

## The OCF Campus Missionary Program



## Help Us Expand Campus Ministry at PSU

Christ is risen! What a joy it is to enter the season of Pascha with so many exciting things happening around Holy Trinity and State College more generally! Like many Orthodox Churches throughout the country, we have seen a significant rise in Sunday and weekday attendance, and our tiny little church hosted around 230 people for Pascha this year. This spring we have received nine into the holy Church, and have reloaded our roster of catechumens by enrolling six catechumens on Palm Sunday, with more possibly to be enrolled in the next few months. The ordination of our parish seminarian is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of this month, and Sbdn. Michael Stickle continues to make progress in the Diaconal Vocations Program, leading us to be able for the first time to project a likely timeline for his ordination: we are now

hopeful that, in God's grace, he might be ordained in the fall or winter of this year.

In addition, we have made excellent progress on our mortgage elimination campaign, which has officially raised over half of the total we need to retire the Trinity House mortgage when our rate lock expires in August. And our mortgage matching campaign seems headed to a fully successful conclusion, as we have raised over \$36,000 of the \$40,000 that was offered for the match. (Assuming the match is fully completed by Pentecost, we will have raised over \$190,000 of the \$305,000 we need. Glory to God!)

We have also, by God's grace, come to the end of the zoning process for Trinity House and have received approval for the renovation of the Trinity House porch and walkway, which will allow us to reopen our bookstore as a

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

**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
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## Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS
May 4	Russian Ladies Group B (Elena G.)	R. Patel & Mka. K. Oleynik	K. Cattell, H. Torbic
May 11	<b>Mother's Day – Men Host Coffee Hour</b>	C. Pellock & M. Leathers	G. Cattell & M. Fedkin
May 18	C. Swisher, T. Chambers, C. Pellock	A. Stickle & Mka. K. Oleynik	M. Fiori & M. Stickle
May 25	J. Cassar, N. Shaub, M. Stevens	M. & T. Chambers	H. Torbic & B. Haupt
June 1	Russian Ladies Group A (Katya F.)	K. Bazilevskaya & M. Fedkin	K. Cattell & M. Fedkin

## ■ RECTOR'S DESK

# Campus Ministry

public-facing ministry of the parish. So there is a lot going on in so many ways!

But the one thing I would especially like to highlight at this time, out of all of the things going on in State College, is the OCF Campus Missionary initiative, which is a project of OCF National, but which will be done in deep collaboration with Holy Trinity. OCF aims to bring a full-time campus minister to Penn State in the fall semester of 2026, something which, if it follows the trend of other schools OCF has done this with, will be deeply transformative to the ministry of the OCF, allowing for daily worship on campus every day of the school year, weekly bible studies taught by a seminary-trained instructor, deep interpersonal discipleship, and a \$25,000 annual budget for pilgrimages, trips, activities and events.

But this is something we need a lot of help with. An OCF Campus Missionary is a ministry of an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North America, and this project is of a significance far beyond the life of one local parish. And it is also something that is far too large for us to think about trying to fund by ourselves; the budget for this program will be set at around \$120,000 per year.

Given the massive potential impact of this program, I would greatly encourage all who receive this newsletter to pray that we would be successful in starting it up, and also to consider committing to becoming a regular donor to the Penn State campus ministry, and (if appropriate) to consider asking your parishes or even dioceses to consider supporting it with a line-item in their annual budgets. Penn State is a huge university with a global reach, and we need powerful, effective, and dynamic ministry going on here, even greatly in excess of what has happened here in the past. If we feed Penn State, Penn State will feed the Church. That is something I am convinced of to the very core of my being.

In my short five years here, we have seen Orthodox students at Penn State main campus from all over the state of Pennsylvania and from far beyond. They come from virtually every canonical jurisdiction and background: Greeks, Carpatho-Russians, Serbs, from ROCOR, from the

OCA, from the Antiochian Archdiocese. We have seen many converts, and many reverts! We have seen a number of people whose families fell away from the Orthodox Church when they were children making a personal choice to come back to it in college. We have seen lives changed, and with your help, we will see many times more of the same.

If you would like to get involved in OCF's effort to bring full-time campus ministry to PSU, consider making a one-time or recurring donation through the QR code at the top of this article (right hand side) or becoming a member of our project committee by using the other QR code (on the top left). If you are interested in other ways to help or other ways to become a donor, please contact Christina Andresen at christina@ocf.net. I cannot stress enough how important of a project this is. Both of our current archdiocesan seminarians are PSU grads, there are at least seven other active clergy who came through PSU, and multiple monastics as well. Help us feed PSU, and PSU will feed the Church, to the glory of God.

Blessings to all in this joyous season of the resurrection! Christ is risen!

*-Fr. Ignatius*



## ■ NEWS & NOTES

### Spring 2025 Graduates

Congratulations to all our Spring 2025 graduates!

