

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Monthly Calendar Available. Our calendar of services for the month of March is available in the narthex of the church. The calendar contains all scheduled services for the month with times so that you can make a plan now to attend these services. The first week of Great Lent is particularly full; but each week provides several different opportunities for attendance. While it would be nice if everyone could attend everything, it is hoped that each person will be able to attend at least one service a week beyond their regular Sunday attendance. If you don't come regularly on Sunday, this would be a good season to start. For those that cannot attend services due to illness, live broadcasts of services are available on the internet from St. Nicholas Church in Ann Arbor at www.stnickaa.org; click on the "watch online" tab.



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, 2 March 2008

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✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

Sunday 2 March

Sunday of the Last Judgement. Meatfare Sunday.

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11:00 AM Church School

11:15 AM 3rd Yr Memorial for +Faye Economos-Underwood

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Church Maintenance Duty The Sebestyen Family

Monday 3 March

Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos, and Vasiliskos.

Tuesday 4 March

St. Gerasimos of Jordan.

Wednesday 5 March

St. Konon the Gardener.

Fast Day—Dairy products permitted.

Thursday 6 March

42 Martyrs of Amorion.

Friday 7 March

7 Hieromartyrs of Cherson.

Fast Day—Dairy products permitted.

Saturday 8 March

St. Theophylaktos, Bishop of Nicomedia. 2nd 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 9 March

Sunday of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. Cheesefare Sunday.

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

1:00 PM Vespers of Forgiveness

Sunday of the Last Judgement. The two past Sundays spoke to us of God's patience and limitless compassion, of His readiness to accept every sinner who returns to Him. On this third Sunday, we are powerfully reminded of a complementary truth: no one is so patient and so merciful as God, but even He does not forgive those who do not repent. The God of love is also a God of righteousness, and when Christ comes again in glory, He will come as our judge. "Behold the goodness and severity of God" (Romans 11:22). Such is the message of Lent to each of us: turn back while there is still time, repent before the End comes. In the words of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete:

*The end draws near, my soul, the end draws near;
Yet thou dost not care or make ready.*

The time grows short, rise up; the Judge is at the door.

The days of our life pass swiftly, as a dream, as a flower. Song 4 Troparion 2

This Sunday sets before us the eschatological dimension of Lent: the Great Fast is a preparation for the Second Coming of the Saviour, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come. Nor is the judgement merely in the future. Here and now, each day and each hour, in hardening our hearts towards others and in failing to respond to the opportunities we are given for helping them, we are already passing judgement on ourselves. *From The Meaning of the Great Fast by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia.*

Fasting Rules for This Week. Today is known as "Meatfare" in the Church because it is the last day on which we are permitted to eat meat until the Holy Pascha. The Holy Church instructs us that: *In the Week before the Lent, meat is forbidden, but eggs, cheese and other dairy products may be eaten on all days, including Wednesday and Friday.*

When we use the term "meat", we specifically mean: beef, lamb, pork, chicken and other fowl, veal, venison, turkey, rabbit, squirrel and other varmints, and any fish (with backbones). Meat includes anything that has blood. These include processed foods like: luncheon meats, bologna, salami, various sausages, tuna, canned salmon, seafood analog, etc. Those that are able are encouraged to keep the fast in this manner until the Holy Pascha.

Also during this time we are encouraged to re-double our efforts at prayer and almsgiving. Fasting from food is worthless if we do not also fast from sin. To this end, we are asked to spend more time in prayer, the reading of the Holy Scriptures as well as devotional books and writings of the Fathers, and looking for ways in which to perform charitable works for others.

Lent will be upon us by a week from tomorrow. Begin to plan **NOW** what you will do to welcome this season into your life. It is truly a spiritual springtime for us even though there is snow on the ground. This is a time of great spiritual struggle but also great spiritual joy. Make your plan and purpose yourself to follow through. For additional suggestions on what you can do to make this season meaningful, contact Fr. Iakovos.

Lenten Discussion Group Forming. The Traverse City Orthodox Mission will be sponsoring a Lenten Study Group which begins on Wednesday, 12 March and continues to meet for the next four Wednesdays throughout Orthodox Lent. The group will meet at 7 PM immediately following the 5:30 PM celebration of the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Fr. Iakovos will guide participants through a series of reflections on various topics dealing with temptation. Topics to be discussed at the group meeting include: the purpose of temptation, understanding the mechanics of temptation, potential responses to temptation events, and understanding our personal conduct when we are

tempted. Resources for the discussion will be from the Holy Scriptures, the writings of the Holy Fathers in the Evergetinos, the Philokalia and various other works.

No registration is required and everyone is welcome to join us. There will be some Lenten snacks available for those who have fasted to take the Holy Communion at the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy.

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

Metropolitan Kallistos Lecture Audio Available. On Tuesday, 19 February, His Excellency gave a lecture at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Troy, MI dealing with the Future of Orthodoxy in America. The audio portion of that lecture is provided through Ancient Faith Radio on the internet at <http://audio.ancientfaith.com/lectures/faithofathers/metkallistos/metkallistos.mp3>. It is an outstanding lecture and our faithful are recommended to listen to it. We are trying to get an audio copy of the lecture given at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Sterling Heights on Monday, 18 February dealing with the preparation for Great Lent. Notes of this lecture are available on our web site.

First Holy Confession Classes. Great Lent is a good time to get familiar with the Mystery of Holy Confession in the church. For our young people, it provides a spring board for discussion of the need for private confession, the command of the Apostle Iakovos that we "confess your sins to one another", and the mechanics of the Mystery. In order to do this, Fr. Iakovos would like to meet with our young people on four different occasions throughout Great Lent, culminating in their making a private confession during Holy Week. Parents are encouraged to speak with Father so that we can arrange a mutually acceptable time to schedule these classes. These are essential to the spiritual development of your child; it is imperative that you make time in your child's schedule for this instruction.

2008 Stewardship List Published. Our list of stewards for 2008 is posted on the parish bulletin board and also on our web site. We have reported 74 stewards in 49 households. Thanks to every one of our people who have committed their time, talent and finances to support the growth of this mission by being counted as stewards.

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.