act of Christian love (Heb 13:2). Since the end of the pandemic, we have had a significant uptick in the number of visitors who have been coming through our doors, and yet it has been reported to me that in a fairly high number of cases no one has so much as said hello to these folks. This is not anyone in particular’s fault, but it does betray a current lack of parish-wide intentionality when it comes to welcoming strangers, and this is something we need to address swiftly. To this end, we will be having a special brainstorming session on July 15 at 7 pm as a prelude to reviving a formal “Greeters Ministry.” This focus meeting is open to all parishioners – even those who don’t personally feel called to be “Greeters” – and it is my sincere hope and prayer that we will do more than simply reestablish a Greeters Ministry at this meeting. In

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

**1. Hospitality** – To my mind, this is the most urgent area in which we need to improve. The Lord and His Apostles teach us most explicitly to “show hospitality

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## Schedules

TELLERS		SERVERS	
July 4	K. Cattell, M. Fedkin	All Servers welcome each Sunday. <i>Altar Server</i> Co-Captains: I. Cadman and S. Oleynik	
July 11	G. Cattell, M. Fiori		
July 18	K. Cattell, M. Fedkin		
July 25	G. Cattell, M. Fiori		
August 1	K. Cattell, M. Fedkin		
August 8	G. Cattell, M. Fiori		

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

# Gearing Up

particular, I am hoping to (1) develop a system in which visitors can send messages to me and signal their intentions/ desires/ needs and (2) foster a broader culture of welcome in the parish that extends beyond individuals expressing greetings at the door.

**2. Catechesis** – Recently, as I was listening to a very insightful lecture by Fr. Josiah Trenham on the *Book of Romans*, I encountered a very basic and yet very profound claim: Paul wrote Romans to Christians in order to preach the gospel to them. This is the case, Fr. Josiah maintains, because we need to be constantly repeating the gospel to one another. Accepting the gospel is not a one-time act, but is rather something we need to be doing every day of our lives. And a significant part of our calling to “preach the gospel to every creature” involves preaching it over and over to one another (Mk 16:15). With this in mind, we need to be thinking about the educational structures of our parish. The divine services are profound textbooks of theology and liturgical sermons can be of great benefit, but we need to rebuild an extralitururgical education program as well, and in totality it needs to consist of four parts: education of the young, education of Orthodox adults, education of inquirers, and education of catechumens. Of these things, the two which most critically need to be addressed in the near-term are the questions of educating children and educating inquirers. Dn. Mark and I will be meeting this month to discuss fall Sunday School for the kids, and it is my hope that we will be able to put a concrete plan in place by August. As far as the education of inquirers goes, it is my hope to put together a curriculum for a retooled “Orthodoxy 101” within the next month, and to hold between four and eight such classes in the fall.

**3. Accessibility** – A number of weeks ago, we celebrated the “Sunday of the Paralytic,” wherein we remembered the story of a man who laid helpless near a miracle-working pool with no one to assist him down into it. In the Church we have much more than a miracle-working pool; we have the “words of eternal life” (Jn 6:68) and the “medicine of immortality, the antidote against death” (Ig. Eph. 20.2). It is my conviction,

therefore, that no one who desires to be here and to worship in the Orthodox manner in State College should be kept away by physical, monetary, or informational limitations. To this end, it is my hope to have a completely retooled website up and running by the end of the year, and also to establish a new “ride coordinator” to make sure that people with mobility concerns or limited resources are able to attend every service or function at Holy Trinity that they may want to. A key part of this initiative will need to be clearly and repeatedly advertising who the ride coordinator is and what he or she does. And, when God will supply such a person to us, we will make sure that this ministry is frequently and prominently mentioned.

**4. Campus Ministry** – Our Penn State OCF chapter stands in a peculiar situation at this time. They managed to continue to meet virtually throughout the pandemic, to their great credit (for reference, many other PSU “clubs” folded entirely). However, most of their student leadership has graduated this year, and elections of officers have been delayed (as a part of PSU’s broader pandemic response). In addition, Pdn. Alex stepped down as their chaplain in December, to be replaced by Mat. Seraphima. However, Mat. Seraphima has recently requested a leave of absence from this role beginning in October due to her pregnancy. Therefore, an urgent priority for us is to identify a temporary OCF chaplain, whose term will be between 9 and 12 months. God-willing, such a person will play a critical role in reinvigorating the Penn State OCF and connecting it more closely to the worship and spiritual life of our parish.

