

## Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

### Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews 13:7-16

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go forth to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

### Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Luke 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

**Book Store News.** A book new to our Church bookstore is entitled: *A GUIDE TO GREEK TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS IN AMERICA* – 2<sup>ND</sup> Hardbound Edition by Marilyn Rouvelas. Since its initial publication in 1993, it has become a "classic" of sorts – now in its second printing. Here is a popular, complete presentation tailored to those interested in Orthodox religious traditions and Greek-American culture.

This is a handy, well written "go-to" reference, organized by subject matter: Part One: The Enduring Traditions of Orthodoxy, Part Two: Customs of Everyday Life, Part Three: Feast Days, Fasts, and Holidays and Part Four: The Global Community. It is reasonably priced at \$ 30.00 and available at our Bookstore. Your response to our below "list price" book collection has been phenomenal. The remaining unsold titles have been "returned" to our general bookstore stock still bearing "reduced" prices. There are still some interesting titles left. Following The Divine Liturgy, ask one of our capable staff to help direct you to the books bearing the distinctive pink price sticker .

**Save This Date.** Sunday, 8 February our parish will be sponsoring an adult snowshoe outing. In anticipation of St. Valentine's Day events and as part of our parish "wellness" activity programme, we are inviting everyone to join us on a one mile snow shoe hike followed by a meal at a local TC restaurant. Snowshoes will be available as rentals and the meal will be "dutch treat". Please sign up if you are interested in participating in this event.

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

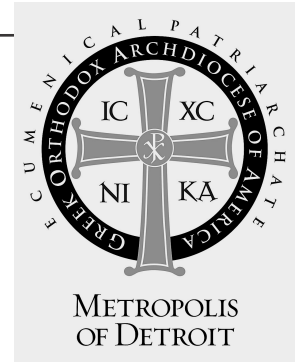
## Traverse City Orthodox Mission Church

*Traditional Worship for Modern Life*

Volume III Number 3 - Sunday, 18 January 2009

### PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 18 January	<b>12th Sunday of St. Luke. SS. Athanasios and Kyrillos, Patriarchs of Alexandria</b> 9 am Orthros 10 am Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:30 am Fellowship Hour Noon Church School Sloppy Joe and Sledding Party
Monday, 19 January	<b>St. Makarios the Great of Egypt.</b>
Tuesday, 20 January	<b>Righteous Euthemios the Great.</b>
Wednesday, 21 January	<b>St. Maximos the Confessor</b> Strict Fast Day
Thursday, 22 January	<b>St. Timothy the Apostle of the Seventy.</b>
Friday, 23 January	<b>St. Clement the Hieromartyr of Ancyra</b> Strict Fast Day
Saturday, 24 January	<b>St. Xenia, Deaconess of Rome.</b> No Vesper Service or Choir Rehearsal This Week.
Sunday, 25 January	<b>15th Sunday of St. Luke. St. Gregory the Theologian- Patriarch of Constantinople</b> 9 am Orthros 10 am Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:30 am Fellowship Hour



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**Parish Council Reorganizes for 2009.** Our parish council held their first meeting of the new year and held the election of officers as part of that meeting. Elected to the offices were: Karen Kain—president; vice-president—Stephanie Long; treasurer—Doug Partlo and secretary—Judy Weston. Installed to the following portfolios for the year were: Doug Partlo and John Batsakis—Physical Plant, Building and Grounds; Stephanie Long (assisted by Holly Olszewski) Strategic Planning; Karen Kain—Public Relations; Angie and Roger Dunlap—Bookstore Management; Holly Olszewski—Director of Religious Education; Ray Ealy (assisted by Doug Partlo) Finance and Accounting; and Helen Dalbo (assisted by Donna Psaros) Stewardship and Membership.

In other news, the council approved the establishment of a “crisis fund” to be administered by Fr. Iakovos. These funds will be used to assist persons known to him with various financial needs and their identities held in strict confidence. Father informed the council that he has spent several thousand dollars of his own money on rent rescues, auto repairs, clothing, utilities and various other things for people in need. In order to insure the anonymity of people that receive aid, Father will be the sole administrator of this account. Parishioners that know of persons in serious financial difficulty are encouraged to speak with Father to see if there are ways in which they may be assisted.

