

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY**

### **Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians 6:11-18**

BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

### **Gospel Lesson: St. John 3:13-17**

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

**Save This Date—20 September.** Mrs. Eleni Zeferes of Ohio will be joining us along with several other representatives of the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos organization for an informational brunch. Tentatively scheduled for 10:30 AM at a venue to be determined in Traverse City, the morning will be an opportunity for the delegation to present information and open a dialogue with our faithful about possibly organizing a chapter of the national ladies' organization in our region. All of our ladies are invited to attend and are asked to reserve this date so that we can have a good level of attendance. Additional information will be provided via telephone calls, posting on our web site, e-Mail and in the parish bulletin. Watch this space for more information over the next two weeks.

**Madeline Cruise.** We will be sailing aboard the schooner Madeline next Sunday following the services. The first twenty persons that signed up and have returned liability release waivers will be eligible to participate in this free event. It is provided as a public service by the Maritime Heritage Alliance. Passengers are asked to report to the dock on the West Bay no later than 12:30 PM as the ship will depart at 1 PM sharp. Those that have been wait-listed are welcome to come to the pier and see if there are any no shows, in which case they will be permitted to go aboard and enjoy the tour. The ship is limited to twenty passengers by regulations enforced by the US Coast Guard; we are not permitted to "overload" the ship. For those that could not get in on this sail, there will be other opportunities for this type of event next year. Thanks to the MHA for providing this enriching community service experience.



### **TRAVERSE CITY ORTHODOX MISSION**

*A Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit*

*Meeting at 1030 Hastings St., Traverse City, Michigan*

[www.tcorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.tcorthodoxchurch.org)

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Pastor: Presbyter Iakovos (Olechnowicz)

Pastor's e-Mail: [iakovos@charter.net](mailto:iakovos@charter.net)

Mailing Address: PO Box 2356

Church Phone: (231) 668-6583

Traverse City, MI 49685

Pastor's Cell Phone: (231) 590-2038

## **† PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS †**

- Sunday 7 September 12th Sunday of St. Matthew. Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross.**  
9 AM Orthros  
10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour  
12 Noon Annual General Meeting of the Parish  
4:30 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
- Monday 8 September Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos.**  
9 AM Orthros  
10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos  
5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 PM Scripture Study Group Class Nr. 1
- Tuesday 9 September Synaxis of the Holy Ancestors, SS. Joachim and Anna.**  
11 AM Clergy Syndesmos Meeting—Troy, MI
- Wednesday 10 September Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora.**  
Fast Day  
5:30 PM Parish Council Monthly Meeting
- Thursday 11 September St. Theodora the Martyr.**
- Friday 12 September Apodosis of the Nativity of the Theotokos.**  
Fast Day

**Saturday 13 September Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross.**

4:30 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers

5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday 14 September Elevation of the Holy Cross.**

9 AM Orthros

10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

12:30 PM West Bay Cruise on the Madeline

**Annual General Meeting Today.** We remind our stewards and friends that the AGM of the parish will take place today immediately following an abbreviated fellowship hour. According to the by-laws of the parish anyone that is a pledged steward for 2008 as of 1 June 2008 will be eligible to vote at this meeting.

Agendas for the meeting as well as reports and other meeting documents were mailed to members on 22 August in preparation for this assembly. Some additional packets are available for those that forgot to bring theirs to church this morning. Our meeting will include: a presentation of the proposed budget for 2009, A report of the Audit Committee on financial statements for 2007, a report on the Taste of Greece project and a report from Fr. Iakovos.

Additionally we will elect three members to the Board of Electors to conduct our elections and three members to our Board of Auditors to conduct the audit of our 2008 financial statements. Following that, our chairman will accept nominations to the three vacant board seats for the 2009 fiscal year beginning 1 January. Persons ending their term on the board are: Harriet Rennie, president; Karen Kain, vice-president; Judy Weston, secretary; and Mike Dennon, treasurer.

