

## Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

### Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews 1:10-14;2:1-3

"IN THE BEGINNING, you O Lord, didst found the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

### Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Mark 2:1-12

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins'-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

**Flooring Project Moves Forward.** Yesterday seven men of our parish rolled up their sleeves and got on their knees to begin phase one of the flooring job in our community room. Participants in the knee-numbing work of the day were: Steve Bemis, John Batsakis, Rob Fickling, Randy Kain, Doug Partlo, John Psaros and Tom Sebestyen. Assisting and providing food for the men was Karen Kain. The men prepared about 1,000 square feet of floor removing old glue and other materials to prep the area to receive the new vinyl tile approved by the council. Randy Kain will be working the project and coordinating our efforts in this area. People that would like to help out with this project are asked to contact Karen or Randy Kain for more information.

Heartfelt thanks are extended to everyone that worked on phase one of this project. Please make it a point to thank each one of these people individually for their sacrifice of time and talent for the benefit of the community.

*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 11- Sunday, 15 March 2009

### PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

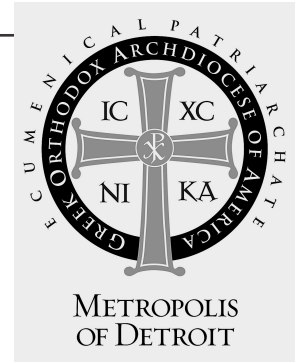
Sunday, 15 March	<b>Second Sunday of Great Lent. St. Gregory Palamas.</b> Fast Day—Wine and Oil Permitted. 9 AM Orthros/10 AM Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour Noon Scrap-booking Event with Nancy 5 PM 9th Hour and Vespers
Monday, 16 March	<b>St. Savinos the Martyr of Egypt.</b> Fast Day
Tuesday, 17 March	<b>St. Alexios the Man of God. St. Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland.</b> Fast Day
Wednesday, 18 March	<b>St. Cyril, Patriarch of Jerusalem.</b> Fast Day 5:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts
Thursday, 19 March	<b>SS. Chrysanthos and Daria the Martyrs.</b> Fast Day
Friday, 20 March	<b>Righteous Fathers Slain at the Monastery of St. Savas.</b> Fast Day 5:30 PM Akathistos Hymn Στασις Γ
Saturday, 21 March	<b>St. James the Confessor.</b> Fast Day—Wine and Oil Permitted. 9:00 AM Orthros/Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos @ Petoskey 4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 22 March	<b>Third Sunday of Great Lent. The Holy Cross.</b> Fast Day—Wine and Oil Permitted. 9 AM Orthros/10 AM Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour 5 PM 9th Hour and Vespers

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**Church Social Event Today—Scrap-booking 101.** Nancy Wick of Sutton's Bay will be with us following the services today to facilitate a fun-filled scrap booking event for our parish. Persons interested in participating are asked to congregate in our community center following the social hour to receive an introduction to this wonderful hobby. Bring your own photographs and create a book filled with memories for yourself or a loved one. This event is sponsored by our parish and was organized and coordinated by Helen Knapp.

Our next social event will be a Lenten Cook-Off which will take place on Sunday, 29 March. Watch this space for more information over the next week.

**Parish Council Meeting Outcomes.** Our parish council had their regular monthly meeting this past Tuesday in the parish community center. Present for the meeting were: Karen Kain, president; Stephanie Long, vice-president; Doug Partlo, treasurer; John Batsakis, Ray Ealy, Helen Knapp and Bob Underwood (for part of the meeting by telephone hook-up). Attending in the gallery were Martha Ealy and Dennis Stavros.

Absent with apologies were: Judy Weston, secretary; and Theresa Patterson.

The council reviewed financial statements made by Doug Partlo and Ray Ealy. Total income reported for the month of February was \$5,145.30. Expenses for the period totaled \$11,324.99 resulting in a net deficit for the month of \$6,179.69. Mr. Partlo explained that year-to-date (1 January thru 28 February) we are actually tracking as would be expected after reviewing last year's data. The majority of the deficit is due to timing issues, he said.

Our stewardship committee reported total number of pledges recorded for 2009 equaling \$96,911. Receipts to date total \$11,775. Our distribution of pledges is: \$10,000 and above =3; \$5,000-\$9,999 =2; \$1,000-\$4,999 =23; \$500-\$999 =13; and less than \$499 for the year =12..

In other news the council voted to proceed with flooring projects in both our community center and education centers. Estimated cost of the project in the community center is \$2,193.08 with a similar amount needed to install flooring in the education center as well. Work will be performed by Randy Kain of our parish assisted by a journeyman and some of our parishioners doing tear out and floor prep.

Father Iakovos reported to the council that His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas has tentatively scheduled a visit with us in early July during the Cherry Festival time. We will begin planning for this visit following Pascha. This will also mark the end of the second year of Father's assignment to this parish.

**Strategic Planning Process Moves Forward.** Our parish had its second in a series of meetings aimed at developing a strategic plan last Sunday immediately following the Holy Services. Under the direction of Stephanie Long, a sub-committee split off from the main group to craft a vision statement. Meanwhile, the main group broke into smaller groups to keep working on the brain-storming that was begun at our last meeting. The results of the dialogues at the various tables were then shared with the entire group. A healthy discussion and exchange of ideas ensued as the larger group waited for the "vision" group to conclude their deliberations.

The resultant vision statement draft was: ***We, as the Traverse City Orthodox Mission Church, value: prayer and worship as our foundation, education to nourish the faithful, and philanthropy to serve and create awareness in the community.***

Over the period of the next several weeks, everyone is asked to reflect on this vision and see if it, in fact, represents the community-wide vision for our parish. The brainstormed ideas from which we will formulate our mission statement included:

- Educational classes
- Parishioners give lessons and invite the community to attend
- Philanthropy through an already established organization such as Father Fred
- Establish our own soup kitchen
- Find a niche that needs to be filled in the community
- Mentoring program with community on a one-on-one basis—we work from our collective professions and education
- Lunch box buddies with local school kids
- Hospital visits
- Orthodox coffee shop for young and old
- Open house with Greek dinner—informational handouts
- Full-time bookstore catering to Orthodoxy
- Lives of the saints theme with Greek dinner
- Outreach to homeless families and kids
- Daycare/after-school program
- Recipe book from our parishioners
- Orthodox lending library
- Head start preschool with Federally funded dollars
- Presence at Cherry Festival—a stand, a float, etc...
- Build a new church
- Pray, fast, almsgiving for spiritual growth vs. Education alone
- Individual spirituality of members saves people more than programs do

Our next meeting will be on St. Thomas Sunday, the week following Holy Pascha. Your participation in this process is essential for our success. Please make it a point to join us for these meetings and give some thought to the ideas that will govern our decision making over the next several years.