

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY**

### **Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40**

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

### **Gospel Lesson: St. Luke 14:16-24; St. Matthew 22:14**

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.



## **TRAVERSE CITY ORTHODOX MISSION**

*A Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit*

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

*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 21 December. Sunday Before the Nativity of the Lord. The Holy Ancestors of Christ.**

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed

9 AM Orthros

10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11:15 AM Memorial Service for +Laura Theodora and +John Rennie, +Peter Batsakis, +Edward Joseph and +Olga Contos.

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

12:30 PM Pageant of Prophecy Programme

### **Monday 22 December St. Anastasia the Great Martyr.**

Strict Fast Day

No Choir Rehearsal

6:30 PM Bible Study Nr. 15

### **Tuesday 23 December Ten Martyrs of Crete.**

Strict Fast Day

### **Wednesday 24 December Eve of the Nativity According to the Flesh of the Lord.**

Strict Fast Day

8 AM Royal Hours

10 AM Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil

4 PM Compline

5:30 PM Christmas Carols and Meditation

**Thursday 25 December Feast of the Nativity According to the Flesh of the Lord.**

9 AM Orthros

10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

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

**Friday 26 December 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of the Feast of the Nativity. Synaxis of the Theotokos.**

No Fast Day

9 AM Orthros

10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

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

**Saturday 27 December 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of the Feast of the Nativity. St. Stefanos the Protomartyr and Archdeacon.**

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

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

**Sunday 28 December. Sunday After the Nativity of the Lord. 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia.**

9 AM Orthros

10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

4 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers (Petoskey)

**Orthodox Book Club Holds Final Class.** The Fall semester class of our Orthodox Book Club which met on Thursday nights held its last class this past Thursday evening. Receiving certificates of participation for the seven meeting class were: Pam, Steve and Matthew Bemis, Cynthia Brummer, Marilyn Dressler, Martha Ealy, Donellen and Robert Fickling, Elizatbeth Husby, Holly Olsszewski, Katerina and Dennis Stavros. Our next class will meet in the spring and will deal with the book **Father Arseny, 1893-1973: Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father : Being the Narratives Compiled by the Servant of God Alexander Concerning His Spiritual Father.** This book will be available through our parish bookstore. Please speak with Roger Dunlap to place your order.

Congratulations to everyone that participated in this fall semester offering. We look forward to our next semester study. Everyone is welcome and it is not necessary to be an Orthodox Christian to attend the class.

**Pageant of Prophecy Today.** Our religious educators have been busy putting together a programme that will be presented today following the morning services. The programme focuses on the prophecies that herald the incarnation of the Son of God and their fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ. In addition to the reading of Holy Scripture selections, we will also be reading liturgical poetry from the vespers and matins services that commemorate the feast. The half-hour long program will provide opportunities for our school children to dramatize some of the events depicted in the readings and also demonstrate their understanding of the key concepts contained in the prophecies. For adults, it is a great way to become familiar with the key prophecies concerning Christ. Interestingly enough, all of these key prophecies are contained in the readings which are part of the Royal Hours service celebrated on Christmas Eve at 8 AM. Please make it a

point to share in this great community event that showcases our local talent and brings us together for this joyous feast.

**Church School "Giving Tree".** Our church school has been sponsoring a "giving tree" as a community service project for the advent season. We wrap that project up this Sunday and will be distributing these gifts to the less fortunate of our region during this week before Christmas. A complete inventory will be taken today and the gifts will be distributed with the help of our church school children. Thanks to everyone that participated in this most important philanthropy of our parish during this holiday season.

**Christmas Week Service Schedule.** It is hard to believe but Christmas has come. Our fasting and preparation which began on 15 November will come to a close soon. For some, we have spent the time well and have struggled to prepare ourselves for the feast. For others, we have wasted this time of preparation paying no attention to the one thing needful. There is still time. We still have an opportunity to collect ourselves and make ready for the birth of the new-born King. He that is called the Counsel of the Ages, the Prince of Peace, the harbinger of the Age to Come beckons us to prepare a space in our hearts for Him. On Christmas Eve, Christmas day and throughout the octave of Christmas we have numerous opportunities to enter into the joy of this feast. Do make sure that you make time for the true celebration of Our Lord's Nativity. We have opportunities for Holy Confession, Holy Communion and the many other important sacramentals that are part and parcel of our Orthodox Faith. Next to Great Lent and Pascha this is one of the richest seasons of the year. Take time to drink fully of the cup that has been prepared for us.

**Saturday Special Topics Seminar Successful.** Parishioners and guests were treated to an afternoon of fun and discussion as they dealt with the issues revolving round the Feast of the Incarnation yesterday afternoon. Using materials of the Department of Religious Education in Brookline, MA, Holly Olszewski and Matthew Bemis crafted a wonderful afternoon of insightful reflection that opened up a great deal of meaningful discussion about a variety of topics which touched on the Incarnation. The programme concluded with the celebration of the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers. Thanks to everyone that participated in this pilot project. A second offering will be made available in January dealing with the Feast of the Theophany. Watch this space for scheduling information as it becomes available.

**Bible Study Class Meets Tomorrow.** The Monday night Bible study class which has been dealing with the Gospel of St. John will decide whether to continue meeting into the New Year at their meeting tomorrow night. There are several chapters left in the study and the group will be asked whether they would like to wrap up according to the syllabus or continue meeting until the book is completed. All persons enrolled in the course are asked to either attend tomorrow night's meeting or communicate their preference to Fr. Iakovos at their earliest convenience.

**Blessing of West Bay Scheduled.** On the Saturday following the Feast of the Theophany of the Lord Fr. Iakovos will celebrate the Great Blessing of Water outdoors at an access point to the West Bay. The outdoor blessing will take place at 9 AM, Saturday, 10 January. Everyone is welcome to join us. Watch this space for more information as we prepare to celebrate this wonderful feast of the Lord.