In compliance with our by-laws, the election of the new council members will take place on Sunday, 28 September, allowing three weeks between the nominations and election. In that time, biographies of the nominees will be circulated to help familiarize members prior to the voting with those standing for office.

In a spirit of cooperation and good will we ask that our members assist in the smooth and peaceful conduct of business during this meeting so that we may conclude our work in a manner that is pleasing to God.

The fellowship hour has been organized this morning with a mind to providing some more substantial food to carry us through the meeting. Thanks are extended to Mrs. Martha Ealy for helping in the organization of the food for this event and those working with her in supplying the food.

**Adult Religious Education Program Begins Tomorrow Evening.** Once again our parish will be offering a number of educational programs for the benefit of our faithful as well as the general public in our service area. Our first offering begins tomorrow evening and will meet for fifteen weeks starting at 6:30 PM and wrapping up around 8 PM. **(Scripture 207) The Gospel of St. John**, will provide a survey examination of the fourth Gospel through the lens of the homilies and commentaries written about it by some of the Holy Fathers of the Church. Particularly, we will be working with the homiletics of St. John Chrysostom and the commentary provided by Blessed Theophylact of Bulgaria to illuminate the text for us. Additionally, we will be utilizing composition-critical analysis of the Gospel as provided in the book, The Genius of John by Peter F. Ellis of Fordham University. The Homilies of St. John Chrysostom are available free of charge on the internet. The Commentary of Blessed Theophylact will be available for sale at our class and students may

use their own Holy Bible as a reference. The book, The Genius of John, while out of print, will be referred to and important parts of the book will be made available to students in support of the lessons as required.

This programme is suitable for anyone, and it is not necessary to be an Orthodox Christian to attend. Our course work will not require any previous knowledge of the Holy Scriptures or the Orthodox teaching with respect to the Scripture.

Our second offering this season will be a discussion group based upon the reading of the book, The Way of the Pilgrim. The books will be available free of charge to students through a grant received from one of our parishioners. Persons attending this class will be asked to read the book according to our syllabus and then come to our twice per month meetings to discuss insights into the book. This class will meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Our first class will take place on Thursday, 25 September at 6:30 PM at the church.

**Feast Day Tomorrow.** Tomorrow we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. The holy Virgin Mary was born of her aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the tribe of David and her mother of the tribe of Aaron, and so she was of royal blood from her father and priestly blood from her mother. By this, she foreshadowed Him who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were already old and had no children, and, because of this, were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility, they prayed with tears that God would bring joy to their old age with the gift of a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and Sarah, giving them their son Isaac. God, almighty and all-seeing, gave them a joy far exceeding all their expectations and their wildest dreams, for He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God; He illumined them not only with temporal joy but with eternal. God gave them just one daughter, who later gave them just one grandson - but what a daughter and what a grandson! Mary full of grace, blessed among women, the temple of the Holy Spirit, altar of the living God, table of living bread, ark of God's holy things, tree of the most delicious fruits, glory of the human race, praise of womanhood, fount of virginity and purity - this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anna. Born in Nazareth, she was after three years taken to the Temple in Jerusalem, whence she returned again to Nazareth and shortly afterwards heard the tidings of the holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, from her most pure and virginal body.

We begin our celebration with the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers this afternoon. The Orthros and Holy Liturgy tomorrow will conclude our commemoration. This is the first feast of the Theotokos of the new liturgical year and everyone is encouraged to attend these services.

**Regular Monthly Meeting of Council on Wednesday.** The Council will hold their regular monthly meeting this Wednesday at 5:30 PM in the church center. Council members are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Documents have been circulated electronically and members are reminded to bring them to the meeting. Apologies should be sent to Judy Weston, council secretary, for those that cannot attend the meeting.

**Garage Sale at Father Fred Foundation.** Our neighbors at the Foundation will be having their annual garage sale this coming Saturday. Proceeds from the sale help to support poverty relief work of the foundation with residents of the five county Grand Traverse Region. The event takes place at 826 Hastings Street between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM. Why not plan to spend part of your day joining in the fun and supporting this worth-while philanthropy?