

Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews 6:13-20

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us. And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

To admire the labours of the saints is good; to emulate them wins salvation; but to wish suddenly to imitate their life in every point is unreasonable and impossible.

St. John Klimakos in The Ladder of Divine Ascent.

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 13- Sunday, 29 March 2009

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 29 March	Fourth Sunday of Great Lent. St. John Klimakos. St. Mark of Arethusa. Fast Day—Wine and Oil Permitted. 9 AM Orthros/10 AM Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 11:30 AM Lenten Pot Luck Followed by Krolczyk Cellars Wine Tasting No Vespers This Evening
Monday, 30 March	St. John Klimakos. Fast Day
Tuesday, 31 March	St. Hypatios. Fast Day
Wednesday, 1 April	St. Mary of Egypt. Fast Day 5:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified
Thursday, 2 April	St. Titus the Wonder-worker. Fast Day
Friday, 3 April	St. Niktas the Confessor. Fast Day 5:30 PM Akathistos Hymn Στασις Ε
Saturday, 4 April	St. George the Righteous of Maleon. Fast Day—Wine and Oil Permitted No Vespers or Choir Rehearsal Today Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. St. Mary of Egypt. Fast Day—Wine and Oil Permitted. 9 AM Orthros/10 AM Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 11:30 AM Church School 5 PM 9th Hour and Vespers
Sunday, 5 April	



www.tcorthodoxchurch.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2356, Traverse City, MI 49685

Meeting Address: 1030 Hastings St., Traverse City, MI 49686

Church Phone: 231.668.6583 Cell: 231.590.2038 e-Mail: iakovos@charter.net

Lenten Pot-Luck and Wine Tasting Today. Our community will be sponsoring a pot-luck today that will focus on "fasting" dishes in all categories. Appetizers, breads, soups, entrees, deserts, and more will be showcased at this event. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favourite Lenten dish to pass and share with everyone following the Holy Services. Remember, on weekdays of Great Lent we are not permitted foods that have meat, dairy products, fish, wine or oil in them. Weekends and special feast days of Lent do allow wine and oil and sometimes, like the feast of the Annunciation, we are allowed fish, wine and oil.

Following our pot luck, there will be an educational lecture presented by Joni and Dan Krolczyk of Krolczyk Cellars dealing with wine making and the wine industry. There will be a tasting that samples six wines from their cellar. Wines will be available for purchase with 10% of the proceeds going to our church. The presentation will begin around noon.

The Life of St. John Klimakos. St. John of the Ladder (Klimakos) is the author of "The Ladder of Divine Ascent." John came to Mt. Sinai as a sixteen year old youth and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, and afterwards as a recluse, and finally as abbot of Sinai until his eightieth year. He died around the year 563 A.D. His biographer, the monk Daniel, says about him: "His body ascended the heights of Sinai, while his soul ascended the heights of heaven." He remained under obedience with his spiritual father, Martyrius, for nineteen years. Anastasius of Sinai, seeing the young John, prophesied that he would become the abbot of Sinai. After the death of his spiritual father, John withdrew into a cave, where he lived a difficult life of asceticism for twenty years. His disciple, Moses, fell asleep one day under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later on, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. At the insistence of the brotherhood, John agreed to become abbot and directed the salvation of the souls of men with zeal and love. From someone John heard a reproach that he talked too much. Not being angered by this, John however remained silent for an entire year and did not utter a word until the brothers implored him to speak and to continue to teach them his God-given wisdom. On one occasion, when six-hundred pilgrims came to the Monastery of Sinai, everyone saw an agile youth in Jewish attire serving at a table and giving orders to other servants and assigning them. All at once, this young man disappeared. When everyone noticed this and began to question it, John said to them, "Do not seek him, for that was Moses the Prophet serving in my place." During the time of his silence in the cave, John wrote many worthwhile books, of which the most glorious is "The Ladder." This book is still read by many, even today. In this book, John describes the method of elevating the soul to God, as ascending a ladder. Before his death, John designated George, his brother in the flesh, as abbot. George grieved much because of his separation from John. Then John said to him, that, if he [John] were found worthy to be near God in the other world, he would pray to Him, that, he, [George], would be taken to heaven that same year. And, so it was. After ten months George succeeded and settled among the citizens of heaven as did his great brother, John.

