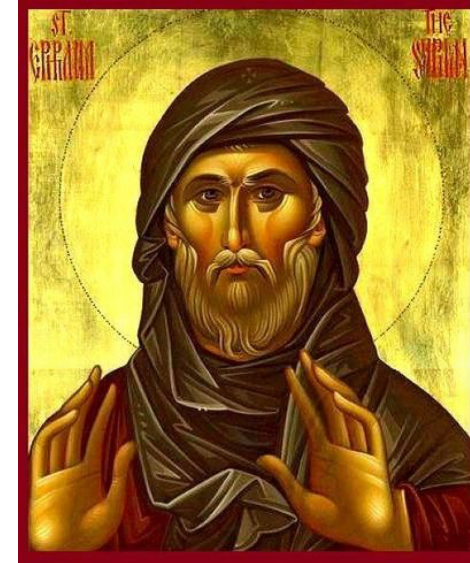


The Season of Repentance



*"O Lord and Master of my life,
take from me the spirit of
sloth, faintheartedness,
lust of power and idle talk,
But give rather the spirit of
chastity, humility, patience
and love to Thy servant.
Yea, O Lord and King,
grant me to see my own errors
and not to judge my brother,
for Thou art blessed from all
ages to all ages.
Amen.
-Mar Ephrem the Syrian*

Works of Mercy and Salvation in Christ

Every year, as Lent approaches, the Church reads the frightening words of Christ from the gospel of St. Matthew in which he describes the dread judgement and the separation of “the sheep” from “the goats.” To those who are saved, which Christ describes as “the sheep,” he says, “come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” But to the reprobate “goats,” Christ says, “depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Mt 25:34, 41).

The basis of the separation, Christ says, is a certain set of works. At the end of the age, “we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor 5:10). Christ

teaches works as the basis for the judgement in John 5, saying that “the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves... shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (vv. 28-29).

So we can by no means ignore works. Some in our culture are wont to say that faith alone is what saves us with no respect to works. But such an idea twists the Scriptures and ignores the direct teaching of Christ on the matter. Salvation comes by the grace and mercy of God. We do not save ourselves, as God says through the prophet: “I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior” (Is 43:11). No man can by his own might purge away his own sins, nor liberate himself from the devil, nor bring his body back up

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

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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS
March 2	Cheesefare – Pancakes/Potluck	K. Bazilevskaya & M. Fedkin	H. Torbic & M. Stickle
March 9	C. Swisher, T. Chambers, & C. Pellock	J. Houser & Mka. K. Oleynik	K. Cattell & M. Fiori
March 16	Souper Sunday	R. Patel & C. Pellock	G. Cattell & B. Haupt
March 23	J. Cassar, N. Shaub, M. Stevens	M. & T. Chambers	M. Fedkin & H. Torbic
March 30	Russian Ladies Group A (Katya F.)	K. Bazilevskaya & M. Fedkin	M. Fiori & K. Cattell

■ RECTOR'S DESK

Works of Mercy

from the abyss of death, nor unite himself by force to the divine life of God.

Ultimately, salvation is the work of God. Speaking basically, even the name Jesus means "the Lord saves." But salvation is taken hold of and received and appropriated by faith. Yet there is no such thing as a faith that stands apart from works. Living faith works. Real, living faith believes God and keeps His commandments. The Lord says very directly in the gospel, "if you love me, you will keep my commandments" (Jn 14:15). And the heart of all of God's commandments is the command to love God above all, and after that to "love your neighbor as yourself." The Lord himself says that "on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets," meaning that these two commandments are the center and epitome of all of the commandments of God (Mt 22:40). So any command that God gives, whether it be baptism or worship or fasting or mercy or clean speech or abstinence – any and every command resolves back into these two.

But these commandments are actually not divisible from one another, and this is the message that Jesus is driving home with his terrifying oration about the separation of the sheep and the goats. St. John the Theologian summarizes the matter in this way: "this commandment we have from him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also" since "the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 Jn 4:20-21).

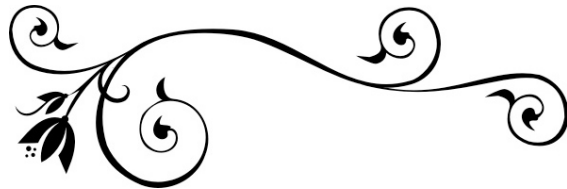
For this reason, Jesus can say, "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me" (Mt 25:35-36). And when the righteous ask when they have done these things to the Lord, he responds, "inasmuch as you did it unto the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me" (v. 40). If we want to love God, we must also love the human being, his icon.

It is not enough, as we enter this season of Great Lent, for us to only pay attention to private piety or religious observance. Coming to church, fasting, prostrations, abstinence, silence, devotional reading, prayer, and confession all have an important part to play; they are all elements of a living faith that seeks to love God and be saved by him. But this "vertical element" is necessarily

incomplete without the "horizontal element." In this season of Great Lent, we must seek to be those who truly love our neighbors in word and in deed: forgiving trespasses from the heart, tearing up debts, and working mercy upon the earth inasmuch as it is in our power.

