

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY**

### **Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26; 32-40**

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect

### **Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. John 1:43-51**

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

**Parish Council to Meet This Week.** Our parish council will have their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday of this week. The agenda for the meeting has been distributed to council members and revised financial reports are on their way so members are asked to be watching for them in their e-Mail. We will be meeting at the offices of Great Lakes Telecom located at 13056 South West Bay Shore Drive in Traverse City. This will facilitate our telephone conference call with Bob Underwood who remains in Florida. Thanks are extended to Ted Apostoleris, owner of GLT, who has allowed us to use his facility for this meeting.

Parish council meetings are open to stewards of this parish. Anyone that has completed a pledge card for 2008 and is a bona fide steward is welcome to attend this meeting. Also there is an opportunity for stewards to address the board and provide input on decisions at each meeting.

Council members that will be unable to attend the meeting or would like to have items added to the agenda are asked to please contact Judy Weston, council secretary, as soon as possible.



### **TRAVERSE CITY ORTHODOX MISSION**

*A Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit*

*Meeting at 1030 Hastings St., Traverse City, Michigan*

[www.tcorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.tcorthodoxchurch.org)

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Sunday, 16 March 2008

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## **✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠**

**Sunday 16 March**

**First Sunday of Great Lent. The Triumph of Orthodoxy.**

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

11 AM Church School

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Church Maintenance Duty

4:30 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers

**Monday 17 March**

**St. Alexios the Man of God. St. Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.**

Strict Fast Day

**Tuesday 18 March**

**St. Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem.**

Strict Fast Day

5:30 PM Monthly Parish Council Meeting

**Wednesday 19 March**

**St. Chrysanthos and Daria the Martyrs.**

Strict Fast Day

5:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

7 PM Discussion Group Topic—Understanding the Wilderness

**Thursday 20 March**

**Holy Fathers of the Monastery of St. Savas.**

Strict Fast Day

**Friday 21 March**

**St. James the Confessor.**

Strict Fast Day

9 AM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

5:30 PM Akathistos Hymn Stasis B'

**Saturday 22 March**

**Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra.**

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed

4:30 PM Ninth Hour and Vespers

5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday 23 March**

**Second Sunday of Great Lent. St. Gregory Palamas of Thessalonika.**

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

11 AM Church School

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Church Maintenance Duty

4:30 PM 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Vespers

**Condolences to the Dalbo Family.** Our parish reaches out with heart-felt condolences to the family of Bob Dalbo on the falling asleep of his mother of blessed memory, +Angeline. After a valiant struggle with various illnesses, she passed away surrounded by her family while she was being treated in hospital. She is survived by her loving husband, Eugene, and her children and grandchildren. A viewing was held at Voran Funeral Home in Allen Park on this past Friday, and she received the funeral service at St. Stephen's Byzantine Catholic Church in Allen Park yesterday morning. May God console the Dalbos in their loss and may her memory be eternal. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the Dalbos via their address on Torch Lake Rd in Kewadin.

**Ruth and Daniel Wilkey Wed.** Last Sunday we had the joy of witnessing the celebration of the marriage of Daniel Wilkey and Ruth nee Manthei in our church. Following their civil marriage, Daniel and Ruth had their marriage celebrated according to the Mysteries of the Holy Orthodox Church and were able to enjoy the blessings that come from this grace-filled service. Standing as sponsors for the couple were Sub-Deacon Euphrosynos, and his wife, Makrina Patterson. An informal reception followed the wedding where those in attendance were treated to a wonderful cake and some sweets. Many years to Daniel and Ruth as they live out their marriage in our midst!

**The First Sunday of Lent.** On this day the Church commemorates the final ending of the Iconoclast controversy and the definitive restoration of the holy ikons to the churches by the Empress Theodora, acting as regent for her young son Michael III. This took place on the first Sunday in Lent, 11 March 843. There is, however, not only an historical link between the first Sunday and the restoration of the ikons but also, as in the case of St. Theodore the Recruit (yesterday's commemoration) a spiritual affinity. If Orthodoxy triumphed in the epoch of the Iconoclast controversy, this was because so many of the faithful were prepared to undergo exile, torture, and even death, for the sake of the truth. The Feast of Orthodoxy is above all a celebration in honour of the martyrs and confessors who struggled and suffered for the faith; hence its appropriateness for the season of Lent, when we are striving to imitate the martyrs by means of our ascetic self denial. The fixing of the Triumph of Orthodoxy on the First Sunday of Lent is therefore much more than the result of some chance historical conjunction.

The Triodion gives the text of a special "Office of Orthodoxy" which is held at the end of Matins although in modern practice is normally appended to the end of the Divine Liturgy. The Office celebrates not only the restoration of the holy ikons but, more generally, the victory of the true faith over all heresies and errors. A procession is made with the holy ikons, and after this extracts are read from the synodical degree of the Seventh Ecumenical Council held in Nicea in 787. The sixty anathemas are pronounced against various heretics dating from the third to the fourteenth century; "Eternal Memory" is sung in honour of emperors, patriarchs and fathers who defended the Orthodox faith; and "Many Years" is proclaimed in honour of our present rulers and hierarchs. From *The Meaning of the Great Fast* by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia.

**Lenten Discussion Group Continues This Week.** Our discussion group met following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy held this past Wednesday and there discussed the topic "Putting Temptation into Perspective." We talked about trying to understand temptation as a neutral event; that is neither bad nor good, but rather look at it as a test. It is a testing that allows God to show us what is really in our heart. We also talked about the similarities between the history of Israel's deliverance from bondage in the land of Egypt as told in the book of Exodus and our own desire to be delivered from bondage to sin.

This week our topic will be: "Understanding Temptation in the Framework of the Wilderness Wanderings of Israel". We will be looking more deeply into the book of Exodus and will make some connections between the temptations that Israel faced there and the everyday temptations that we face. The group meets immediately following the liturgy and everyone is welcome to participate. There is no prescribed text and the discussion lasts approximately an hour.

**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, Frances Batsakis, John Batsakis, George Baryames ( E. Lansing), Nancy Brieghner (California), Niki and Alexander Chibucos (Chicago), Helen, Bob, Samantha, and Elisabeth Dalbo, Eugene, Barbara and Gerasimos Denos, Kalliope Drudge (Frankfort), Angeliki and Nicholas Dunlap, David Ealy, James Elliot (New York), Peter Farougi, Rebekah Foster (France), Bud Fromholz, Novice Michael (St. Nektarios), 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), James Olszewski, Angeliki O'Non, Constantinos Pappas (New York), Jerry Slomba (Flint), Christina and Katerina Stavros, Gabriel Underwood (Florida), Judy Weston, George, Catherine, Konstantinos, Mary, Anastasios, Nicholaos, George, Catherine, Zefira, and Argyris.

**Laziness.** Laziness is not a small vice and it is numbered among the mortal sins, and therefore we must force ourselves to fulfill duties and ask God for help and not rely on our own strength. Seeing our good intentions, He will give strength and power and will help us overcome the paralyzing laziness; but without our effort and good intention, God does not help. During time of infirmity and weakness, let these take the place of idleness: pain of heart, remorse and humility. *St. Macarios of Optina.*

Strive to struggle against laziness and drive it away and force yourself to labour in prayer. Remember that you must unfailingly force yourself in order to receive salvation. *St. Joseph of Optina.*