Financial reports for year-end 2008 were read and approved. It was reported that the gross revenues of the congregation were \$149,786.09. Our accountant also reported that we have a surplus of \$8,492.49 on the year. Ray Ealy was asked to meet with our accountant to ensure that coding and allocation of expenditures was done to proper accounts. There was particular attention paid to the use of capital funds for all of the improvements we have had done to our chapel.

The stewardship committee reported that a total of \$108,246 was collected against pledges of \$106,350 for 2008.

Our bookstore reported 2008 total sales of \$3,584.14. We are happy to see such a successful year for our bookstore. Congratulations and thanks to Angie and Roger for doing such a great job.

The web site continues to be a wonderful addition to the ministry of our parish. Recently we posted a video clip of Father Iakovos blessing the West arm of the Grand Traverse Bay. The video was shot by Roger Dunlap of our parish. It is just amazing what technology has allowed us to do—check us out.

The Building and Grounds committee has entered into negotiations with our landlord for an additional amount of space to enable us to expand our community center and add some classrooms for our educational offerings. All totaled we should have approximately 3,000 square feet in the Hastings Street facility. Get ready to grow with us!

**Sunday School Sloppy Joe and Sledding Party Today.** Our church school will be sponsoring a sloppy joe pot luck and sledding party immediately following services this morning. The sledding is open to all and will take place at the Grand Traverse Civic Center. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and a table

service in traditional “pioneer” fashion. Following the meal, we will move to the Civic Center in order to enjoy an afternoon of sledding. Persons who would like to sled are asked to bring their favourite sled with them. There will be a small number of spare sleds available for those that do not have one.

**Super Sunday Bible Quiz Bowl.** This year Tampa Bay has been slated as the site of Super Bowl 43 to be held on February 1. No one knows which teams will participate, but it should be exciting. Not to be out-done by anyone, our church school will be sponsoring its own version of the Super Bowl. On Sunday, February 1, we will have two teams compete in the Super Sunday Bible Quiz Bowl. Two teams based upon the actual Super Bowl participating teams will compete. These teams will be multigenerational—children, youth, adults—and each team will be asked questions from a pre-selected pool of questions dealing with Bible facts and information. Questions will be targeted in difficulty to the age and ability of the person receiving the question on the team—easier questions for children and youth and more difficult questions for our adults. It should be a fun afternoon of challenge and learning for all of us. Watch this space for more information and details about how to sign up on your favourite team.

**Had Enough of the Snow? House for Sale in Florida.** This has truly turned out to be ‘somekinda’ winter. For some, heading to a warmer climate is the solution to what seems to be snow that just won’t stop. Father’s brother Fred is involved in helping his father-in-law sell his home in Florida in order to move him and his wife back to Pennsylvania to be close to family to help with care. The house is located at 11575 Northwest Creek Drive, Alachua, FL 32615 (Near Gainesville). It is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath home built in 1991 consisting of 1515 sq. ft. The owner is asking \$209,900 and the property is offered through Eleanor Clay RE/MAX Professionals Inc. <http://www.eleanorclay.com/> Agent: (352)870-1477. MLS ID # 298477. For more information, contact the realtor.

**2009 Stewardship Cards Due Now.** Our stewardship committee is asking that anyone that has not returned their stewardship card do so as soon as possible. This enables us to make plans with respect to our budgeting for the year as well as scheduling supplementary fund raising activities. Cards may be returned via mail to our post office box or given directly at the church. Please make it a point to get your card in before the end of the month.

**Teachings of the Holy Fathers.** St. Anthony the Great teaches: ‘Learn to desire humility, for that will cover all your sins. All sin is hateful to God, but the most hateful of all is pride of heart. Do not consider yourself learned or wise, or all your toil will be lost and your ship will arrive empty at the shore...If you have great power, threaten no man with death; know that according to nature you also are subject to death and that each soul takes off its body as its final clothing.’

No matter what grief you may encounter, whatever unpleasantness may happen to you, say: “I will endure this for Jesus Christ!” Just say this and it will be easier for you. For the name of Jesus Christ is powerful—with it all unpleasantness will subside, the demons will vanish; your vexation will die away and your faintheartedness will calm down when you repeat His most sweetest name. *St. Anthony of Optina*