

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Ashmore Family Heads to Seminary



Our Seminarian: An Offering to the Lord

What a joy it is that we have a seminarian! What a joy that we are able to offer one of our very own back to God for formation towards a life in ministry! Truly, like Abraham, who believed God and served him in order to bless a people not yet born, a people he might never see or know in life, it is our blessing to offer up Rdr. Evan Ashmore and his family for a life of service, even if we don't know where that service will be. But like Abraham, what a joy it is to follow God and to bless those for whom God is preparing this man and his family. In sending Evan out into the world, it is good for us to remember the words of the Lord, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). And Evan and his family are a gift and an offering that we are making to the Lord and to His people.

But admission to seminary is only the beginning of Rdr. Evan's journey, and therefore it is only the initial act of our offering. It is incumbent upon us that we use godly means to help build him up and support him at this time, for our part of the offering will only be complete when he has finished his studies. Whatever happens to him from that point on is in God's hands, in his own hands, and in the hands of the Church and of her bishops. But for our part, we must work to offer support over the next three years, and this will bring our own offering to maturity and fruition. And all these things will surely be to our own benefit as well, for the one who gives with a cheerful heart also receives a blessing from the Lord. So let us support our seminarian with joy and good cheer. But how will we support him at this time? First of all, and most importantly, we need to be in prayer for him, both privately and in our communal worship. Seminary is a

(continued, see RECTOR'S DESK, following page)

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS
July 2	Russian Ladies Group A	J. Johnson & Mka. K. Oleynik	H. Torbic & M. Stickle
July 9	A. Stickle & M. Leathers	M. & T. Chambers	K. Cattell & M. Fiori
July 16	L. Georgiou & K. Oleynik	J. Houser & A. Stickle	G. Cattell & B. Haupt
July 23	H. Torbic & A. T. Pelikan	M. Fedkin & K. Bazilevskaya	M. Fiori & H. Torbic
July 30	Russian Ladies Group B	J. Johnson & Mka. K. Oleynik	M. Fedkin & M. Stickle
August 6	Transfiguration - Potluck	J. Houser & A. Stickle	TBD

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Our Seminarian

blessed time, but it is also a time of great temptation, and the devil will seek to meet and deceive him in his studies (as he does to all who wish to know God and the things of God). So we must hold him up in prayer, that he will be able to “put on the full armor of God” through his studies and continual worship at St. Tikhon’s, growing in truth, righteousness, the saving gospel, faith, salvation, the Holy Spirit, and every good and perfect gift that comes from God (Eph 6:13).

Secondly, we need to provide for his material support at this time. Seminary is a very full-time endeavor, as is mothering two small and very lively boys. In order for the Ashmores to succeed and flourish at this time, their family will need our help financially. We will be looking into budgeting monies to support them from the main parish budget in 2024 and beyond, but at present, we are in need of at least \$8000 to support them through the fall of this year, covering their July-

■ CATECHESIS

The Prophet Elijah

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: “When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames.” The name Elijah given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their fathers, they abandoned the

December rent and their residual tuition that is not being covered by other sources. Look for the beginning of an official appeal to aid them later this month, and please consider supporting them generously. Like any family, they have many expenses beyond simply rent and tuition.

And finally, as the time of their move approaches, the Ashmores are also going to need some tangible, physical help as well. As most of us know, moving a household is a labor-intensive matter, and once they have packed and are ready, those of us who have youth and strength should think to offer them a little muscle as they make this transition. They are likely to need help on both ends of the move, so let us offer them tangible proof of our love, not only in word, but also in deed. And let us do all these things to the glory of God and for the love of “a people yet unborn” who will offer praise to the Lord through the fruit that comes from our righteous offering (Ps 102:18). Glory to Thee, O All Holy Trinity, glory to Thee! ■

— Fr. Ignatius

One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious King Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Sirach 48:1). The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together

(continued, see PROPHET ELIJAH, facing page)

■ NEWS & NOTES

Slavonic Language Liturgy

As an expression of love towards our brethren whose first language is of Slavic origin, we are pleased to announce that on July 25th Fr. Raphael Vereshack of Holy Resurrection in Winnipeg, Canada and a guest choir will serve a Slavonic-language liturgy at 6 pm in the evening. With our bishop's blessing, we are offering this service in the evening in order to accommodate work schedules. Those who wish to commune at the liturgy should strictly fast from noon. Fr. Ignatius will be available to hear confessions prior to the liturgy, starting at 4 pm. Please help us spread the word in the community so that those who rarely or never attend church will be aware of this event, and hopefully it will help lead them to a change of life.