Coin Drive to Benefit Crisis Fund. There are two five gallon water bottles in the community center. One bottle is for adults, the other is for the youth of the parish. Over the past several weeks we have been collecting coins and loose change in the bottles. At the end of Great Lent, we will tally the amount of coins in each bottle. The funds will be deposited to help bolster our crisis fund which is used to provide financial aid to our parishioners that find themselves facing some kind of crisis. The group generating the most coins will receive a prize for their efforts. Don't forget to bring your loose change and donate toward this worthwhile cause. We are making great progress but time is

a-wasting; Lent is almost over!

Pascha Flower Drive. With the mailing of our quarterly stewardship statements you will find an envelope dedicated to the collection of funds to pay for the decoration of the epitaphios and the temple for the Feast of Holy Pascha which takes place on 19 April. Last year we collected enough funds to fully underwrite all of our flowers--this year we hope to do the same. Please be as generous as you can.

Save This Date. On Wednesday, 29 April, Cub Scout Pack 87 will be running a blood drive to help Michigan Community Blood Centers at Culver's on M-31/37 north of Chums Corners. Persons interested in donating blood at that time are asked to sign up on the sheet located in our community center. Blood donations will be accepted between 4 and 7 PM on that date.

Purchase Your Service Books Now! Great Lent is a very special season in the Church. As such we have some very specialised services that are celebrated only during this season. Of these services, the Akathistos Hymn and the full cycle of Holy Week services are quite unique. Due to the sheer volume of material it is impractical for the church to provide service books to the faithful for all of these services. The expectation is that **you will take it upon yourself to purchase a service book** from our bookstore. These books are reasonably priced and affordable for most. Persons finding themselves in financial difficulty with respect to purchasing a service book should see Fr. Iakovos about obtaining a bursary (subsidy) to make the purchase. As it is, everyone that plans on participating in these services is encouraged to purchase their books as soon as possible to make sure that they have them in time to use. There will be a small number of books available to be borrowed but it is expected that each parishioner will bring his own book to the services. See Roger Dunlap for more details about purchasing your book today!

Pilgrimage to Holy Sites in Italy. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky will be leading an Orthodox pilgrimage to the Holy Sites of Italy this June. The pilgrimage will provide an unique opportunity to celebrate the Holy Liturgy in Roman Catacombs, at the relics of St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker in Bari, to pray and visit innumerable holy places through Italy, including the sites in Venice, Ravenna, Rome, Naples and many others. The pilgrimage is planned and will be conducted by an Orthodox clergyman, and guides during the tour will be from among local Orthodox clergy and laity. In addition to religious component of the tour, there will be very comprehensive historical program that will include visits to numerous museums, world famous Byzantine basilicas in Ravenna and mighty ruins in Rome, Pompeii and Herculaneum. The pilgrimage is scheduled for the end of June, when the weather is the best, but cities in Italy are not yet overcrowded with hordes of tourists. While there are already enough people to conduct the tour, there remain some spaces available for those who may desire to join the trip. The current group consists of Orthodox Christians and a majority of them are young adults and college students. This pilgrimage is the perfect opportunity to spend the summer vacation in an edifying and highly rewarding manner for anyone, but may be particularly beneficial to younger generation as a learning experiences about some of the most Ancient and revered places of Christendom. For more information, please visit our website at: www.orthodoxtours.com or contact Fr. Ilya directly at ortours@gmail.com or by phone: 607-797-1058.

Lazaros Saturday Activities. Join us on Lazaros Saturday to make palm crosses and donkeys in commemoration of the Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem on "Palm" Sunday. Following the services on Saturday morning, 11 April, we'll be meeting to make the crosses and donkeys in the community center. Instruction will be provided for those who are unfamiliar with how to do this. Please make a plan to join us for this fun-filled afternoon.