

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:11-14

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Mark 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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), Martha and David Ealy, James Elliot (W.VA), 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), 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).



TRAVERSE CITY ORTHODOX MISSION

A Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit

Meeting at 1030 Hastings St., Traverse City, Michigan

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✠ PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ✠

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 hosted by Karen Kain and Donna Psaros

Church Maintenance Duty

4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers

Monday 14 April

SS. Aristarchos, Pudens and Trophimos of the 70.

Strict Fast Day

Tuesday 15 April

Martyr Crescens.

Strict Fast Day

Wednesday 16 April

Virgin Martyrs Agape, Chionia and Irene.

Strict Fast Day

5:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

Thursday 17 April

St. Symeon the Hieromartyr.

Strict Fast Day

Friday 18 April

St. John the Righteous.

Strict Fast Day

Saturday 19 April

Lazaros Saturday. Martyr Paphnutios.

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11 AM Making of Palm Crosses and Donkeys for Distribution on Palm Sunday

4:30 PM Ninth Hour and Vespers

5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday 20 April

Palm Sunday.

Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

11 AM Church School

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour hosted by Kiki and Tom Sebestyen

Church Maintenance Duty

5:30 PM Bridegroom Matins (Nymphios Orthros)

The Fifth Sunday of Lent. This corresponds closely to the preceding Sunday; just as the fourth Sunday is dedicated to St. John Klimakos, the model of ascetics, so the fifth Sunday commemorates St. Mary of Egypt, the model of penitents. Like that of St. John Klimakos, her feast has been transferred from the fixed calendar, where she is commemorated on 1 April. Her life, written by St. Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem—sets before us a true verbal icon of the essence of repentance.

Also on this Sunday the first Canon of the matins service is based upon the story of the Rich Man and Lazaros (Luke 16:19-31); like the parable of the Good Samaritan on the previous Sunday, this is applied symbolically to the repentant Christian.

Parish Council Monthly Meeting Results. The parish council had their regular monthly meeting this past Thursday at the church. Present for the meeting were: Harriet Rennie, president; Karen Kain, vice-president; Judy Weston, secretary; John Batsakis, Helen Knapp, Doug Partlo and Fr. Iakovos. Absent with apologies were: Michael Dennon, treasurer; Stephanie Long, Theresa Patterson and Bob Underwood.

The council heard a presentation by Dawn McConnell who operates a non-denominational church camp called North Shore Outdoor Ministries. We are currently trying to formulate a limited camping experience for our young people to participate in so that they can become familiar with the idea and ultimately participate in the Metropolis Camp at Rose City held in the summer. Fr. Iakovos and Karen Kain will meet with our church school faculty in order to sketch out a plan and consider this information in the formulation of our program for this summer.

In other news, old choir robes and liturgical pew books not required by our community have been distributed to various places. A box weighing approximately 50 lbs filled with books destined for the missions in the Republic of South Africa was sent by Fr. Iakovos to his former bishop, Metropolitan Seraphim of Johannesburg and Pretoria, for use in the indigenous mission work there. Shipping fees were partially underwritten by the Long family for which we are grateful.

The council also learned of the appointment of a new bookkeeper for the parish, Kristina Singer of Accountable Bookkeeping of Traverse City. Mrs. Donna Psaros, who is already doing our stewardship record keeping, has volunteered to help out by working with our new book keeper as well as functioning as a financial secretary for the parish. Thanks were expressed to Mrs. Psaros for taking on these added responsibilities. It is believed that this action will save our community a considerable amount of money in professional fees.

The council reviewed the implementation of our new envelope system in order to keep our stewardship donations on target throughout the year. The importance of persons **donating on a regular basis** instead

of making once-a-year contributions was discussed and, again, the council will encourage our stewards to contribute a portion of their annual pledge on a regular basis so as to smooth out our cash flows.

A written stewardship report as of 31 March was submitted by Helen Dalbo, chair of our stewardship program. She reports for the first quarter (January-March 2008) a total of \$21,404 in pledge monies received. This represents 26% of the total \$82,800 on the year. 25% of our pledges for the year have already been fulfilled. We are still accepting pledge cards for new stewards and those interested in adjusting their pledge or becoming stewards are encouraged to speak with Mrs. Dalbo.

Financial reports for the period were reviewed and accepted by the council. Our profit and loss statement for the period shows a deficit for March of \$3,149. On the first quarter we have run a deficit of \$4,412 which was moderated to \$3,454 as a result of \$1,114 received in interest on our funds for the period.

The council also worked out the following schedule of activities in support of our Holy Week and Pascha observances for 2008. They are:

Flowers and decoration will take place at the following dates and times: Lazaros Saturday, 11 AM, Making of Palm Crosses and Donkeys; Holy Friday, 11AM, Decoration of the Tomb and Epitaphios for Friday afternoon/evening services. Flowers are being coordinated by Mrs. Helen Knapp of our parish.

Coloured eggs for distribution on Pascha night can be donated by individuals any time up to the services. We ask that they be coloured the traditional red and left in their cartons when brought to the church so that they may be easily stored in our refrigerator until needed. Eggs are being coordinated by Mrs. Karen Kain.

The council also approved a **pot-luck dinner** which will take place immediately following the Agape Vespers on Pascha day. Everyone is welcomed to bring a dish to pass at this dinner. Coordination of the dinner is through Mr. John Batsakis. If you will be bringing something, please contact John at 360-0304 or via e-mail at bats14@chartermi.net so that he can insure that we have a sufficient mix of types of foods.

Bookstore Offers Holy Week Materials. With HOLY WEEK only 1 short week 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. We are currently running a “special” on slightly “used” Holy Week Books so be sure to speak with Angie about that; it makes staying on top of the services convenient and affordable. Take a few minutes today to peruse our offerings. Your support helps in two ways: it benefits the human spirit and this very important Church “ministry”!

Foundation Blessed. Fr. Iakovos recently celebrated the service of “founding” a home for Margaret and John Raptis of Troy. The couple and their kindergarten aged son, Alex, are building a home off of the west bay and will be relocating to Traverse City after it is completed. We look forward to welcoming them to our community when they relocate here sometime this summer.

Humility and ascetic hardship free a man from all sin, for the one cuts out the passions of the soul, the other those of the body... It is through our fulfilling the commandments that the Lord makes us dispassionate; and it is through His divine teachings that He gives us the light of spiritual knowledge.

St. Maximos the Confessor in The Philokalia.