Every spring our Matthew 25 ministry, named for this dread passage about the sheep and the goats, encourages us to give financially to some concrete cause that ministers to the hungry, the poor, the socially isolated, the ill and infirm, or the imprisoned. Many will no doubt be surprised, then, that this year we are raising money for the OCF campus ministry. We might be tempted to make jokes about the "poverty" and "hunger" of college students (though we should not joke about these things; we have had students in our OCF before who have been so financially destitute as to be homeless during their college journey, even living out of their cars). But the principal match of college ministry with Matthew 25 is that of taking in the stranger. Every year, tens of thousands of "strangers" descend on our town and arrive here vulnerable and socially isolated. For many formerly Orthodox students, college is a place where they disconnect from the life of the Church, never to return. And for countless students beyond these, college is a place where their vulnerability leads to exploitation, despair, self-hatred, and addiction.

But, as we have seen in the life of so many, college can also be a place of repentance, a place of spiritual growth, a place of connecting with Christ and beginning a new life in the Church. We are raising money for OCF this spring in the hopes that they will be able to provide Penn State with a full-time campus minister beginning in 2026. Such a person, wholly dedicated to ending the stranger-ness of college students, can and will bring about a transformation of our ministry of presence and mercy, just off the Penn State campus. Please consider giving generously to this cause, and may God bless us in this most holy and soul-cleansing season!



■ NEWS & NOTES

St. Tikhon 100th Anniversary Presanctified

All of the faithful are cordially invited to a special presanctified liturgy on Monday, April 7th at 6pm at St. John's Orthodox Church in Black Lick (785 Blair Rd, Blairsville, PA 15717). This liturgy commemorates the 100 year anniversary of the falling asleep of the Patriarch and Confessor Tikhon of Moscow, who labored as a bishop in America from 1898 to 1907 and who suffered greatly in Russia as the first patriarch under the Communist persecution. Let us give thanks to God for his witness and remember his valiant struggles with joy and reverence! A light meal will follow the service.



OCF Campus Missionary Town Hall

We are moving closer and closer to making a full-time Orthodox Christian Fellowship campus minister at Penn State a reality in academic year 2026-2027! To this end, we are not only beginning to collect money through our Matthew 25 lenten appeal, but also we will be joined from March 20-24 by Christina Andresen, OCF's national Director of Ministries. While she is here, Christina is going to meet extensively with our current OCF students, tour the campus, and speak with us about the opportunities that lie ahead. She is also, most critically, going to be looking to set up a steering committee to try to guide the project in terms of scope, personnel, and the establishment of a lasting network of financial and prayer support. Please come and dialogue with Christina on Sunday, March 23rd at a special town-hall meeting after coffee hour, and if you think you might be interested in serving on the steering committee or becoming a regular financial donor to support this ministry, please contact Christina directly at christina@ocf.net.

Diaconal Ordination – Evan Ashmore!

By the grace of the All-Holy Spirit, we will have the blessing of hosting the ordination liturgy of our seminarian, Evan Ashmore, as he is elevated to the holy diaconate by the hand of His Eminence, Melchisedek. Plans are not yet finalized for the ordination date. However, as soon as we know we will inform you. Axios! He is worthy!

Workday & Cleanup for Pascha

Please come join us at 9am on Saturday, April 5th for an indoor/outdoor work day to clean up for Pascha. For those who prefer to be outside, there is weeding, planting, and raking to be done. For those who would rather help out indoors, there's sweeping, polishing, and de-waxing. Please consider helping with this effort as an offering to God as we prepare to celebrate the joyous "Feast of Feasts," our Lord's Holy Pascha.

Purchase a Pascha Lily







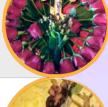

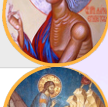



If you are interested in purchasing a Pascha lily to help beautify the church on its most radiant of feasts, please use the online form at holymystic-oca.org or the sign-up sheet which will soon be available in the narthex. Donations can be made "in honor of" or "in memory of" cherished loved ones, and the names of those remembered with be printed in the Paschal bulletin.

The Mystery of Holy Unction

This year we will be offering the Mystery of Holy Unction to all the faithful on Friday, April 4th at 6 pm. As a sacrament, Unction is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through fasting, recent confession, and recent participation in the Mystery of Holy Communion. Most properly served for those who are sick in body, the service of Unction reminds us over and over that ultimately we will pass from this life and that the healing of soul is paramount. So truly, whenever we partake of Unction, we are receiving anointing for the healing both of body and soul!

