

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Luke 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

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, Kalliope Drudge (Frankfort), James Elliot (New York), 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.



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. 3

Sunday, 20 January 2008

Pastor: Presbyter Iakovos (Olechnowicz)

Pastor's e-Mail: iakovos@charter.net

Pastor's Residence: 720 Westminster Rd

Pastor's Phone: (231) 668-6583

Traverse City, MI 49686

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

✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

- 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
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour Hosted by Angie and Roger Dunlap
- Monday 21 January** **St. Maximos the Confessor.**
6:30 PM Enquirer's Class
- Tuesday 22 January** **St. Timothy of the 70.**
- Wednesday 23 January** **Hieromartyr Clement.**
Strict Fast Day
6:30 PM Paraklisis for those suffering illness
- Thursday 24 January** **St. Xenia of Rome.**
6:30 PM Spirituality and Self Defense Class Nr. 11
- Friday 25 January** **St Gregory the Theologian.**
Strict Fast Day
- Saturday 26 January** **St. Xenophon and his Companions.**
4:30 PM Ninth Hour and Vespers
- Sunday 27 January** **15th Sunday of St. Luke. Relics of St. Chrysostomos.**
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:00 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

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. Our parish is committed to provide manpower to staff the drive on the following dates and times:

Friday, February 1 between the hours of 9 AM and 11 AM

Tuesday, February 5 between the hours of 11 AM and 1 PM and 1 PM to 3 PM

Wednesday, February 6 between the hours of 9 AM and 11 AM

And finally, Friday, February 8 between the hours of 5 PM and 7 PM.

Each two hour tour requires no less than two persons and up to four persons to fully staff. A sign up sheet with these dates and times is in the narthex of the church. Persons interested in participating are asked to write in their names in the time and date block where they can be available. This task requires some lifting and you will be out-doors so dress appropriately. They don't call it "Frostbite" for nothin'.

Watch this space for additional information on the drive as well as ways that you can donate food and non-perishable food items for the drive.

Thanks to Angie and Martha. Our community extends thanks to Angie Dunlap and Martha Ealy who worked this past week in organizing and clearing out the storage room on the north side of our facility. They spent the better part of a day sorting through things, throwing some things out and better stowing our gear in a way that makes sense and is easy for us to recover. Thanks, ladies, for your hard work.

Prosfora Baking. Thanks are extended to Judy Weston and Rebekah Olechnowicz for providing the prosfora that is used in the celebration of our liturgies here. Persons interested in donating prosfora for this purpose may obtain a seal from Father Iakovos. Also, if you'd like some instruction in how to make prosfora you may contact the rectory so that an instructional and practice time can be organized for you. The offering of the bread used for the Holy Oblation is a very special thing and it is a blessing to the person who undertakes this sacred work. In Greece, as in other Orthodox homelands, people oft-times jump at the opportunity to prepare the prosfora, artos, kolyva and other offerings of the church. It is truly an honour.

2008 Stewardship Campaign Underway. Our parish has recently launched the 2008 Stewardship Campaign with a mass mailing to our members this past week. More than any other time, it is important for each of us to give serious consideration to stewardship and what it means to us and to our community.

What is Stewardship? Stewardship comes from the Greek word "oikonomia", or economy, which means management of the house or household. In the New Testament, it means Man's management of his whole life in response to God's love.

As a steward, we are managers of the "time", "talents" and "treasures" that God has given to us. God as Creator gives us time by granting us life, our very existence. God, as Giver of all gifts, grants us our abilities and talents. God as the Sustainer provides for our needs by affording us opportunities to earn a living.

If we believe that God is the Giver (the Owner) and we are the managers, then it follows that a steward trusts God's direction as found in the Holy Scriptures and Tradition of the Church on how to manage the resources that come from Him. Truly, we give God thanks for all that we have by managing these gifts of "time", "talent" and "treasure" according to His plan and will.

This is a critical decision that we face each and every year. Our response to this invitation speaks volumes of our love and dedication to Our Lord. Each and every one of us is asked to please reflect prayerfully on what Our Lord is calling us to do. If you need help or guidance in discerning what constitutes "stewardship" in your life, feel free to phone Fr. Iakovos for a private consultation. He will not discuss specific giving levels with you, but he will discuss the spiritual aspects of this decision with you. He can also provide you with some useful rules of thumb to help you make up your own mind. All other questions on the campaign can be directed to Helen Dalbo; her contact details are in the mailing that you received. In the end, how much you give is not as important as the condition of your heart when you give.

Pastor's Question Time. 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.

Our first meeting, which was scheduled for yesterday, was postponed due to a sick call that Father made to an ill parishioner. As we haven't received any questions or topics as of this writing, Father will wait until we receive some input before scheduling another meeting so that we can publicize the topic and do adequate research.

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. Fr. Iakovos is currently organizing samples from the monastery to bring to church for people to examine.

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.