

## Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

### Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

### Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Luke 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

**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. 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. Check them out today!

**Frostbite Food Drive Ramps Up.** Our neighbors at Father Fred Foundation are sponsoring, once again, the food drive that helps to restock the largest food pantry in Northwestern Lower Michigan. The drive requires teams of volunteers to receive donations of food at the drop off location on Garfield Street two blocks north of our church. Specifically, they need teams of volunteers for Thursday and Friday, 5 and 6 February between the hours of 9 AM and 1 PM. Shifts are broken up into two hour blocks of time. You may enlist by signing the sheet in the narthex or by phoning or e-Mailing the rectory. Let's all get behind this important community project. Don't forget to wear your woolies!

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

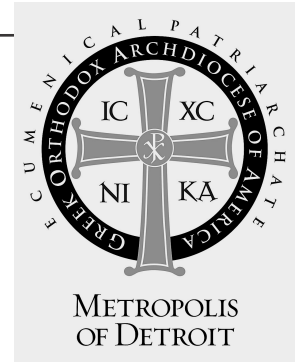
## Traverse City Orthodox Mission Church

*Traditional Worship for Modern Life*

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### PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 25 January	<b>15th Sunday of St. Luke. Sunday of Zacchaeus. St. Gregory the Theologian Patriarch of Constantinople</b> 9 am Orthros 10 am Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:30 am Fellowship Hour
Monday, 26 January	<b>St. Xenophon and his Companions.</b>
Tuesday, 27 January	<b>Removal of the Relics of St. John Chrysostomos.</b>
Wednesday, 28 January	<b>St. Ephraim the Syrian.</b> Strict Fast Day
Thursday, 29 January	<b>Removal of the Relics of St. Ignatios of Antioch.</b> 5:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers
Friday, 30 January	<b>Three Holy Hierarchs SS. Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostomos.</b> Fast Day–Wine and Oil Permitted 9 am Orthros/Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
Saturday, 31 January	<b>SS. Cyrus and John, the Unmercenarys</b> 9 AM Orthros and Liturgy at Petoskey  4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 1 February	<b>Sunday of the Canaanite Woman.</b> 9 am Orthros 10 am Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:30 am Fellowship Hour Noon Super Sunday Bible Bowl 4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers



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**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.

**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. Its going to be Pittsburgh and Arizona in this year's match-up. Not to be out-done by anyone, our church school will be sponsoring its own version of the Super Bowl. On game day we will have two teams compete in the Super Sunday Bible Quiz Bowl. These teams will represent the actual Super Bowl participating teams. They will be multigenerational teams, made up of children, youth, and adults. 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.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex of the church. Persons interested in participating are asked to sign up and indicate their team preference. On game day, our team members will be asked to display the colours of their respective team and get ready to "hit 'em hard" in answering the tough questions. Well maybe forget about the tough questions; but, there will be questions that will be thought-provoking and challenging. Pop-corn and hot-dogs will be on the menu, just like at the stadium. Come and enjoy the fun and camaraderie!

**Snow-shoe Outing.** 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". Persons that would like to join us for the meal and forgo the snow-shoe part of the day can meet us at the designated restaurant following the event. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are interested in participating in this outing. This will help us to organize the shoe rentals. If you only want to do the dinner, please indicate that you are not interested in a shoe rental.

**Thanks for the Flowers.** Thanks are extended to the Simao-Hagerty Family for providing the beautiful floral arrangements displayed weekly in our sanctuary. Their kindness and generosity sure does beautify our church!

**Had Enough of the Snow? House for Sale in Florida.** 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.

**Zacchaios Sunday Marks Run-up to the Triodion and Great Lent.** It is hard to believe but we are only five weeks away from the beginning of the effort that we call Great Lent. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann of blessed memory, in his book, **Great Lent** wrote a very excellent reflection on this introductory period to the struggle that we call Great Lent. He writes: *Long before the actual beginning of Lent, the Church announces its approach and invites us to enter into the period of pre-Lenten preparation. It is a characteristic feature of the Orthodox liturgical tradition that every major feast or season is announced and "prepared" in advance. Why? Because of the deep psychological insight by the Church into human nature. Knowing our lack of concentration and the frightening "worldliness" of our life, the Church knows our inability to change rapidly, to go abruptly from one spiritual or mental state into another. Thus, long before the actual effort of Lent is to begin, the Church calls our attention to its seriousness and invites us to meditate on its significance. Before we can practice Lent we are given its meaning. This preparation includes five consecutive Sundays preceding Lent, each one of them—through its particular Gospel lesson—dedicated to some fundamental aspect of repentance.*

*The very first announcement of Lent is made the Sunday on which the Gospel lesson about Zacchaios is read. It is the story of a man who was too short to see Jesus but who desired so much to see Him that he climbed up a tree. Jesus responded to his desire and went to his house. Thus the theme of this first announcement is **desire**. Man follows his desire. One can even say that man is desire, and this fundamental truth about human nature is acknowledged by the Gospel: 'Where your treasure is', says Christ, 'there shall your heart be.' A strong desire overcomes the natural limitations of man; when he passionately desires something he does things of which 'normally' he is incapable. Being 'short' he overcomes and transcends himself. The only question, therefore, is whether we desire the right things, whether the power of desire in us is aimed at the right goal, or whether—in the words of the existential atheist, Jean Paul Sartre—man is a 'useless passion.'*

*Zacchaios desired the right thing; he wanted to see and approach Christ. He is the first symbol of repentance, for **repentance begins as the rediscovery of the deep nature of all desire: the desire for God and His righteousness, for the true life.** Zacchaios is short—petty, sinful and limited—yet his desire overcomes all this. It forces Christ's attention; it brings Christ to his home. Such, then is the first announcement, the first invitation: ours is to desire that which is deepest and truest in ourselves, to acknowledge the thirst and hunger for the Absolute which is in us whether we know it or not, and which, when we deviate from it and turn our desires away, makes us indeed 'useless passion.' And if we desire deeply enough, strongly enough, Christ will respond.*