

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

In Our Hearts and In Our Prayers. This week we offer up heartfelt prayers for the health and salvation of the following persons who are struggling with illness or difficult life situations. Please remember them in your prayers; they are: John Batsakis, Nikki and Alexander Chibucos (Chicago), Barbara and Michael Dennos, Kalliopis Drudge (Frankfort), Irene and Louis Govatos (Florida), Ryan Holifield (Flint) and Jerry, Pamela and Leon Lysaght (Plymouth), Rebekah Olechnowicz (Ypsilanti), Angeliki O'Non, Harriet Rennie, Katerina Stavros and Judy Weston.

Satan has gotten man to arrange his entire lifestyle so that there is completely no quiet time, time for contemplating the past day, week, or month. Everything is occupied with entertainment. And in this system of entertainment, television is given the privileged place of honor. The lion's share of free time is 'eaten up' by it, that idol of contemporary civilization. I would call it a cruel despot and tyrant, to whom the greater part of mankind is subject, in a servitude never before witnessed in the world. For slaves feel their lower position because they have been brought to it by force. But here the servitude is voluntary, even pleasant at first glance. Just the bitter fruits of worldliness, cruelty, and depravity demonstrate that, as in any kind of slavery, only the master benefits. *Blessed Elder Anthony of Russia on the Use of Television in the Home.*



TRAVERSE CITY ORTHODOX MISSION

A Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

Meeting at 1030 Hastings St., Traverse City, Michigan

www.tcorthodoxchurch.org

Vol. II Nr. 2

Sunday, 13 January 2008

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✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

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| Sunday 13 January | Sunday After Theophany.
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:00 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour Hosted by Katerina Stavros |
| Monday 14 January | Apodosis of the Theophany.
6:30 PM Enquirer's Class |
| Tuesday 15 January | St. Paul of Thebes.
TBA Theophany House Blessings |
| Wednesday 16 January | Veneration of the Chains of St. Peter.
Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed
TBA Theophany House Blessings |
| Thursday 17 January | St. Anthony the Great.
6:30 PM Spirituality and Self Defense Class Nr. 10 |
| Friday 18 January | SS. Athanasios and Kyrillos, Patriarchs of Alexandria.
Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed |
| Saturday 19 January | St. Makarios the Great.
10:30 AM Pastor's Question Time
4:30 PM Ninth Hour and Vespers |
| Sunday 20 January | 12th Sunday of St. Luke. St. Euthymios the Great.
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:00 AM Church School |

Condolences to the Kevwitch Family. Our parish reaches out to Mickie and Casey Kevwitch of our community who experienced the loss of sister, Mary Kevwitch this past week. Mary is sister to Casey and passed away on 7 January. Mary was born in Long Lake Twp in 1915 and spent all of her life as a citizen of Traverse City. Fr. Iakovos and Presvytera Joleen represented our community at the viewing that was held at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City on Friday evening. Mary was given funeral services by Rev. Dr. Gary Hogue of the First Congregational Church of which she was a member.

Persons that would like to extend condolences to the Kevwitchs are encouraged to write to them at their Florida address found in the parish directory. We all join in praying that God will console Casey and Mickie in the loss of their beloved sister.

Parish Council Meeting Results. Our parish council met in regular monthly session this past Wednesday at the Munson Health Center. Present for the meeting were: Harriet Rennie, President; Karen Kain, Vice President; Judy Weston, Secretary; John Batsakis, Helen Knapp, Stephanie Long, Douglas Partlo, Theresa Patterson, and via telephonic link-up, Bob Underwood from Florida. Absent with apologies was Michael Dennos, Treasurer. Harriet Rennie and Bob Underwood were administered their Affirmation of Office at the beginning of the meeting. At this meeting the council spent considerable time in the meeting discussing the 2008 stewardship campaign and appointed a director to head up the campaign. At a meeting in October 2007 Angie and Roger Dunlap had been asked to head up our program but due to their heavy involvement in getting the parish book store up and running they asked to be excused from this responsibility. Council members reviewed the first stewardship campaign letter and approved its use with modifications coming out of the meeting. Karen Kain was asked to assist in getting the letter out and in the transition work to get our Stewardship program up to speed.