Mortgage Payoff Drive

By God's grace, to date we have received pledges of \$80,210 towards our goal of paying off the mortgage by mid-2025. Of this amount, we have already received \$14,787. As we are not permitted to pre-pay on our mortgage until the rate lock expires in 2025, we will be placing all monies received in advance of 2025 in competitive rate certificates of deposit with appropriate length terms, in order to be good stewards of the money already given. The remainder of the mortgage balance that we need to account for is \$224,790. Please consider making your pledge today by speaking with Michael Stickles or Maria Fiori. Alternately, a more accessible way to make a pledge on the website should be rolled out in the next few months.

Gardening Exchange and Workday

As the days get hotter our church garden starts getting wilder, and we're planning a work session to weed and dig out perennials that have spread out of bounds. So we're trying something new! We're planning the work day to incorporate a kind of plant exchange!

Here's how it works: If you're looking to recover space in your garden we will gladly accept living, growing donations ready to plant in the church garden. We can always find holes to plug in different plants!

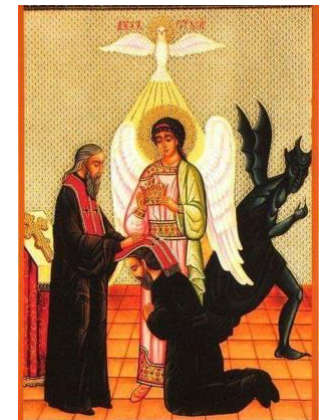
So we hope to see you on Thursday, July 13, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM!

July *Super* Adult Education with St. Vladimir's Seminary

As in June, our parish adult ed for the month of July will be provided through the Online School of Theology program at St. Vladimir's Seminary. This month's lecturer will be former HTOC parishioner and PSU professor Dr. Michael Legaspi, who is now the Old Testament professor at SVS. Lectures will be screened via Zoom at Trinity House at 8 pm on Tuesdays. The title of the series is "Orthodoxy and the Old Testament," and individual sessions are as follows:

- July 11 - An Orthodox Orientation to the Old Testament
- July 18 - Creation and Worship in the Pentateuch
- July 25 - The Significance of History in Old Testament Study
- August 1 - Wisdom from the Psalms and the Other Writings

Popcorn may or may not be provided and, as time allows, we will discuss the lectures among ourselves following. For those who would like to attend but are unable to come in person, this course is open to the public and can be independently registered for at <https://www.online.svots.edu/courses/orthodoxy-and-the-old-testament>



■ NEWS & NOTES

Blessing of Vehicles

Although our cars are not nearly as dramatic as Elijah's chariot, it is an American Orthodox tradition to bless them on the Feast of St. Elijah. Bring your vehicles (cars, trucks, scooters, motorcycles, etc.) immediately following vespers for St. Elijah on Wednesday, July 19th to have them blessed!

Family Gathering at Black Moshannon State Forest

On Sunday, July 9th at 3pm, let's plan to get together as a church family for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Black Moshannon State Forest! There are plenty of things to do for all ages (swimming, hiking, canoeing, etc.) but if you just want to sit in the sand and sun and catch up with friends that is fine also. This is planned as a family activity for parents/kids/friends (parents will be responsible for their children) with no specific planned activities (other than perhaps a short hike) so everyone can choose what they would like to do or not. Simply, this is just an afternoon for a gathering together as church family.

Service Night at CommonFood

Please join us on Friday, July 14th at 6:30PM at the Unity Church of Jesus Christ (2280 Commercial Blvd.) to pack food with CommonFood for those in need in our Centre County area. We need about a dozen people, ages 8 and up, to come help put items into boxes. Please speak to or email Leoni Georgiou (leomcfar@comcast.net) for more information or to volunteer.

Website Administrator

Glory be to God! As of July 1, 2023, Fr. Ignatius and the parish council have elected to hire Amber Ashmore as our website and social media administrator. This marks the first time the parish webpage will be under active administration since January 2021, and updates are sorely needed! To make suggestions to Amber for the improvement of the website, please feel free to contact her at ambers2191@gmail.com.

Choir Appreciation Dinner

From time to time, it is important to say "thank you" to those who serve diligently and minister among us. So, "thank you," to our parish choir and our director, Karen, for all of their efforts in beautifying the divine services. A cookout will be held in their honor at Whipple Dam State Park (3746 Laurel Run Rd, Petersburg) on Sunday, July 16, at 4 pm.