In addition to these things, we have a great many other needs as a community. We need to be thinking about the future shape of our parish’s charitable efforts, about our facilities and what they might look like going forward, about our evangelistic witness in the community, and so on. But it important for us to focus on specific things in specific seasons, and I think the above need to be our top priorities at this time. May God give us grace and guidance as we seek to do His will “for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ” (Eph 4:12). ■

— Fr. Ignatius

■ NEWS & NOTES

## Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

This year we are blessed with two high school graduates: Dareyl Stickles from Bellefonte High School and Benjamin Oleynik from State College High. We wish them the best in their future endeavors. May God grant them many years!

## Men’s Fellowship Breakfast Returns

After an extended hiatus, the Men’s Fellowship Breakfast will return on the third Saturday of each month, starting on July 17. Please come join us for a time of fellowship and good food. Invite your friends!

## Parish Hospitality Focus Group

On July 15 at 7 pm, Fr. Ignatius will hold a focus group in the Parish Hall - open to all parishioners - to examine our practices related to the gospel commands the welcome strangers (Matt 25:38) and "practice hospitality" (Rom 12:13). This group will brainstorm ways in which we can more effectively, intentionally, and tangibly demonstrate the love of Christ to those who come through the doors of our church. At a minimum, it is expected that this meeting will form the basis for a revived Greeters Ministry. Please come and join us!

## Parish “Jobs Board”

In reference to Father’s article in on the front page of this newsletter, here’s a list of some needs in the parish community right now. Would you be willing to help?

Need	Could Use
Greeters	Adult Ed Teacher
Head Greeter	Inquirers Class Assistant Teacher
Church School Teachers	Additional Drivers
Ride Coordinator	
Temporary OCF Chaplain	

■ NEWS & NOTES

## For the Record:

On June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10AM, Ian Ashmore, son of Evan and Amber Ashmore, was baptized by Fr. Ignatius Hunter at Holy Trinity Church. His sponsors were Pdn. Alexander and Mka. Jennifer Cadman. Many years to the newly illumined child of God, Ian!

## Choir Appreciation Cookout

As a way of showing our appreciation to the choir (and its director) for all of their hard work through Lent, Pascha, and Pentecost (not to mention helping make the services beautiful each week), there will be a choir appreciation cookout on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at the Hunter home. Thank you, choir!

## Young Adult Trip to St. Nina’s

A group of young adults will be making a one-day pilgrimage to the Sacred Monastery of St. Nina on Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. This vibrant, English-speaking women’s monastery is located about a 3-hour drive away in Maryland. The trip is open to all young adults, 18-years and up. Please contact Matushka Seraphima if you are interested in going.

## Upcoming Liturgies:

### ST. ELIJAH THE PROPHET

LITURGY: Tues., July 20, 8am  
(A. Stickles, Prospora)



# St. Yakov of Alaska

them to read and write both Russian and Unangan Aleut. Initially the Russian-American Company helped support the school, but in 1841 the school was re-organized as a parish school. Many of his students would prove to be distinguished Aleut leaders. While living in the north areas was difficult, Father Yakov was active in the intellectual life as well; in addition to his own subsistence needs, he was active in collecting and preparing fish and marine animal specimens for the museums in Moscow and St. Petersburg. He corresponded with St. Innocent on linguistics and translation matters. He worked on an adequate Unangan-Aleut alphabet and translations of the Holy Scriptures and other church publications. In addition to praises from St. Innocent he began to receive awards for his services. In time he was elevated to Archpriest and received the Order of St. Anna.

