

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Luke 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

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), Martha and Ray Ealy, 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.

Whether you live peacefully or not depends on you. If you are patient, you will be peaceful. But if you begin to return evil for evil, peace will depart, and God will leave the mob to serve justice. Where there is peace, there is God. His dwelling is peace. St. Anatoly of Optina



TRAVERSE CITY ORTHODOX MISSION

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✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

- Sunday 27 January** 15th Sunday of St. Luke. Relics of St. Chrysostomos. Sunday of Zacchaios.
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:00 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour Kiki and Tom Sebestyen
- Monday 28 January** St. Ephraim the Syrian.
6:30 PM Enquirer's Class
- Tuesday 29 January** Translation of the Relics of St. Ignatios the God-bearer.
5 PM Ninth Hour and Great Vespers for the Feast
- Wednesday 30 January** Three Holy Hierarchs, SS. Basil the Great, John Chrysotomos and Gregory the Theologian.
Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
- Thursday 31 January** Holy Unmercenaries, SS. Cyrus and John.
6:30 PM Spirituality and Self Defense Class Nr. 11
- Friday 1 February** Forefeast of the Meeting of the Lord. Martyr Tryphon.
Strict Fast Day
9 AM-11 AM Frostbite Food Drive at Fr. Fred's
5 PM Ninth Hour and Great Vespers for the Feast
- Saturday 2 February** Meeting of the Lord in the Temple.
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
4:30 PM Ninth Hour and Vespers

Sunday 3 February

16th Sunday of St. Matthew.

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 1PM 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.

Gifts Received. This week, Rich Waszkiewicz of Apex Electric installed two brand-new chandeliers in our church as part of our beautification program. The chandeliers were donated by Helen Knapp and the Kain Family. The community extends heart-felt thanks to our donors who have made it possible for us to have this lighting which is much softer and more conducive to prayer than our florescent office style lighting that came with the building. Rich installed the chandeliers using a rheostat dimmer switch control so that we can adjust the lighting levels in the church; what a luxury! Thank you for this most appreciated donation and improvement.

Also received this week from SS. Constantine and Helen Church of Lakeland, MI were several framed icons as well as a banner of the Resurrection and a prie Dieu (kneeler) which has been placed in our confessional area. All of these items are artifacts from the original church which was in Detroit and later moved to Lakeland. Thanks are extended to Fr. Teodor Petrutiu, interim pastor there, as well as members of the parish council that organized this donation to the mission here. The icons, after cleaning and restoration, will be placed on display during the various feasts that they represent.

Thanks are extended to Bob Dalbo, husband of Helen Dalbo, who took the time to drive to Detroit and collect these articles for us this past week. The trip required an overnight stay (with relatives there) and resulted in our finally having these articles in hand after they were first promised back in October 2007. Thanks to Bob for the sacrifice of time and energy to fetch these items for us.

Additionally we recognize the donation of a censer from Fr. Cyril Attak of St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church in Allen Park, MI. Fr. Cyril was kind enough to donate one of his used censers to us so that we have a second unit for use during our services. The additional censer will make it a little easier on the altar

servers who must keep the "kadillo" hot and ready to receive incense. Thank you to Fr. Cyril and the faithful of St. Stephen's.

Finally, we recognize the donation of two brand new candle stands for use by our altar boys that were provided through the generosity of the Long family of our parish. The stands were imported from Greece and were part of our parish wish list. They enable the altar boys to manage the candles while not requiring them to elevate them constantly. Additionally, these stands are equipped with a censer hook that will allow for their use during the pre-sanctified liturgies of Great Lent.

Many thanks to our thoughtful donors for helping us move forward in beautifying the church.

2008 Stewardship Campaign Report. Just several days into our 2008 campaign and we are able to report some important news as to our progress. On the week of 15 January 72 pledge packets were mailed out. Since then, we have received 17 pledge responses which represent 24% of our original mailing. Total pledged funds as of this printing amount to \$47,580.

While we are off to a great start we have a target that remains \$72,420 away with 54 people left to respond and we are closing in on our 31 January deadline. This year, more than at any other time in the history of this endeavor, our response to this campaign is of critical importance. We have made a beginning of good here. We have an established place to meet with regular services. We have educational programs and a presence in our community and region. People have made life-changing commitments, retirement plans, relocation plans, and yes, even plans to remain in this area instead of leaving, largely because we have seriously entrenched an Orthodox parish here. The maintenance of this effort is critical not only to our mission work, but as a confirmation that the serious and life-altering decisions made by these people and the others that will follow them were not made in vain. Northwestern Michigan desperately needs what we have to share; they just don't know how much they need it yet.

It goes without saying that 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.

Big Feast Days This Week. This week the Church celebrates two rather significant feasts. The first on 30 January is the Feast of the Three Hierarchs and Ecumenical Teachers of the Church. The second, one of the twelve Great Feasts of the Church, commemorates the Meeting (Entrance) of the Lord in the Temple. Both feasts will be celebrated with vespers on the eve at 5 PM and orthros and liturgy on the day at 9 AM. Our faithful are asked to keep these days holy by attending some (or all) of the services. Those that are prohibited from attendance due to health, work or other constraint are encouraged to keep the day by reading the story of the Saint in the Synaxarion and reading the Holy Scripture passages for the day. Those that do not have access to these items are encouraged to ask Fr. Iakovos for copies of these items if you require them for your home use.