

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedek.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."



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, 6 April 2008

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✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

Sunday 6 April

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent. St. John Klimakos.

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

11 AM Church School

11:15 AM 3rd Anniversary Memorial for +Archbishop Iakovos; 2nd Anniversary Memorial for +Julia Stathakis; Trisagion for +Protopresbyter Michael Michalopoulos

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour Hosted by Tina Partlo

Church Maintenance Duty Pamela and Steve Bemis

Monday 7 April

St. Kalliopios and Akylina.

Strict Fast Day

Tuesday 8 April

SS. Heriodios, Agabos, Rufos and Asynkretos of the 70.

Strict Fast Day

Wednesday 9 April

St. Eupychios the Martyr

Strict Fast Day

4:45 PM Youth Holy Confession Class

5:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Thursday 10 April

St. Terence the Martyr and Companions.

Strict Fast Day

Friday 11 April

St. Antipas the Martyr.

Strict Fast Day

9 AM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

5:30 PM Final Akathistos Hymn

Saturday 12 April

St. Basil the Confessor.

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed

4:30 PM Ninth Hour and Vespers

5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday 13 April

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. St. Mary of Egypt.

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 9th Hour and Vespers

April Calendar Available Today. The monthly calendar showing services scheduled for April is available in the narthex of the church as well as on our parish web site. Be sure to pick up a copy so that you can coordinate your activities for the month. Of special importance is the schedule of services for Holy Week, 20-27 April. In order to enter into the fullness of your personal experience of the salvific work of our Lord, it is highly recommended that you try to attend as many of these services as possible during Holy Week as well as in the “run up” to that week. It is the length of these services, the repetition of the themes and your participation in these events that drive home their reality, gravity and significance. Failure to participate in the services of Holy Week almost assures that on Resurrection night you will be unable to see, experience or witness anything. Make a decision now to clear your date book for the month so that you don’t cheat yourself out of this life-altering experience. May God grant us all to witness His glorious Resurrection on the third day!

Collecting For Flowers. We are currently collecting funds to purchase flowers for the decoration of the tomb as well as the temple for the services of Holy Week. Ongoing, we are collecting funds for the decoration of the icon of the Theotokos used for the Akathist services on Friday evenings. Donations for flowers may be given as memorials and will be recognized in the weekly parish bulletin and on our web site. Please speak with Helen Knapp or Fr. Iakovos if you’d like to make a donation.

Holy Confession Class. Our youth have had two classes so far dealing with the mystery of Holy Confession. The third class will take place this Wednesday, 9 April at 4:45 PM immediately preceding the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. At the class they have covered a unit dealing with a general introduction to Holy Confession explaining the nature of sin, and the effects of sin on our relationship with God, our neighbor, the parish community and ourselves. Our next class will start to deal with the mechanics of Holy Confession and how to prepare to make a private confession. Parents are encouraged to have their young people from Grade 6 up attend these important classes. The class will conclude with private confessions during Holy Week. For more information, or to get materials, please contact the rectory.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent. On this day is commemorated St. John Klimakos (of the Ladder), abbot of Sinai (sixth-seventh century), who is assigned a special Sunday in Lent because, by virtue of his writings and his own life, he forms a pattern of the true Christian ascetic. St. John is the author of The Ladder of

Divine Ascent, one of the spiritual texts appointed to be read in church during Lent. His memorial, like that of St. Theodore the Recruit, has been transferred to the movable from the fixed calendar, where he is remembered on 30 March. The first Canon at Mattins this morning is based on the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-35): the repentant Christian is likened to the man who fell among thieves. From The Meaning of the Great Fast by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia.

+Fr. Michael Michalopoulos Rests. The +Protopresbyter Michael, retired pastor of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Vestal, New York with over fifty years of service to the Holy Church, passed away at Lourdes Hospital in Binghamton, New York on Friday evening after a long and valiant struggle with cancer. Fr. Michael became a close personal friend to Fr. Iakovos when they met in November 1997 as Fr. Iakovos was transiting from the United States to South Africa to perform missionary service for the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria. Over the period of his years in Africa, the two priests kept up a loving correspondence and on R&R trips back to the US Fr. Iakovos would visit with Fr. Michael at the Annunciation Church. Later, after returning to America and during Fr. Iakovos’ assignment as interim pastor at Annunciation Church in Vestal (August 2005-June 2007), he was pleased to have Fr. Michael serving with him and celebrating the various feasts together. The two men and their families have very close ties. For these reasons, Fr. Iakovos and Presvytera will be traveling to Vestal, NY this afternoon so that they may participate in Fr. Michael’s funeral and interment which will take place on Monday. Fr. Iakovos expects to return late Tuesday evening. During this period, should you need to contact Fr. Iakovos he will be available via his cell phone at 231-590-2038.

Bookstore Offers Holy Week Materials. As Father Iakovos is apt to say: it is never too late (particularly during Great Lent) to embrace the Holy Spirit as only Orthodox Christians can. The Traverse City Orthodox Mission Church BOOKSTORE stands ready to assist in this regard. With HOLY WEEK only 2 short weeks away, be mindful that your Bookstore features such “essential” items as HOLY WEEK service books and the ever-uplifting Pascha greeting cards to make your Lenten “journey” truly meaningful. Take a few minutes this Sunday to peruse our offerings. Your support helps in two ways: it benefits the “human spirit” and this very important Church “ministry”! Happy Lenten Greetings from Roger & Angie Dunlap.

In Our Hearts and In Our Prayers. This week we offer up heartfelt prayer 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, George Baryames (E. Lansing), Nancy Brieghner (California), Niki and Alexander Chibucos (Chicago), Helen Dalbo, Eugene Dalbo (Detroit), Barbara and Gerasimos Dennon, Kalliope Drudge (Frankfort), 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), Elan Nichols (Lansing), Rebekah Olechnowicz (Ypsilanti), Angeliki O’Non, Constantinos Pappas (New York), Diane and Fred Pascaris (Detroit), Alexander Raptis (Troy), Jerry Slomba (Flint), Christina and Katerina Stavros, Gabriel Underwood (Florida), Judy Weston, Catherine Cavis (Port Huron), George, Konstantinos, Mary, Anastasios, Nicholas, George, Catherine, Zefira, and Argyris (Port Huron).

The feeling of love of the Lord corresponds to how much we fulfill His commandments. Love of God is expressed most of all by keeping the commandments of God. St. Nikon.