Father Yakov's life was not without its personal sufferings. 1836 and 1837 were to bring successively the death of his beloved wife Anna in March 1836, the destruction by fire of his home in July 1836, and the death of his father, Yegor, in 1837. After considering the message of these misfortunes, he petitioned his bishop to return to Irkutsk so that he could enter a monastic life. A year later he request was granted contingent on the arrival of his replacement. But none came. Soon Bishop Innocent arrived and invited Father Yakov to accompany him on a trip to Kamchatka. During the voyage Bishop Innocent seemed to have accomplished three things with Father Yakov: with the healing salve of the Holy Spirit provided words of comfort, dissuaded Father Yakov from entering a monastery, and revealed to the saintly priest the Savior's true plan for his life that was for him to preach Christ to those deep in the Alaskan interior.

On December 30, 1844, St. Innocent appointed him head of the new Kvikhpak Mission to bring the light of Christ to the people along the Yukon River. With two young Creole assistants, Innokentii Shayashnikov and Konstantin Lukin, and his nephew Vasili Netsvetov,



Father Yakov established his headquarters in the Yup'ik Eskimo village of Ikogmiute. From there, now known as Russian Mission, he traveled to the settlements for hundreds of miles along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, visiting the inhabitants of settlements along the way. For the next twenty years he learned new languages, met new people and cultures, invented another alphabet, and built more churches and communities. At the invitation of the native leaders he traveled as far as the Innoko River baptizing hundreds from many, and often formerly hostile, tribes. He continued even as his health deteriorated.

Yet the devil's presence came to stir up spurious and slanderous charges against him in 1863. To clear the air his Bishop Peter called him to Sitka where he was cleared of all the charges. As his health worsened he remained in Sitka serving at the Tlingit chapel until his death on July 26, 1864. He was 60 years old.

During his last missionary travels in the Kuskokwim/Yukon delta region **he is remembered for baptizing 1,320 people** and for distinguishing himself as the evangelizer of the Yup'k Eskimo and Athabascan peoples. ■

## ■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

# St. Yakov (Jacob) Netsvetov: Missionary to the Yup'ik People

Our righteous Father Yakov Netsvetov, Enlightener of Alaska, was a native of the Aleutian Islands who became a priest of the Orthodox Church and continued the missionary work of St. Innocent among his and other Alaskan people. His feast day is celebrated on the day of his repose, July 26.

Father Yakov was born in 1802 on Atka Island, part of the Aleutian Island chain in Alaska. His father, Yegor Vasil'evich Netsvetov, was Russian from Tobolsk, Russia, and his mother, Maria Alekscevna, was an Aleut from Atka Island. Yakov was the eldest of four children who survived infancy. The others were Osip (Joseph), Elena, and Antony. Although not well off, Yegor and Maria did all they could to provide for their children and prepare them to live their lives. Osip and Antony were able to study at the St. Petersburg Naval Academy and then were able to become a naval officer and ship builder, respectively. Elena married a respected clerk with the Russian-American Company. Yakov chose a life with the Church and enrolled in the Irkutsk Theological Seminary.

On October 1, 1825, Yakov was tonsured a subdeacon. He married Anna Simeonovna, a Russian woman perhaps of a Creole background as was he, and then in 1826 he graduated from the seminary with certificates in history and theology. With graduation he was ordained a deacon on October 31, 1826 and assigned to the Holy Trinity-St. Peter Church in Irkutsk. Two years later, Archbishop Michael ordained Yakov to the holy priesthood on March 4, 1828. Archbishop Michael had earlier ordained John Veniaminov (St. Innocent) to the priesthood. With his elevation to the priesthood, Father Yakov began to yearn to return to his native Alaska to preach the Word of God.

Upon departing, Archbishop Michael gave Father Yakov two antimensia, one for use in the new church that Father Yakov planned to build on Atka, and the other for use in Father Yakov's missionary travels. After a molioben, Father Yakov and his party set off for Alaska on May 1, 1828. The travelers included Father Yakov, Anna his wife, and his father Yegor who had been tonsured reader for the new Atka Church. This journey, which was always hard, took over year to complete, which was completed on June 15, 1829.

Father Yakov's new parish was a challenge. The Atka "parish" covered most of the islands and land surrounding the Bering Sea: Amchitka, Attu, Copper, Bering, and Kurile Islands. But, he was to meet the challenge as clothed in his priestly garments, he actively pursued his sacred ministry. To his parishioners, his love for God and them was evident in everything he did as he made his appearances while enduring the harsh weather, illness, hunger, and exhaustion. For him life was Christ.

