



Record-Eagle photo/Jan-Michael Stump

Leon Lysaght, left, makes the sign of the cross as Fr. Iakovos Olechnowicz of the Traverse City Orthodox Mission Church performs a blessing of the grapes and hops ceremony at the Old Mission Hop Exchange on Old Mission Peninsula on Thursday afternoon. The ceremony, "as old as dirt itself," said Fr. Iakovos, is traditionally performed around the Feast of the Transfiguration, which celebrates the transfiguration of Christ before the apostles and is typically when Orthodox areas such as Greece, Russia and the Balkans are bringing in their first harvests of the season.