

## Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

### Epistle Lesson: Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians 4:7-13

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Respect Life Presentation.** We have been invited to attend the 4th Annual Respect Life presentation sponsored by the Catholic Pro-Life Movement and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gaylord. It will take place at St. Patrick's Catholic Church on Silver Lake Road South at 2 PM on Sunday, 24 January. Guest speaker for the event will be the newly elevated Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gaylord, His Grace, the Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda. Also speaking on the programme will be Mary and Patrick Willson. Mr. Willson is a fourth generation family business owner. Mary works with her husband, has a background in nursing and is presently home-schooling their 12 year old.

The Orthodox Church supports the sanctity of life from conception to death and has been in the forefront of championing the rights of the un-born as well as those of the elderly and infirm. For more information about the programme persons are encouraged to contact St. Patrick's.

**General Philoptochos Meeting Next Sunday.** The local chapter will have its first general membership meeting of the new year next Sunday immediately following the church services. The ladies will be sponsoring the coffee hour for the day. All ladies of the parish and guests are invited to attend and hear of the great work that is being done by our ladies' organization.

**Save the Date, 6-7 February.** Dr. Peter Bouteneff of St. Vladimir's Seminary will be in town that weekend to deliver a lecture in conjunction with our study of the book, *Father Arseny, Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father* and an exhibition on Stalin era Soviet Russian gulags at the Dennon Museum. This will be a fascinating and enriching addition to our already outstanding religious education department offerings. Make sure that you clear that weekend for some food for your soul and deepening of your understanding of the operation of grace under some of the most horrific conditions imaginable. Truly being a Christian in Traverse City can be put into a different perspective when we see the sufferings and triumphs of these Christians

*Devote yourself to stillness and know that I am God* - Psalm 45:10 (LXX)

## Archangel Gabriel Greek Orthodox Church

*Traditional Worship for Modern Life*

Volume IV Number 2- Sunday, 10 January 2010

### PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 10 January  
Orthros Eothinon 9  
Apolytikion Tone 6

**Sunday After the Theophany**  
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos  
11:15 AM Church School  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Monday, 11 January

**Righteous Theodosios the Cenobiarch**  
6 PM Liturgics Class Nr. 1—Sanctification of Time and Hebrew Understanding of Liturgy

Tuesday, 12 January

**St. Tatiana, Martyr of Rome**  
Clergy Syndesmos Meeting at Troy, MI

Wednesday, 13 January

**SS. Hermyllos & Stratonikos the Martyrs at Belgrade**  
Strict Fast Day

Thursday, 14 January

**St. Agnes the Virgin-martyr. Apodosis of the Theophany of the Lord**  
5:30 PM Philoptochos Executive Board Meeting

Friday, 15 January

**St. John the Cave Dweller**  
Strict Fast Day

Saturday, 16 January

**Veneration of St. Peter the Apostle's Chains**  
11:45 AM Men's Fellowship Snow Shoe Outing  
4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers

Sunday, 17 January  
Orthros Eothinon 10  
Apolytikion Tone 7

**15th Sunday of St. Luke. St. Anthony the Great**  
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos  
11:15 AM Church School  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour  
12 PM Philoptochos General Meeting Nr. 1

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**2010 Parish Council Installed Today.** With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas, we are installing our new parish council for 2010 today, ahead of their reorganization meeting. Returning council members for 2010 are: John Batsakis, Karen Kain, Stephanie Long, Doug Partlo, Theresa Patterson, Bob Underwood and Judy Weston. New for 2010 to the council are Andrew Foster and Nikki Sobkowski. After taking the affirmation of office, council members will have a meeting in order to reorganize electing President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary for the year as well as assigning various portfolios to council members. Please pray for our incoming council members, that Our Lord will support them as they apply their energies to this important service to the Church.

**2nd Annual Blessing of the Bay a Success.** Yesterday many hearty souls joined us at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy pier on Front Street in Traverse City for the 2nd Annual Blessing of the Bay. In attendance were many of our parishioners, as well as Admiral John Tanner, Superintendent of the Academy and his wife Susan. Accompanying them were several faculty members from the school and some cadets who had returned early for the start of classes there which begin on Monday. The thermometer at the radio station downtown read an air temperature of 1 F and we are told that the water temperature was 33-35 F. There was no wind and the sky was bright and clear. There were over forty people in attendance and while it was cold the bright sunshine just made everyone feel warm and sunny. With the school's ships all around us we sang the service for the outdoor blessing of water with gusto and it was amazing watching the mist from our singing rising in the clear, crisp air. Whether in Greek, Church Slavonic or English the festal apolytikion rang through the air and echoed back to our group off the ships T/S State of Michigan, Northwestern and The Anchor Bay. What a wonderful event! If you missed it, you really did miss something special. Next year, plan to join us at the pier for what is becoming a Traverse City tradition.

Thanks to Roger Dunlap and Karen Kain for taking photographs and video footage of the event. These will be posted to our web site for people to enjoy sometime this week.