In other news, the council heard additional information on the planning for the next "Taste of Greece" function from Bob Underwood and John Batsakis which has been tentatively scheduled for July 23, 24, 2008. The council will consider an appropriate venue for the event at their next regularly scheduled meeting which is Wednesday, 13 February.

The council has asked Father Iakovos to seek donations for the purchase of icon panels to adorn the side walls of the church. Father will make an effort to get this information out to the general parish to see if persons are willing to sponsor these panels which are approximately \$250 each.

Douglas Partlo reported on the final draft of the 2008 budget which comes to a grand total of \$120,000. The council will take action on adopting this budget at their next meeting in February. A copy of the draft is available for inspection by contacting our parish council secretary, Judy Weston. It will also be included in the first 2008 Stewardship campaign mailing. Approval for additional rent cost of \$20 per week for the room used for our coffee hour after services was approved at this meeting. We have also been using the room for classes during the week when it is available so as to try and reserve the church space for church alone.

Financial statements for the month were not available at the time of the meeting due to a delay in obtaining reconciled bank statements. Financials will be made available to the board as soon as they are completed. The council also indicated that they would like to have the financial report of the parish displayed prominently in the bulletin and other parish communications so that congregants would be aware of our

financial status. Once the budget is adopted, we will begin showing some analysis in each week's bulletin to help our people make assessments as to the level of their support of the parish.

Pastor's Question Time. One thing that has become clear, from the classes for adults that Father has been running, is that there are usually more questions than there is time to answer them; and the questions don't always follow the outline for the class for that evening. In order to meet the demand for access to information, Father Iakovos will be offering a program he is titling "*Pastor's Question Time*" which will provide an opportunity for parishioners to ask questions on any topic and have them addressed. Father requests that the questions be submitted in advance; he will choose the topic for the meeting, publicize it ahead of time and we will be spend an hour or so on a Saturday morning, sipping coffee or tea and dealing with the answers to our parishioner's questions. The first meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 19 January beginning at 10:30 AM in the room where we have the coffee hour. It will last approximately an hour to an hour and a half. Forms to submit questions for consideration are located on the table in the narthex of the church and may be turned in via the specially provided box. Questions may also be submitted by e-Mail through our web site or directly to Father's e-Mail.

Donations Solicited for Iconography. Several months ago, Fr. Iakovos approached the Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Port Huron about making laminated icons approximately 2 feet x 3 feet for use in decorating the side walls and sanctuary of our church. At that time, the monks indicated that they could provide these icons at a cost of \$250 each. These are mounted on ¾ inch plywood and are ready for hanging. The following icons are needed for the interior of the church:

The Dormition of the Theotokos (rear wall); six icons for the interior of the altar consisting of the Holy Fathers as well as one large icon of the Resurrection; four icons for the south wall of male saints of the church or Feasts of Christ; and four icons for the north wall of the church of female saints or Feasts of Christ.

Finally for our iconostasion, we require 12 18" x 24" panels of the great feasts of the church, or of the Apostles for the second level of the screen at a cost of \$90 each.

The monastery has provided Father Iakovos with pictures of the icons for us to choose from. Persons interested in sponsoring an icon are asked to speak with Father so that we can begin to make a plan to acquire these for the beautification of the church.

Additionally, items on the parish wish list remain available for consideration to those who would like to do something meaningful for the church over and above their regular stewardship. The wish list is available on our website as well as in handouts in the narthex of the church. Please consider helping us to finish up our interior work so that by the spring season we may have a fully appointed chapel.

Frostbite Food Drive. Mark your calendars because the Frostbite Food Drive will take place beginning February 1, 2008. This drive is sponsored by our neighbors at the Fr. Fred Foundation. It is a time when people are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food items for distribution to the poor. Our parish will be providing volunteers to help with loading the boxes that will fill a 53' trailer with much needed food items as people drive up to drop off their donations. Watch this space for more information as we sign up for days to assist in this important work of corporal mercy. Join Fr. Iakovos and Presvytera Joleen in helping Fr. Fred!