- Nicholas Quinting (B.S. Mechanical Engineering)
- Aragorn Clarke (B.S. Civil Engineering)
- Lauren Sill (B.S. Human Development and Family Studies)
- Ben Oleynik (B.S. Human-Centered Design and Development)
- Sophia Parkhill (Ph.D. Structural Engineering)

### God Grant You Many Years!

May God grant many years to the newly illumined: Eli (Paisios) Gindhart and sponsors Mike and Taylor Chambers; Andrey (Seraphim) Lizunov and sponsors Sbdn Michael & Anna Stickles; Jennifer (Xenia) Amato and sponsors Scott & Sophia Parkhill; and Mildred Mary Parkhill and sponsor Leoni Georgiou.

## ■ ORTHODOX FAITH

# Resurrection (con't)

For us this seems simple, because for us that eternal, hopeless hell of the absence of God no longer exists. But for the man of the Old Testament this was a puzzling statement: how can God be where God is not? How can he be in the place of separation from God? But David foresaw — and prophetically foretold — the coming of the Lord and the end of that final separation. Today death has become for us something else. Now it is a falling asleep. In the body we fall asleep to the anxieties of the earth, and peace descends upon our flesh. Our body now lies there like an icon of Christ lying in the grave on that mysterious, blessed Saturday when the Lord ceased from his works, from the work of saving mankind, from the labour of suffering, from the Cross, from crucifixion. Everyone who dies now, falls asleep in

### Matthew 25 Lenten Appeal

Thank you for your great generosity this Lenten season! Through our Matthew 25 Lenten Appeal, we were able to raise a total of \$5,320, which will be split evenly between our local PSU OCF group and the fundraising for our future campus missionary. May God bless you for your generosity.

### Summer Camp Fundraiser

Our Sunday School students, who are trying to raise money to attend local Orthodox summer camps, are partnering with The Field Burger and Tap (One Country Club Lane, State College) for their monthly "The Field Gives Back." Mark your calendars, because on Monday, June 2 from 11am-9pm, 10% of all proceeds from The Field will be donated back to our kids! Enjoy dinner while supporting our Sunday School kids. It's a win-win!

■ ORTHODOX FAITH

# On the Resurrection

*A Paschal homily of Metropolitan Anthony Bloom of Sourouzh (1914-2003).*

Every Sunday throughout the year, century after century, the Orthodox Church proclaims the Resurrection of Christ. Each Sunday we relive once again our joy that Christ is risen. And that joy is so deep, so profound, that it bears witness of itself: we rejoice not only because the Lord is risen, but because his Resurrection is for us the beginning of new, renewed life. In the Sermon of John Chrysostom which is read on the night of Christ's Resurrection each year, it is said that, "Christ is risen, and there is none dead in the tomb..." And we ourselves continue to pass on this message from one century to the next. Yet is it true? Do we not see that death continues to reap its harvest around us? Are there not graves beside Christian churches as well? How can we say that 'there is none dead in the tomb', that Christ has conquered death by death?

We can say this because death has two completely different meanings, and the tombs are indeed empty. Until the coming of Christ, every human being, when he died — whether he was righteous or not — was deprived of the joy of meeting God. According to the Old Testament story of the primal sin of our ancestors, Adam and Eve, the whole human race was deprived of the radiance, the joy, the glory of God. Everyone who died thereafter entered into an abyss of horror, of separation from God and, as a result, of separation from those closest to him.

And his death was twofold: not just an earthly death when the soul, separated from the body, flies upward towards God and worships at the throne of the Lord, who consoles it for its earthly sorrows. There was another death as well, a second separation. While someone lived on this earth, he could, in one way or another, with just the tip of his soul, touch at least the border of the Lord's garment. But after death, any separation became final, definitive, dreadful. And age

after age people waited for the Savior, for the one who would unite heaven and earth, God and creation. But until the Lord came, our Savior Jesus Christ, that separation remained dark and terrible.

And then the Lord came and died on the Cross the death of every man, having first shared in the dreadful loneliness and torment that precedes death. Remember the garden of Gethsemane: 'O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me...' He shared in the horror of that separation when he cried out to God from the Cross: "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

And he descended into hell... into hell! And hell opened wide with joy in the hope that now the enemy whom it had found invincible on earth had been



*Metropolitan Anthony Bloom*

overcome and taken prisoner. Hell opened up, as John Chrysostom says, to take in flesh — and opened itself to God. Hell opened to imprison the incarnate Son of God become man — and before him stood, into him entered the Living God who fills all things, entering hell and destroying it for ever. Hell was no longer that former terrible hell of separation, because in it was the living God.