Being bi-lingual and bi-cultural, Father Yakov was uniquely able to care for the souls of his community.

Since St. Nicholas Church was not yet available, Father Yakov built a large tent in which to hold his services, and after the church was completed he took the tent with him on his missionary travels. By the end of 1829, six months after arriving at Atka Father Yakov had recorded 16 baptisms, 442 chrismations, 53 marriages, and eight funerals.

With the completion of the church on Atka, Father Yakov turned to education of the children, teaching

*(continued, see ST. YAKOV, next page)*

# 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
27 <b>Sunday of All Saints</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am <b>LIVE</b> (Hours, 9:40am)	28 Great Vespers, 6pm	29 Divine Liturgy for Holy Apostles Peter & Paul, 8am	30 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions following	1	2	3
4 <b>Sunday of All Saints of America</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am <b>LIVE</b> (Hours, 9:40am)	5	6	7 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions following	8	9	10 Altar Society meeting, 10am Choir Rehearsal 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm <b>LIVE</b> Confessions, following
11 Divine Liturgy, 10am <b>LIVE</b> (Hours, 9:40am)	12	13	14 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm†	15	16 Parish Hospitality Focus Meeting, 7pm	17 Men's fellowship breakfast, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm <b>LIVE</b> Confessions, following
18 Divine Liturgy, 10am <b>LIVE</b> (Hours, 9:40am) Blessing of Vehicles, 11:45am Choir Appreciation Cookout, 4pm	19 Great Vespers, 6pm Blessing of Vehicles, 7pm	20 Divine Liturgy for Holy Prophet Elijah, 8am	21 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions following	22	23 Young adult trip to St. Nina's Monastery, all day	24 Great Vespers, 6pm <b>LIVE</b> Confessions, following
25 Divine Liturgy, 10am <b>LIVE</b> (Hours, 9:40am)	26	27	28 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions following	29	30	31 Choir Rehearsal 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm <b>LIVE</b> Confessions, following
1 <b>Procession of the Life-giving cross</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am <b>LIVE</b> (Hours, 9:40am)	2	3	4 Confessions, 4pm-6pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions following	5	6 <b>Holy Transfiguration of our Lord</b> , Divine Liturgy, 8am	7 Choir Rehearsal 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm <b>LIVE</b> Confessions, following

# Chapel Calendar

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

Saturday, July 3 Great Vespers; Confessions following, 6pm
Sunday 4 Divine Liturgy 10am; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately thereafter
Tuesday 6 Choir rehearsal, 6pm
Saturday 10 Great Vespers; Confessions following, 6pm
Sunday 11 Divine Liturgy 10am; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately thereafter, catechesis at 1:30pm
Tuesday 6 Choir rehearsal, 6pm
Saturday 17 Great Vespers; Confessions following, 6pm
Sunday 18 Divine Liturgy 10am; Hours 9:40 a.m.; Blessing of Vehicles, Fellowship immediately thereafter; catechesis at 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday 20 Choir rehearsal, 6pm
Saturday 24 Reader's Vespers; Confessions following, 6pm
Sunday 25 Divine Liturgy 10am; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately thereafter, catechesis at 1:30pm
Tuesday 27 Choir rehearsal, 6pm
Saturday 31 Great Vespers with Cross Procession, 6pm

Sunday, August 1  
Divine Liturgy, 10am; Hours 9:40 a.m.; Lesser Sanctification of the Waters; fellowship immediately thereafter; catechesis at 1:30 p.m.

**Fr. David and Mat. Brenda will be on vacation 7/19-7/24. Please call Fr. Ignatius (907-737-2200) in the event of a pastoral emergency.**

## July 2021

† to join remotely, visit [holytrinity-oca.org/zoom](https://holytrinity-oca.org/zoom).

**LIVE** this service will be livestreamed on YouTube (visit [holytrinity-oca.org/YouTube](https://holytrinity-oca.org/YouTube)).