

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10

BRETHREN, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Matthew 25:14-30

The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"



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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✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

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| 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 Hosted by Tina and Doug Partlo
Church Maintenance Duty Angie and Roger Dunlap |
| Monday 4 February | St. Isidore of Pelusium.
6:30 PM Enquirer's Class |
| Tuesday 5 February | St. Agatha the Martyr.
11 AM-1 PM Frostbite Food Drive at Fr. Fred's |
| Wednesday 6 February | St. Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople.
Strict Fast Day
9 AM-11 AM Frostbite Food Drive at Fr. Fred's
5 PM Paraklisis for the Ill |
| Thursday 7 February | St. Parthenios, Bishop of Lampsakos. |
| Friday 8 February | Great Martyr Theodore Stratelates.
Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed
3 PM-7 PM Frostbite Food Drive at Fr. Fred's |
| Saturday 9 February | Apodosis of the Meeting of the Lord.
4:30 PM Ninth Hour and Vespers |
| Sunday 10 February | Sunday of the Canaanite Woman.
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos |

11:00 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour Hosted by Karen and Randy Kain
Church Maintenance Duty Fr. Iakovos and Presvytera

Frostbite Food Drive Duty Roster. The drive got off to a great start on Friday morning with our crew of workers including: Roger Dunlap, Martha Ealy, Karen Kain, Presvytera and Father. The semi trailer is parked on Garfield Street just below Centre Street in the parking lot with Fast Signs Company. We were busy taking donations from drive-up patrons as well as loading the 53 ft trailer with pallets and banana boxes so that the donations can be transported to the warehouse for sorting. In spite of the cool temperatures and snow it was a great time for us to be together and enjoy one another's company while doing something good for the community.

Our church is slated to provide coverage this week at the following times with the staffing as indicated.

Tuesday, February 5 between the hours of 11 AM and 1PM Tina and Doug Partlo; Presvytera and Fr. Iakovos and 1 PM to 3 PM Robert Dalbo, Fr. Iakovos and Presvytera;

Wednesday, February 6 between the hours of 9 AM and 11 AM: Helen Knapp, Fr. Iakovos and Presvytera;

And finally, Friday, February 8 between the hours of 3 PM and 5 PM: Martha Ealy, Fr. Iakovos and Presvytera; 5 PM to 7 PM: Robert Dalbo, Holly Olszewski, Fr. Iakovos and Presvytera.

Each two hour tour requires no less than two persons and up to four persons to fully staff. There are still some openings available on Tuesday and Wednesday as well as the 3 to 5 PM shift on Friday. Interested persons are asked to sign up on the sheet located in the narthex. This task requires some lifting and you will be out-doors so dress appropriately.

Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia Coming to Our Metropolis. Many of us are familiar with the books written by this giant of the English-speaking Orthodox world; books like: *The Orthodox Church*, *The Orthodox Way*, *The Lenten Triodion*, *The Festal Menaion*, *Praying With the Orthodox Tradition*, *How Are We Saved? Understanding Salvation in the Orthodox Tradition* and many others. As a convert to the Faith from Anglicanism, Metropolitan Kallistos brings a perspective to the understanding of Holy Orthodoxy that is unique and insightful—especially to westerners. As part of an American tour that includes many stops across the country to lecture and deliver papers at various symposia, Metropolitan Kallistos will be the guest of His Eminence, Nicholas Metropolitan of Detroit on Monday, 18 February and Tuesday, 19 February. He will be delivering a reflection (lecture) at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Sterling Heights on Monday evening, following a book signing at 6:30 PM and Vespers at 7 PM. The topic that evening will be "Preparing for Great Lent". Needless-to-say this is a rather timely topic for us as we approach the threshold of the Great Fast, and we are truly blessed to have this opportunity to be addressed by someone with this kind of world-class reputation. Persons interested in car-pooling or making arrangements for over-night accommodation are encouraged to contact Fr. Iakovos so that we can coordinate our travel as a group.

His Eminence will be addressing the clergy of the Metropolis on Tuesday morning and giving a lecture on the Holy Priesthood. This lecture will be followed by a luncheon that will permit the clergy to fellowship with one another and the Metropolitan of Diokleia.

Course 202 Concludes. Our educational offering, *Orthodox Self Defense—Armament for Spiritual Warfare*, concluded this past Thursday with class members dealing with St. Theophan the Recluse treatment of Prayer Rules and other practical items in his book, *The Spiritual Life*. Students spent the better part of the Fall and part of the Winter dealing with this material in their weekly meetings. Having completed the class and read the texts, many will be interested in pursuing further studies of the Holy Fathers' teachings on spirituality in the year to come. For now, classes will wind down for the beginning of Great Lent which will provide opportunity enough for study and application of the principles that were learned in this educational undertaking.

Our Enquirer's Class (Course 101) will continue to meet on Monday nights through the end of the month. Meetings will take place on 4, 11 and 25 February. There is no class on the 18th due to the Metropolitan Kallistos lecture held in Sterling Heights.

Thank you to all of our students that made the effort to participate in these classes, and we look forward to restarting our educational program following the Great and Holy Pascha.

2008 Stewardship Campaign Report. Our first pass at the 2008 stewardship campaign completed this past week. As of Thursday, 31 January, we have received 24 pledge responses of the 72 packets that were mailed out on the 15th of January. Total pledged funds as of this printing amount to \$ 60,880.

While we are thankful for everyone's willingness to help and the fact that many have given out of their need and not out of their surplus we still have a target that remains \$ 59,120 away with 48 people left to respond.

Those that have not responded can expect a phone call from our chairperson encouraging them to respond as soon as possible. This is the only way that we can make a decision about how we are to fund our church operations for the 2008 fiscal year. Pledge cards are available in the church on the table in the narthex for those that would like to complete them this morning and turn them in.

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.

Please make your pledge today so that our council can progress this important process.

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), Helen Dalbo, Barbara and Michael Dennos, Kalliope Drudge (Frankfort), Angeliki Dunlap, Martha and Ray Ealy, James Elliot (New York), Irene and Louis Govatos (Florida), Stephanie Long, Pamela and Leon Lysaght (Plymouth), Rebekah Olechnowicz (Ypsilanti), Angeliki O'Non, Costa Pappas (New York), Harriet Rennie, Jerry Slomba, Katerina Stavros and Judy Weston.