

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 18:9-14

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"



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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Sunday, 24 February 2008

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✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

- Sunday 24 February** **Sunday of the Prodigal Son. 1st and 2nd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptizer.**
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:00 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour Hosted by the Olszewski Family
Church Maintenance Duty the Olszewski Family
- Monday 25 February** **St. Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople.**
6:30 PM Enquirer's Class
- Tuesday 26 February** **St. Porphyrios, Bishop of Gaza.**
- Wednesday 27 February** **St. Prokopios the Confessor.**
Strict Fast
- Thursday 28 February** **St. Basil the Confessor.**
5 PM Paraklisis for the Ill
- Friday 29 February** **St. John Cassian.**
Strict Fast
- Saturday 1 March** **St. Eudokia the Martyr. Saturday of Souls.**
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos followed by Memorial Services
4:30 PM Ninth Hour and Vespers
5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday 2 March

Sunday of the Last Judgement. Meatfare Sunday.

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11:00 AM Church School

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Church Maintenance Duty The Sebestyen Family

Winter Weather Plays Havoc With Church Attendance. We certainly have had our share of winter weather lately. For the past two Sundays it was either white out conditions and blizzards or ice storms and roadways that became as skating rinks for vehicles. Interestingly enough, on each of those Sundays we had parishioners make their way to the church to celebrate the Holy Services. It must be that Northwestern Michiganders are much more used to this type of weather as Fr. Iakovos and Presvytera had both expected to be serving alone on those Sundays due to the treacherous conditions. In any event, there are additional parish bulletins for those that don't receive them electronically in the back of the church. There is some very important information in them and our parishioners are encouraged to review this material; especially with regard to the parish council meeting and our appeal for an underwriter for the proposed internet radio program.

Metropolitan Kallistos Reaches Out to Our Parish. A contingent of five carpooled to Sterling Heights while others from our parish made their own way down to the St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church to hear a lecture given by Metropolitan Kallistos this past Monday. The church was jam packed with people; there were people standing in the rear of the church and the side aisles. The book signing, which began around 6:30 PM, went quite late as there were so many people. Our parishioners had the opportunity to personally greet Metropolitan Kallistos and tell him that we are using his books as part of our spirituality and catechetical lessons here. This news seemed to please him. Following the book signing we celebrated the Holy Vespers together. In addition to Metropolitan Kallistos, there was our own Metropolitan Nicholas assisted by eighteen priests from around the Metropolis as well as priests from other jurisdictions. Also in attendance were two monks, the abbot from Holy Trinity Monastery in Port Huron and the abbot from St. Sava Monastery outside of Detroit. Following the vespers, Metropolitan Kallistos gave a talk on the topic of the Great Lent. A synopsis of this talk will be available on our parish website www.tcorthdooxchurch.org this coming week. The notes were taken by Rebekah Olechnowicz of our parish.

Following the Metropolitan's address there was a brief question and answer session that allowed for interaction and clarification of some of the points made in the lecture. At the end of this, our parishioners were honoured to have a group photograph taken with Metropolitan Kallistos in front of the amvon of the church. The photograph will be uploaded to our parish website as soon as it is available. This is certainly something memorable as we received so much of the Metropolitan's time and attention while he was pressed in by so many people. The Metropolitan gave encouragement to our missionary effort and assured us of a remembrance in his prayers as we struggle to bring the Orthodox Faith to Northwestern Michigan.

Day two of our field trip saw a morning meeting with Metropolitan Kallistos for Fr. Iakovos and other clergy and a visit to the Polish Art Center in Hamtramck for the others who had travelled with us. The Hamtramck crew participated in a pysanki making class and had the opportunity to make their own decorated eggs. They also toured various shops in the area bringing home wonderful baked goods and meats; some to be laid back for the Holy Pascha. While that was happening, Fr. Iakovos was treated to a two hour presentation by Metropolitan Kallistos concerning the Holy Priesthood. In this talk, His Excellency focused on the nature of priesthood; not just the ordained priest, but the priesthood of believers and the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Notes and a synopsis of his presentation are available on our parish website.

With lots of memories made and friendships enhanced, we made our way back to Traverse City, arriving at around 9 PM on Tuesday evening. Thanks are extended to everyone that participated in this event and to those who organized the outing in Hamtramck; it was all truly memorable.

Saturday of Souls This Week. *On the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgement, and in close connection with the theme of this Sunday, there is a universal commemoration of the dead 'from all the ages'. (There are further commemorations on the second, third and fourth Saturdays in Lent.) Before we call to mind the Second Coming of Christ in the services on Sunday, we commend to God all those departed before us, who are now awaiting the Last Judgement. In the texts for this Saturday there is a strong sense of the continuing bond of mutual love that links together all the members of the Church, whether alive or dead. For those who believe in the risen Christ, death does not constitute an impassible barrier, since all are alive in Him; the departed are still our brethren, members of the same family with us, and so we are conscious of the need to pray insistently on their behalf. From The Lenten Triodion translated by Mother Mary and Archimandrite Kallistos Ware.*

For our observance of this day to be complete we should have the names of your family members who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith. To this purpose, there are commemoration sheets placed at the back of the church. Please take a moment to fill out the sheet and return it to Fr. Iakovos. For those that cannot get a physical list to us, you may do that electronically by sending an e-Mail to Fr. Iakovos at iakovos@charter.net. If sending an electronic list, please indicate those relatives that are Orthodox and those that are not Orthodox Christians separately.

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: Brigitte Barbas, John Batsakis, Nancy Brieghner (California), Niki and Alexander Chibucos (Chicago), Helen Dalbo, Eugene and Angeline, Barbara and Michael Dennon, Kalliope Drudge (Frankfort), Angeliki and Nicholas Dunlap, James Elliot (New York), Peter Farougi, Rebekah Foster (France), Bud Fromholz, Irene and Louis Govatos (Florida), Elizabeth Husby, Sandra Karagiannis (Chicago), Helen Knapp, Stephanie Long, Pamela and Leon Lysaght (Plymouth), Fr. Michael Michelapoulos (New York), Elan Nichols, Rebekah Olechnowicz (Ypsilanti), Angeliki O'Non, Costa Pappas (New York), Harriet Rennie, Jerry Slomba (Flint), Christina and Katerina Stavros, Gabriel Underwood (Florida), Judy Weston, George, Catherine, Konstantinos, Mary, Anastasios, Nicholaos, George, Catherine, Zefira, and Argyris.

Stewardship List to be Published. With our 2008 stewardship campaign just about complete, we will be publishing our list of stewards and a separate list of the friends of our parish on the bulletin board in the parish hall as well as on our website. These names will also be forwarded to the Archdiocese for inclusion in our census with the national church. If you have not responded but would like to be identified as a steward, please see Helen Dalbo this morning and complete a stewardship card.

One of the key indicators that the Archdiocese uses in the award of mission grants relates to stewardship. Growth in committed stewards from year-to-year demonstrates that we have, indeed, a viable community and one that is worthy of the financial investment made to help us get established as a full fledged parish. As our community is a recipient of a mission grant, and yearly will go through an evaluation process for renewal of that grant, persons making the decision to be counted as stewards help us in two ways. First, they demonstrate their personal commitment to the success of this endeavour both spiritually as well as financially. Second, they demonstrate to the national church the level of local commitment and encourage them to continue in the work of helping us to establish the parish here.

Please consider your level of commitment and if you are not already a steward, we ask you to please consider taking your place and being counted among the stewards of the church.