

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

### Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians 2:4-10

BRETHREN, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### Gospel Lesson: St. Luke 12:16-21

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**High Holy Day Schedule for the Week of the Nativity of Our Lord.** Please make a note of our programming for Christmas Week.

### **Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 24 December.**

8 AM Royal Hours

10 AM Vespers and the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

5:30 PM Compline (Aftersupper Prayers) and Christmas Carol Sing

### **Christmas Day, Thursday, 25 December**

9 AM Orthros and the Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

4:30 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers for the Second Day of Christmas

### **Feast of the Synaxis of the Theotokos, Friday, 26 December**

9 AM Orthros and the Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

4:30 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers for the Feast of St. Stephen

### **Feast of St. Stephen, Saturday, 27 December**

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

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

### **Sunday After Christmas, Sunday, 28 December**

9 AM Orthros

10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11:15 Fellowship Hour



## 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)

Vol. II Nr. 46

Sunday, 23 November 2008

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## ✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

### **Sunday 23 November 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. St. Amphilochos of Iconium.**

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

9 AM Orthros

10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11:15 AM Church School

11:30 AM Memorial Service for +Katherine Pappas Body and +Denysia by Angie and Roger Dunlap

3:30 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers at Bridge Street Petoskey

4:30 PM Fellowship Hour at Petoskey

### **Monday 24 November St. Clement Pope of Rome.**

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

6:30 PM Bible Study Nr. 11

### **Tuesday 25 November St. Katherine the Great Martyr of Alexandria.**

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

### **Wednesday 26 November St. Alypius the Stylite.**

Strict Fast Day

5:30 PM Thanksgiving Eve Dinner and Entertainments for the Needy at Park Place Hotel Ballroom

### **Thursday 27 November St. James the Great Martyr of Persia. National Day of Thanksgiving.**

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

**Friday 28 November St. Stephen the New Martyr.**

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

**Saturday 29 November SS. Paramanous, Philemenus, and the 370 Companions.**

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

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

5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday 30 November St. Andrew the First Called.**

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

9 AM Orthros 10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11:15 AM Church School

**First Service Slated for Petoskey.** Our first service offered at the “Petoskey Campus” of our mission will take place at 3:30 PM this afternoon. Mailings and press releases have been circulated among those living north of the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel to encourage them to come to this service. Today we will be, first and foremost, offering prayers to Almighty God in the service of the Holy Vespers. Second, we will be trying to set up a service schedule for the next few months. We will also be trying to assess the level of programming required in Petoskey. We will be meeting at the Old Indian Mission Church at 30 Bridge Street. Following the service there will be a social hour and time for some Sunday School instruction. Everyone from Traverse City is encouraged to join us in Petoskey this afternoon and we ask that you please pray for the success of this outreach of our parish to those living north of the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel.

**TCAPS Sponsors Senior Citizen Social at West Middle School (WMS).** The West Senior Citizen Social is an annual event held on the first Tuesday in December (Dec 2 this year) from 6:00-8:00pm in the WMS cafeterias. On this night, between 60-100 area senior citizens visit WMS for a night of food, bingo, door prizes, dancing to big band music (DJ), and student music performances. In the past, each of the three elite music groups (formally Jazz Band, Octet and Madrigals) have performed for 15-20 minutes each at this function. The event is sponsored by the 8th grade student council. Persons interested in attending or looking for more information can contact the West Middle School office or Fr. Iakovos for more information.

**Church School “Giving Tree”.** Our church school is sponsoring a “giving tree” as a community service project for the advent season. There is a Christmas Tree in our parish “hall”. On the tree are hung “ornaments” that have the names of gifts written on them. People are encouraged to take an ornament, purchase the gift identified, and then return it to the church by 21 December so that the gifts can be distributed to needy people in our community. The list of gifts was determined using information from the various charities of our service area. We will make sure that all gifts arrive to needy families prior to Christmas day. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this philanthropic project. For more information on the Giving Tree, please contact the parish office.

**Nativity Programme Sign-up.** At our last parish council meeting it was decided that we would be presenting a programme of music, readings and drama as part of our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. The pageant is scheduled to take place on Sunday 21 December following the morning services. In order to put the programme together we request people that would be interested in making an offering or participating to sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex of the chapel. Everything from dramatic reading, to the reading of poetry, to singing or playing a musical instrument would be welcome. Depending

upon the number of people involved and talents, there is a possibility that we could be putting on some kind of “play” as well. While our young people are most especially encouraged to sign-up, this programme is for the young and the “young at heart” as well. Adults are most welcome to participate.

Parents of our young people are especially encouraged to carve out time and make a commitment so that your children can participate in this activity of the parish. Once we have a listing of participants and talents, we will formulate a programme that will showcase those talents in telling the Christmas story.

**2009 Stewardship Drive in Full Swing.** Our drive to support the operations of this community began in earnest last week and will continue until it closes on Sunday, 14 December. You should have already received an appeal letter from Fr. Iakovos explaining the importance of stewardship, the nature of our giving and an invitation to fulfill this important Christian duty to your church. Also you would have received a 2009 pledge card. Your response to this appeal is critical. It is critical, first of all and most importantly, to your salvation. The exercise of proper stewardship of God’s resources which have been entrusted to you is an important “work” that demonstrates the depth of your commitment to Christ and recognition that “all things come from Thee, the Father of Lights” (Amvon Prayer). In this case, it is not a question of how much money the church needs in order to operate. Rather, your stewardship pledge is a function of the amount of resource with which God has blessed you. Please prayerfully consider your commitment.

**Winter Boot and Coat Drive For Father Fred Foundation.** Our neighbors at the Father Fred Foundation have made an appeal to area churches to help with replenishing their stock of winter coats and boots. With the recent and early snows there has been unprecedented demand for these items as the less fortunate of our area try to cope with the added stressor of the cold and snow. This past week, Fr. Iakovos witnessed the suffering and struggle that are caused for many people simply by not having proper winter-gear. People, who only recently lived in a home, found themselves now trying to spend the night in their automobile; traumatized by being in want for the first time in their lives. Others who have no transportation, trying to walk through the snow in ratty tennis shoes full of holes. You cannot begin to imagine the suffering. While the Lord said, “The poor you will have with you always...” (John 12:8), this does not relieve us from the Christian duty to care for the less fortunate among us. The fact is everyone is suffering want in some way.

This year more than ever, we are encouraged to think of helping others. As we approach the national holiday of Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the importance of sharing. We are also challenged to expand our concept of this day beyond turkey and the trimmings; football tailgating, and over-eating. We are encouraged to think beyond our household and to give from our need—not merely from our excess.

Our parish will be collecting new or gently used boots, coats and winter gear for distribution through Father Fred’s over the next three weeks. The drive will end on 21 December. Please bring whatever you would like to donate in this effort to the church. Father will see that these items are recorded and then delivered to Father Fred’s down the street. Alternatively, you may take your items directly to the Father Fred Foundation center between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM Tuesday thru Friday.

**Ealy Family Welcomes New Grandchild.** Martha and Ray Ealy announce the birth of their new grandson, George Alexander Gounares born Wednesday, 19 November. George’s parents are Rimma and Alexander Gounares. Alexander is son to Martha and step-son to her husband, Ray Ealy. Mother and child are resting nicely at home. Congratulations may be sent care of Martha and Ray Ealy at their home in Manton. We join in wishing George many happy and blessed years!