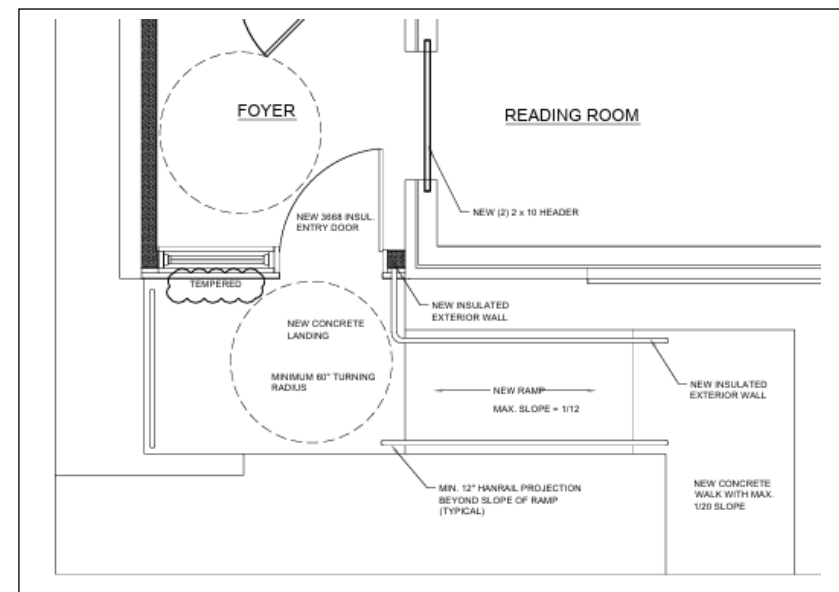
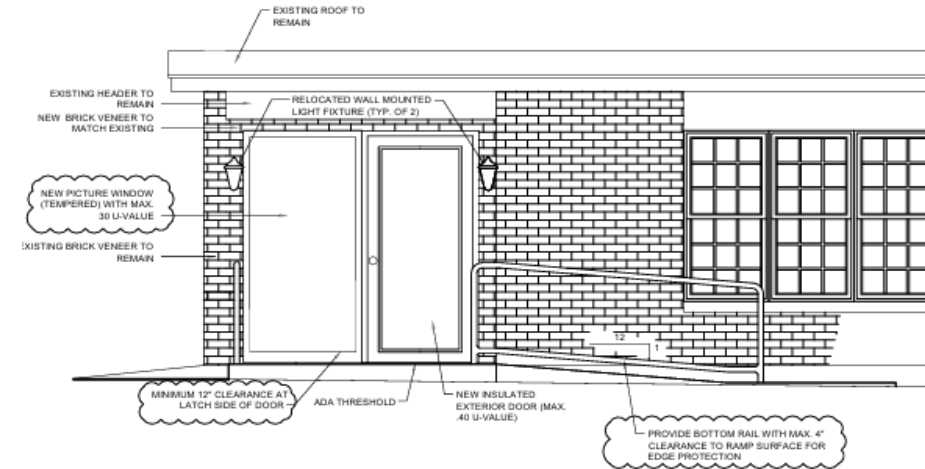
The Prophet David in his mysterious vision said "Whither shall I go then from thy presence? If I go up into heaven, thou art there: If I go down to hell, thou art there also."

*(continued, see ORTHODOX FAITH, following page)*

■ PARISH LIFE

# Trinity House Renovation to Begin













All hands on deck! By God's grace we have finally come to the end of the zoning process, and are now permitted to begin re-facing the front of Trinity House and finally removing the blighted look of that horrible grey tarp that has been with us since September of last year! We would love to see the foyer project completed as quickly as possible, of course, and if you would like to lend a hand with the renovation and have some availability in May or June, please contact David Swisher (570-452-2168) or Michael Roeske (571-435-6008).



# 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](http://holytrinity-oca.org/YouTube)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	27 <b>Thomas Sunday</b> Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Easter Egg Hunt at Holmes-Foster Park, 12:45pm	28	29	30   Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	May 1	2   Great Vespers, 6pm	3 Divine Liturgy for the Ordination of Evan Ashmore, 9:30am Luncheon, following  Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
	4 <b>Myrrhbearing Women</b> Sunday School, 9am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	5	6 	7  Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	8 	9	10  Great Vespers, 6pm Adult Ed: "The OT Roots of Chrismation," 7pm
	11 <b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b> Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	12	13 	14  Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	15 	16	17  Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following
	18 <b>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b> Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	19	20 	21  Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	22 	23	24  Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions following
	25 <b>Sunday of the Blind Man</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	26	27 	28  Confessions, 4pm Vigil of Ascension, 6pm	29 <b>Holy Ascension</b> Divine Liturgy, 8am 	30	31  Great Vespers, 6pm
	June 1 <b>Fathers of the First Council</b> Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	2	3 	4  Confessions, 4pm Vespers, 6pm Confessions, following	5 	6  Vespers, 6pm	7 Memorial Divine Liturgy, 9am  Vigil of Pentecost, 6pm

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