

Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

Epistle Lesson: Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy 3:10-15

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: St. Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

"I Fast Twice A Week..." This statement from the Gospel lection for this morning is just part of the justification of the proud Pharisee as he compares himself to the sinful Publican. The Pharisee assumes himself to be in a superior position to the lowly publican because of his works which he performs for everyone to see. Devoid of love, the Pharisee offers these disciplines as proofs of his own righteousness and deservedness of God's blessings having "earned" them by hard work and toil. When we hear this line our ears should perk-up and we should begin to wonder. "Wait a minute, I also fast twice a week." Orthodox Christians are instructed to fast twice per week, on Wednesdays and Fridays. How often have I let myself think that my prayer life, my fasting, my good works have "earned" me holiness and justification in the sight of God? So that we do not become arrogant like the Pharisee when standing before God we are prohibited from fasting this week. It removes from us the boast that we fast. Rather, the lack of fasting underscores our brokenness before God and our total dependence upon His graciousness and kindness. This week we do not fast so as not to be able to boast before God or man.

Women's Lenten Retreat. Sponsored at Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction, MI Thursday, March 11 - Sunday, March 14. If you would like to participate, please notify Sharon Foster at 231-267-3036 by Tuesday, January 26. You may arrive on Thursday or any day during the four day retreat. The monastery would like to know your exact day of arrival and departure so that they can make arrangements for meals and lodging.

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 4- Sunday, 24 January 2010

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 24 January
Orthros Eothinon 11
Apolytikion Tone 8

**Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.
The Triodion Begins**
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:15 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Monday, 25 January

St. Gregory the Theologian
6 PM Father Arseny Book Discussion Meeting

Tuesday, 26 January

St. Xenophon and Companions

Wednesday, 27 January

Removal of the Relics of St. John Chrysostomos
Fast Free Day—No Fasting

Thursday, 28 January

St. Ephraim the Syrian
6 PM Special Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 29 January

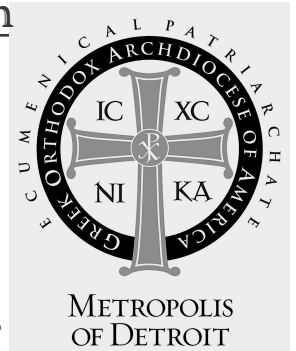
Removal of the Relics of St. Ignatios the God-bearer
Fast Free Day—No Fasting

Saturday, 30 January

Three Holy Hierarchs: SS. Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostomos
4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers

Sunday, 31 January
Orthros Eothinon 1
Apolytikion Tone 1

17th Sunday of St. Luke. Sunday of the Prodigal. SS Cyrus and John the Unmercenaries.
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:15 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
Noon Strategic Planning Meeting



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MLK Display Donated by Stavros Family. This morning our parish receives a donation of the Life Magazine cover photograph from the March 26, 1965 issue depicting Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr at a memorial service held in Selma, Alabama for Rev. James Reeb, a Unitarian Universalist Pastor from Boston, MA who was a casualty in the 7 March 1965 civil rights march held there. The Stavros' secured a copy of the magazine cover and had it framed for our parish to be presented during the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day this past Monday. Thanks are extended to the Stavros' for organizing this tribute to Dr. King and the late Archbishop Iakovos of thrice blessed memory.

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 today. Guest speaker for the event will be the newly elevated Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gaylord, His Excellency, 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.

Strategic Planning Meeting Sunday, 31 January. Following the services next Sunday we will be having a parish wide general meeting to wrap up the mission and vision statement to drive the community's strategic planning process. It is imperative that all of our stakeholders participate in this exercise. Everyone's input is valuable and necessary for us to move forward as a community. In light of the naming of our parish in November, the time has come to fulfill our destiny as a parish in Northwestern Lower Michigan. Please join us for this important meeting. Persons that would like to review the work of the prior planning meetings can find those materials at our web-site or by contacting council secretary Judy Weston for a paper copy. Join us in shaping the future of our parish.

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 Denno's Museum. This will be a fascinating and enriching addition to our already outstanding religious education department offerings.

Dr. Bouteneff will join us for the celebration of vespers on Saturday afternoon at 4:30 PM. Following the vespers there will be an informal roundtable discussion of the Soviet system of gulags and how they impacted the spirituality and life of people in them. On Sunday, he will join us for the Holy Liturgy and then give a lecture at the Denno's Museum beginning at 2 PM. During the lecture he will highlight the manifestation of grace under rather oppressive and inhuman conditions. There will be another opportunity for questions and answers at the museum lecture. This is a unique opportunity to experience a world class theologian and

speaker right here in our own back yard. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this very special offering that is made available through the generosity of one of our parishioners who provided an underwriting grant as well as our own religious education department.

Kolyva Class to be Offered. The Religious Education Department will be offering a kolyva making class on Friday, February 5, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Community Center. This class will be taught by Mrs. Helen Knapp of our Parish. The only items necessary to bring from home are: a medium sized bowl, a spoon, and a sieve/sifter for the powdered sugar. The wheat for this activity will be boiled and dried for the class, so one only needs to be ready to mix the whole thing together. Mrs. Knapp will be instructing in the process of preparing the wheat and how it is put together; including the items that go on top of the mixture. Some background and history on the use of Kolyva in the Church will also be given at this class. Kolyva made at this class will be used for the Soul Saturday Service on February 6. Participants may also want to bring the names of their Orthodox departed to be commemorated on the day as well. If you plan on attending this class, please phone Rebekah at 231-668-6583 or 231-590-3480 to reserve a spot. As the wheat takes a long time to dry, please RSVP by Sunday, January 31st, to enable us to have enough available for all participants in the class.

Special Choir Rehearsals For Great Lent. It is hard to believe but the Church has entered the season of the Triodion which marks the beginning of the march towards Great Lent...the most sacred season of fasting, self-examination and repentance. All of us know that Great Lent is a time of great effort. There are many additional church services as well as significant and difficult efforts at fasting and attacking the passions that hold us back from reaching full maturity as Christians.

To prepare for this season our choir will have several special Thursday evening rehearsals beginning with this Thursday night. Rehearsals start at 6 PM and will be finished by 8 PM. These are working rehearsals and will focus on music for the Liturgy of the Presanctified as well as the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete. Additionally the group will be working on material for the Sunday liturgical responses common to the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great used during Great Lent. Everyone is welcome to join us. Additional rehearsals are scheduled for 4 and 11 February.

Tickets On Sale For Bye-Bye Birdie Tomorrow. Several of our parishioners will be participating in the Traverse City St. Francis High School's production of "Bye-Bye Birdie" which opens on Friday, 12 February. The show is currently enjoying a Broadway revival starring John Stamos and Gina Gershon. In this show (an exuberant rock 'n' roll musical comedy) it's 1960 and hip-swingin' teen idol superstar Conrad Birdie has been drafted into the Army. Birdie's manager and his secretary cook up a plan to send him off with a swell new song and one last kiss from a lucky teenage fan...on "The Ed Sullivan Show!" Featuring a score with more pop than a pack of bubble gum, including "A Lot of Livin' to Do," "Kids," and "Put On a Happy Face," it's impossible to resist the charms of this Tony Award winning musical. Contact the Box office at 941-9875 for more information about tickets.

Holy Archangel Gabriel pray unto God for us; who are the speedy helper and intercessor for our souls