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / READINGS	HOW TO PARTICIPATE
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 9th	 <i>TRIDION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, rather than yourself, and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 16th	 The Prodigal Son Returns Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up or freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 23rd FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. We await Christ's return from the East! Use up or freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 2nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask one another for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 9th	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS W/ FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for the procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 16th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Use a prayer rope and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 23rd	 VENERATION of the HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 30th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 6th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts this week.
PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13th	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY of our LORD into JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 18th	 GREAT and HOLY FRIDAY CHECK FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, internet and phones to honor Christ's death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 20th NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" and say it before "Good morning" and "Goodnight"!

■ SERVICES

Lenten "Mission Vespers"

This year our deanery is reviving the old practice of doing rotating "mission vespers" on Sunday nights at various parishes throughout our region. Mission vespers, concelebrated by clergy from various areas, feature special lenten homilies and are followed by a communal meal. They offer a low-key opportunity to bring friends to interesting and far-flung venues and introduce them to Holy Orthodoxy, hence the name "mission vespers." Our deanery's schedule for 2025 is:

3 PM - March 9 - Sunday of Orthodoxy
Christ the Savior Cathedral
300 Garfield St, Johnstown

March 16 - TBD

5 PM - March 23 - Sunday of the Cross
St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral
8290 Thompson Run Rd, Pittsburgh

5 PM - March 30 - St. John Climacus
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
301 S State St, DuBois

5 PM - April 6 - St. Mary of Egypt
St. Mary Orthodox Church
151 Alexander Rd, Madera

■ NEWS AND NOTES

Matthew 25 Lenten Collection

This year our Lenten Collection will go towards campus ministry, with 50% of donations being used to fund the present operations of our OCF chapter and 50% being contributed toward the establishment of a permanent campus missionary at PSU. To contribute, please write "Matthew 25" on the memo line of paper checks or select "Matthew 25 Donations" on the giving tab at holytrinity-oca.org. Thank you, and may God bless your generosity!

Adult Education: "The OT Roots of Chrismation"

On Saturday night, March 29th, we will have a special presentation by Rdr. Alex Koropsak on the subject of the Mystery of Holy Chrismation and its antecedents in the Old Testament. This presentation will take place in the church hall at 7 pm, following vespers.

Lenten Psalter Group

Ladies, you are invited to join a Psalter Group for Lent! By joining, you will be assigned different Psalms to read and pray every day for 40 days as a personal and community devotional. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, you may contact Dee Patel at (717) 343-5776 or deannapatel@gmail.com










































Woe is me, O wretched soul, for thou art become like the first Eve! For thou hast looked in wickedness and wast bitterly wounded; for thou hast touched the tree and rashly tasted the forbidden fruit.
- Canon of St. Andrew, Ode 1

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.

All services at Holy Trinity are currently being live-streamed. To watch them online, please visit holytrinity-oca.org/YouTube



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23  Sunday of the Last Judgment/ Meatfare Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	24 	25  Vespers of Cheesefare, 6pm Catechesis, 6:45pm	26  Confessions, 4pm Vespers of Cheesefare, 6pm Confessions, following	27  Vespers of Cheesefare, 6pm	28  Vespers of Cheesefare, 6pm	March 1  Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
2  Forgiveness Sunday/ Cheesefare Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Forgiveness Vespers, 6pm	3  Great Canon of St. Andrew, 6pm	4  Great Canon of St. Andrew, 6pm Catechesis, 7:30pm	5  Confessions, 4pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	6  40-day memorial for Lewis Allen, 5:30pm Great Canon of St. Andrew, 6pm	7  Confessions, 5pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm	8  Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
9  Sunday of Orthodoxy Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) Children's Icon Procession, 11:45am	10  	11  Catechesis, 6:30pm	12  Confessions, 4pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	13  Parish Council, 6pm	14  Confessions, 5pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm	15  Choir Rehearsal, 4pm S.S. "Souper Sunday" Prep, 4:30pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
16  St. Gregory Palamas Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) "Souper Sunday" Charity Luncheon, 12 noon	17  	18  Catechesis, 6:30pm	19  Confessions, 4pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	20  	21  Confessions, 5pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm	22  Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 5pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
23  Veneration of the Holy Cross Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am) OCF Missionary Town Hall, 12:30pm	24  Vigil of Annunciation, 6pm	25  Vespers of Divine Liturgy, 6pm Catechesis, 7:30pm	26  Confessions, 4pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	27  	28  Confessions, 5pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm	29  Great Vespers, 6pm Adult Ed: "The OT Roots of Chrismation," 7pm
30  St. John of the Ladder Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am (Hours, 9:40am)	31  	April 1  Catechesis, 6:30pm	April 2  Confessions, 4pm Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm Lenten Potluck, 7:30pm	April 3  Presanctified Liturgy, 8am Great Canon of St. Andrew, 6pm	April 4  Confessions, 5pm Office of Holy Unction, 6pm Akathist to the Theotokos, 7:30pm	April 5  Parish Work Day, 9am Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following