**Youth General Topic Discussion and Pizza Party Full of Fun.** Our religious education department sponsored a general topic discussion at the parish education centre to engage the youth of the parish. Coming out of our discussion was a show of intense interest in participating in the St. John Chrysostomos Oratorical Festival which is sponsored by our Metropolis and Archdiocese. We will be attempting to field a team of three competitors in different age groups to represent our parish over the next several weeks.

Following the meeting the group made its way to Wilderness Crossing in Grawn for a fun filled game of laser tag. Fr. Iakovos came out on the short end of this undertaking as the youth proved themselves superior in the use of electronic devices that make tons of noise and vibrate on your chest when one gets "zapped." Thankfully this game is played in a darkened set of rooms so the embarrassment is minimized although everyone knows who is getting "tagged". As it was, Father proved to be an easy target for our youth—big and slow moving with white hair that seemed to glow in the dark...obviously he is a bit rusty in his Marine Corps urban, anti-insurgency tactics...Parris Island is a long way from here and many years ago. Following a friendly game of tag, the group adjourned to the bowling alley for a game and some pizza and lots of fun, laughter and fellowship. It was a hoot!

Thanks to everyone that participated in this event and to parents for making their young people available to spend the day together with each other.

**Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed for 1st Quarter 2010.** The fellowship hour following the Holy Services is an excellent community building exercise. It provides an opportunity for us to interact on a social level to continue building bridges between one another and galvanize our unity as a parish. These opportunities are important to our longevity

and parish help. While sometimes they can devolve into "gossip sessions" or "cliques" for the most part they are healthy occasions for people to integrate into the community. Over the years these events have been hosted by one or two families and consist of providing some kind of sweet or savory to enjoy with coffee or tea. These foods are not meant to be a substitute for breakfast, but rather some nourishment to help people who have been fasting to receive the Holy Communion have some sustenance in order to get home and have a proper meal. Some people have used the fellowship hour to honour family members or to celebrate family events with the parish. The reality, however, is that it is not necessary to cater a meal. As we head into Great Lent (14 February) the coffee hour becomes even more simplified. A sign up sheet has been placed in the community centre and people are encouraged to pair up and sign up for a Sunday. For more information on this project, please contact Fr. Iakovos.

**Adult Class on Liturgics to Begin Tomorrow.** Our religious education department will be offering a three class series dealing with the liturgical life of the Church and the sanctification of time beginning tomorrow. The class will be held in our community centre and will begin at 6 PM winding up at 8 PM. There is no particular text for the course and no required reading. There will be handouts and materials available for those that would like to have them. This class will follow the same format as other classes successfully offered in the Fall semester. Join us to expand your appreciation of the Holy Faith and it's impact on your life.

**Men's Fellowship Sponsor Snow-Shoe Outing.** Our Men's group is sponsoring a winter outing this coming Saturday. Participants are asked to meet at the church by 11:45 AM on Saturday, 16 January. From there they will car-pool to Empire (MI) for an afternoon of snowshoeing at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The guided tour will begin at 1 PM at the Visitor's Center. There the group will be outfitted with snowshoes (at no charge). Then the tour will consist of a leisurely walk of about 1 to 1.5 miles, with a guide, and should wrap up around 3:30 PM. Persons interested in participating are encouraged to communicate with Dennis Stavros for more details.

**Frostbite Food Drive Comes Early This Year.** Our neighbors at Father Fred will be sponsoring the 16th Annual Frostbite Food Drive in conjunction with a promotion at Meijer beginning on Saturday, 15 January and wrapping up on Sunday, 24 January. Volunteers will be stationed at the Garfield Plaza in front of Agave Mexican Grill or at a second location, Fox Motors on M-31. The Fox Motors location will require volunteers on 22-24 January. The Garfield Plaza location requires volunteers throughout the entirety of the event. Volunteers are asked to sign up in teams for blocks of time no less than two hours in duration. Persons may volunteer by contacting Fr. Iakovos or by signing up on the sheet located in the parish community centre. This is an excellent way for us to be visible in our community and to reach out to those in need. Put your "woolies" on and join us for some cold-weather fun. Admit it, that's why you choose to live in Northwestern Lower Michigan instead of sunny (and with temperatures below freezing) Florida! Come join us help the poor of our region by volunteering for this worthwhile event.

**Don't Throw Out Those Old Church Calendars.** If you have a 2009 Ecclesiastical Calendar you are asked to please return it to the church. We will cut out all of the icons and use them on church school craft projects. The balance of the calendar will be recycled. Please help provide craft materials for our education programme by bringing in your calendars by next Sunday.

**Philoptochos To Meet.** The executive committee of the Ladies' Philoptochos chapter here will have their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, 14 January beginning at 5:30 PM at the community centre. This is an open meeting and all members are welcome to attend. Executive members unable to attend are asked to make apologies to acting secretary, Presvytera Joleen-Elisabet.