

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

### Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle Ephesians 4:1-7

BRETHREN, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

### Gospel Lesson: St. Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

**Friends of the Metropolis Drive Concludes This Week.** Our fund raiser to benefit the ministries of the Metropolis of Detroit will conclude this Friday. So far participation in this important fund raiser is significantly below levels we saw for last year. Last year there were 19 participants donating a total of \$ 2,200. To date, we have 7 participants donating a total of \$1,288.75. The parish council voted to contribute \$1,000 additional on behalf of the church bringing our total to \$2,288.75. While more than last year, it is a bit disappointing to see that we have fewer participants. The amount donated is not important—what is important is that we have everyone participating. If you haven't made a decision to participate, it is hoped that you will stand with your pastor in supporting our chief shepherd, Metropolitan Nicholas. Please return your response card and donation to the church prior to this Friday so that it may be forwarded to Troy. Persons that did not receive a pledge card but would like to participate are encouraged to see Fr. Iakovos.

**Stewardship Sunday Concludes 2009 Drive This Week.** Our drive to support the operations of this community will continue until it closes on this coming Sunday, 14 December. On that day we will have special prayers and an opportunity for people to bring their stewardship pledge cards forward during the Holy Services and place them before the Royal Doors as an offering to God. There will also be a reflection on the importance of stewardship and acquiring the mind and attitude of a servant.

Please be thoughtful in considering your level of support for the upcoming year. Questions concerning the drive may be directed to Helen Dalbo. Questions with respect to determining a biblically based understanding of stewardship and how to arrive at an appropriate level of sacrificial giving may be directed to Fr. Iakovos.



### 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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## ✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

### Sunday 7 December. 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke. St. Ambrose of Milan.

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

9 AM Orthros 10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11:15 AM Church School

11:30 Fellowship Hour

4 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers at Petoskey Chapel

5 PM Adult/Youth Religious Education Programmes (Petoskey)

### Monday 8 December Forefeast of the Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

6:30 PM Bible Study Nr. 13

### Tuesday 9 December Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

### Wednesday 10 December SS. Menas, Hermogenes, Eugephos of Alexandria.

Strict Fast Day

5:30 PM Parish Council Monthly Meeting

### Thursday 11 December St. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople.

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

6:30 PM Orthodox Book Club Discussion Group Mtg. Nr. 6

### Friday 12 December St. Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trymithious.

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed

**Saturday 13 December St. Herman of Alaska the Wonderworker.**

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed  
4:30 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers  
5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday 14 December. 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke. SS Thyrsos, Leucios, and Callinicos.**

**Stewardship Sunday.**

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed  
9 AM Orthros  
10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos  
11:15 AM Church School  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

**Orthodox Merchandise Available for Christmas!** Our Holiday gift merchandise is now in and on display for all to see: greeting cards, Christmas tree ornaments, Biblical travelogue DVDs, and an expanded selection of books (children & adult) and icons especially chosen for the Nativity of Our Lord. ("Samples" can be seen on the "Bookstore" section of our Church website.)

Also new is a table full of "donated" books. Select from a variety of relatively new titles on subjects never before offered at our store. They are priced below list price and can be identified by their pink price sticker. We would like to acknowledge and thank our loyal customers for the particularly "strong response" to our icon merchandise. Icons in particularly strong demand have included "Angels", Russian icons (by Rublev) as well as special order "Saint" icons.

Whatever your interest, we hope that your Holiday gift giving includes ORTHODOX religious themes such as those offered by our Bookstore. As always, we welcome your input!

**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.

**Pageant of Prophecy Sign-up.** Our religious educators have been busy putting together a programme that will be presented on Sunday, 21 December following the morning services. The programme will focus on the prophecies that herald the incarnation of the Son of God and their fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ. 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.

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.

**Winter Boot and Coat Drive For Father Fred Foundation.** Our parish will be collecting new or gently used boots, coats and winter gear for distribution through Father Fred's over the next two 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.

**Religious Ed offers Adult Special Topics Seminar Slated for Saturday 20 December.** Our community will be sponsoring an adult seminar meeting in our community room beginning at 2:30 PM on Saturday afternoon, 20 December. The programme, for the day is based upon materials supplied by the Archdiocese entitled "For Unto Us a Child is Born." The seminar will provide approximately an hour and forty-five minutes of instructional time including: viewing a DVD, an interactive question-answer programme as well as some activities that will help to illustrate the lessons dealing with the Feast of the Incarnation and the prophecies that foretold of its occurrence. The afternoon will culminate with the celebration of the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers in the church. There is no need to register for this afternoon of fun, fellowship and education. Everyone is welcome to participate.

**Parish Council to Meet On Wednesday.** Our parish council will have their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening at 5:30 PM in the parish center. All current council members and 2009 council members elect are encouraged to attend. Apologies should be communicated to Judy Weston.

**Patriarch Aleksy II of Moscow and All-Russia Reposes.** MOSCOW -- Aleksy II, the Russian Orthodox patriarch who led a revival of the church after the fall of Communism and built close ties to the Kremlin under [Vladimir V. Putin](#), died Friday at his residence in Moscow, news agencies reported. The patriarch was 79, and the church did not disclose the cause of death. He had long suffered from heart problems.

Aleksy II was named patriarch in 1990, just before the end of the Soviet Union, ascending to the leadership of a church that had often suffered brutal discrimination under the officially atheistic Communists. Under Stalin, many priests were killed or sent to labor camps, and cathedrals were destroyed.

First under President [Boris N. Yeltsin](#) and then under Mr. Putin, Mr. Yeltsin's successor, Aleksy II significantly deepened the role of the church in everyday life -- erecting and restoring cathedrals, introducing Orthodox religious education in public schools and becoming a prominent voice on moral issues. While church attendance has remained low, growing numbers of Russians identify themselves as Russian Orthodox.

At the same time, the patriarch successfully lobbied the government over the last decade to adopt restrictions on other Christian denominations to impede their efforts to attract adherents in Russia. In the 1990s, Protestant and Roman Catholic churches in the West saw Russia as fertile territory and sent missionaries here, spurring a backlash.

Aleksy II did end another religious dispute, reaching an agreement with the [Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia](#) to bring the churches closer together. The breakaway church had split in 1927, after the Moscow church's leader declared loyalty to the Communist government.

The agreement was signed in the rebuilt Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow, which Stalin had leveled and later became the site of a swimming pool. From the *New York Times*

In a prepared statement, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America commented, "On behalf of the Holy Eparchial Synod and the Clergy and Lay Faithful of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, I am offering our profound condolences on the falling asleep in the Lord of the most blessed Father of the Russian Orthodox Church, the deeply beloved and respected late Patriarch Alexy II. The passing of the Patriarch is a deeply felt wound not only for the pious Russian People, but for all Orthodox Christians who have admired his wise and pastoral stewardship of the Russian Orthodox Church during this most significant period of Her rebirth, after decades of very harsh times for Her."