

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

"IN THE BEGINNING, you O Lord, didst found the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Mark 2:1-12

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins'-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Lenten Discussion Group Continues This Week. Our discussion group met following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy held this past Wednesday and there discussed the topic "Understanding the Wilderness." We talked about trying to understand temptation as a necessary element in helping to identify the character traits and virtues that we will need to be able to successfully manage the responsibilities that God wants to give to us. This week we are going to look at particular examples of the "Temptation Scenario" from the Old Testament to see if we can gain insight into our own experiences of temptation. Anyone is welcome to join us and we meet right after the pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evening.



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, 23 March 2008

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✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

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 hosted by Karen Kain, Helen Knapp and Donna Psaros

Church Maintenance Duty by Angie and Roger Dunlap

4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers

Monday 24 March

Pre-Feast of the Annunciation. St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow.

Strict Fast Day

5:30 PM Great Vespers for the Feast

Tuesday 25 March

Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos.

Fast Day—Fish Permitted

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

Wednesday 26 March

Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel.

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed

4:45 PM Confession Class for Youth

5:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

7 PM Discussion Group Topic—Understanding the Wilderness

Thursday 27 March

St. Matrona of Thessaloniki.

Strict Fast Day

Friday 28 March	St. Herodion, Apostle of the Seventy. Strict Fast Day 9 AM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 5:30 PM Akathistos Hymn Stasis Γ'
Saturday 29 March	Hieromartyr Mark of Arethusa. Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed 4:30 PM Ninth Hour and Vespers 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 30 March	Third Sunday of Great Lent. Sunday of the Holy Cross. 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 hosted by Ann Fromholz and Angie Dunlap Church Maintenance Duty 4:30 PM 9 th Hour and Vespers

Parish Council Meeting Results. Our parish council had their regular monthly meeting this past Tuesday graciously hosted by Ted Apostoleris of Great Lakes Telecom. Present at the meeting were: Harriet Rennie, President; Karen Kain, Vice-President; Judy Weston, Secretary; Stephanie Long, Doug Partlo, Theresa Patterson and Fr. Iakovos. Visiting the meeting to provide reports on the bookstore operations were Angie and Roger Dunlap. Members present by telephone link-up were Bob Underwood (from Florida) and John Batsakis. Absent with apologies were Mike Denny (currently in Florida) and Helen Knapp.

The council heard a report on the bookstore from Angie and Roger Dunlap. In their report they informed council members that for the months of July, August, and December 2007 as well as January and February 2008 the store turned a total surplus of \$796.58. They explained that this surplus is largely the result of merchandise being donated to the store by various parishioners for re-sale. Margins are very close as our store does not buy in volumes sufficient to get deep discounts. Rather, the couple explained, they understand the store as a ministry to the church providing access to materials locally that would not be available except through the internet or by mail order. Their efforts and hard work in organizing and operating the store were recognized by the council and Harriet Rennie expressed the deep gratitude of the council to them on behalf of the community.

In other news the council authorized the payment of the Archdiocesan assessment of \$600 per year as communicated in a letter from the Metropolis Committee for review of Archdiocese Commitments. A review of our monthly financial reports showed income of \$6,837 for the month of February and expenses of \$8,709 for a net deficit of \$1,872 on the period. From January 1, these figures become \$12,037 for income and \$19,441 for expenses resulting in a deficit as of 29 February of \$7,404.

In a cost cutting exercise the council voted to terminate their relationship with A. L. Mitchell Accounting and retain the services of the lower-cost Accountable Bookkeeping and Business Services of TC. The change will be effective at the end of March.

The Stewardship committee reported a total of 57 pledge cards received representing 76 stewards and valued at \$82,650 with the average value of a pledge set at \$1,450. The committee also reported the pledge distribution by amount and these figures will be posted on the bulletin board and on our web site.

Helen Knapp was chosen to chair the "Flower Committee" making arrangements for the various flowers and decorations needed for Cross Sunday, Palm Sunday and all of Holy Week and Pascha. She will work closely with Harriet Rennie and Holly Olszewski on this project.

To complete their meeting the group had an open discussion on goal setting for 2008. Some of the identified goals are: 1. Continue community outreach and awareness programs; 2. End the fiscal year in the black; 3. Keep our priest and start moving forward toward finding our own place; 4. Get more people from the parish involved in the organization and activities of the church; 5. Come up with another good fundraiser; 6. Increase our membership. The council will begin formulating action plans for some of these goals after there has been an opportunity to narrow their focus and prioritize them.

Bookstore News. Now that Great Lent is here, one cannot imagine a better time to renew the "human spirit" from an Orthodox Christian perspective. The Traverse City Orthodox Mission BOOKSTORE stands ready to assist in this regard. In addition to our selection of books, gifts & religious items, we now offer new icons, music CDs, & greeting cards—all pertinent to Orthodox Lent culminating with Great Pascha. Don't forget children's books, too—especially selected for impressionable young minds. So . . . if you have not perused the Bookstore lately, we invite you to look around. There is apt to be something there that will grab you. Remember, your support helps in two ways: it benefits our church as well as the "human spirit"!

The Second Sunday of Lent. Since 1368 this Sunday has been dedicated to the memory of St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica (1296-1359). This commemoration forms a continuation of the feast celebrated on the previous Sunday: St. Gregory's victory over Barlaam, Akindynos and the other heretics of his time is seen as a renewed Triumph of Orthodoxy. In the earlier period there was on this day a commemoration of the Great Martyr Polycarp of Smyrna (155) whose feast was transferred from the fixed calendar (23 February). This commemoration, like that of St. Theodore, underlined the connection between Lenten asceticism and the martyr's vocation. The second Sunday also takes up the theme of the Prodigal Son as a model of repentance, with the first of the two Canons at matins being devoted to this parable. From The Meaning of the Great Fast by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia.

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 Denny, 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, Nicholas, George, Catherine, Zefira, and Argyris.