1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Matthew 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her baptism, Saint Olga (July 11) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elijah in her native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather. ■

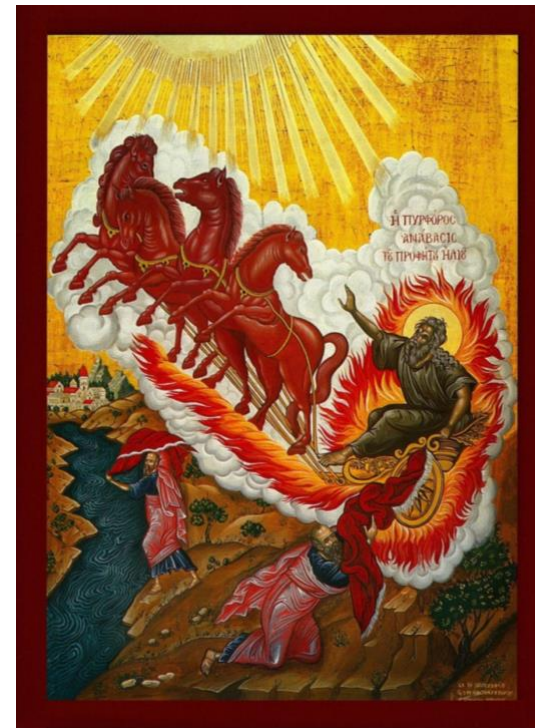
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■ CATECHESIS

Prophet Elijah (con't)

with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed



that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

(continued, see PROPHET ELIJAH, following)

■ CATECHESIS

Prophet Elijah (con't)

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.



















According to the tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach 48:

Holy Trinity Calendar LIVE Please note that at this time, all services at Holy Trinity are being live-streamed. To watch them online, please visit holytrinity-oca.org/YouTube

Chapel Calendar

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 25 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	 26	 27 Lecture series: "Preparing to Read the Fathers," 8pm	 28 Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	29 Sts. Peter & Paul Divine Liturgy, 8am Vespers, 6pm	 30 Divine Liturgy, 9:30am @ Holy Apostles, 7111 Wertzville Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17015	July 1 Great Vespers, 6pm Akathist to St. John of San Francisco, 6:45pm Confessions, following
2 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	3	4	 5 Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	6	 7	8 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
9 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Family Fun Day, Black Moshannon Forest, 3pm	10	11 Lecture series: "Orthodoxy and the Old Testament" 8pm	 12 Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	13	 14 CommonFood Service Night, 2280 Commercial Blvd State College, 6:30pm	15 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
16 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Choir appreciation dinner, Whipple Dam State Park, 4pm	17	18 Lecture series: "Orthodoxy and the Old Testament" 8pm	 19 Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Blessing of the Vehicles, 6:45pm	20 Prophet Elijah Divine Liturgy, 8am	 21	22 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
23 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	24	25 Confessions, 4pm Slavonic Language Liturgy, 6pm Lecture series: "Orthodoxy and the Old Testament" 8pm	 26 Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	27	 28	29 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
30 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	31 Parish Council 2024 Budget Session, 6pm	 August 1 Lecture series: "Orthodoxy and the Old Testament" 8pm	 2 Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	 3	 4	 5 Vigil of Transfiguration, 6pm

- 7/1/23 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions following
- 7/2/23 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately following; catechesis @ 1:30 p.m.
- 7/8/23 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions following
- 7/9/23 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately following; catechesis @ 1:30 p.m.
- 7/11/23 6:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 7/15/23 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions following
- 7/16/23 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; Blessing of Vehicles; fellowship immediately following; catechesis @ 1:30 p.m.
- 7/18/23 6:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 7/22/23 6:00 p.m. Diaconal Great Vespers
- 7/23/23 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately following; catechesis @ 1:30 p.m.
- 7/24/23 6:30 p.m. "Hats and Blankets for Babies" Knitting/Crocheting
- 7/25/23 6:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
- 7/29/23 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions following
- 7/30/23 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy; Hours 9:40 a.m.; fellowship immediately following
- 7/30/23 5:30 p.m. Outing at New Lancaster Valley (picnic @ Shatto cabin; bring a covered/side dish and chairs; main dish/beverages will be provided)
DORMITION FAST (8/1-14)
- 8/1/23 6:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

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.

July 2023