

## Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

### Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews 9:11-14

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

### Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Mark 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**Parish Council to Meet.** Our parish council will have their regular monthly meeting a little early this month due to the Lenten service schedule. They will meet this Tuesday at 5:30 PM in the parish community center. Agendas, reports and other information will be distributed to council members electronically. All stewards and parishioners in good standing are welcome to join us for these council meetings. They are an excellent way to stay aware of the happenings in the parish as well as inform the council as to concerns and ideas held by people of our parish.

Agenda items, attendance considerations, etc., should be forwarded to Judy Weston or Karen Kain as soon as possible.

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

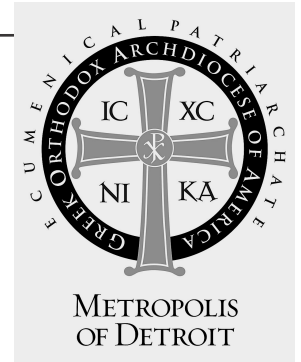
## Traverse City Orthodox Mission Church

*Traditional Worship for Modern Life*

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### PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 5 April	<b>Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. St. Mary of Egypt.</b> 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
Monday, 6 April	<b>St. Eutychios, Patriarch of Constantinople.</b> Fast Day
Tuesday, 7 April	<b>St. Kalliopios the Martyr.</b> Fast Day 5:30 PM Monthly Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 8 April	<b>SS. Agavos, Roufos, and those with them.</b> Fast Day 5:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified
Thursday, 9 April	<b>St. Eupychios the Martyr.</b> Fast Day
Friday, 10 April	<b>St. Terence and those with him beheaded at Carthage.</b> Fast Day
Saturday, 11 April	<b>Lazaros Saturday.</b> Fast Day—Wine and Oil Permitted 9 AM Orthros/Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 12 April	<b>Palm Sunday. Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem</b> Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted. 9 AM Orthros/10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:30 AM Church School 5 PM Bridegroom Matins ο Νυμφίος Ορθρος



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**The Life of St. Mary of Egypt.** The biography of this wonderful saint was written by St. Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Once, during the Honorable Fast [Lenten Season], a certain priest-monk (Heiromonk), the Elder Zosimus, withdrew into the wilderness beyond the Jordan, a twenty-day trek. Suddenly, he caught sight of a human being with a withered and naked body whose hair was as white as snow and who began to flee from the sight of Zosimus. The elder ran for a long while until this person crouched down in a brook and cried out: "Abba Zosimus forgive me for the sake of the Lord. I cannot face you for I am a naked woman." Zosimus then tossed his outer garment to her which she wrapped around herself and then showed herself to him. The elder was frightened upon hearing his name spoken from the mouth of this woman he did not know. Following his prolonged insistence, the woman related her life story. She was born in Egypt and at the age of twelve began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria where she spent seventeen years in this perverted way of life. Driven by the adulterous flame of the flesh, one day she boarded a boat which was sailing for Jerusalem. Arriving at the Holy City, she wanted to enter the church in order to venerate the Honorable Cross but some invisible force restrained her and prevented her from entering the church. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the All-Holy Mother of God in the vestibule and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross, all the while confessing her sinfulness and uncleanness and promising that she would go wherever the All-Pure One would direct her. She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross she again entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross over Jordan you will find real peace!" Immediately she purchased three loaves of bread and started out for the Jordan where she arrived that same evening. The next day she received Holy Communion in the Monastery of St. John and crossed over the Jordan river. She remained in the wilderness for forty-eight years in great torment, fear and struggle with passionate thoughts as though with wild beasts. She fed on vegetation. Afterward, when she stood for prayer, Zosimus saw her levitate in the air. She begged him to bring her Holy Communion the following year on the shore of the Jordan where she would then come to receive it. The following year, Zosimus arrived on the shore of the Jordan in the evening with Holy Communion. He wondered how this saint would cross the Jordan. At that moment, in the light of the moon, he saw her as she approached the river, made the sign of the cross over it and walked upon the water as though upon dry land. After Zosimus administered Holy Communion to her, she begged him to come the following year to the same brook where they had first met. Zosimus came and discovered her lifeless body on that spot. Above her head in the sand was written: "Abba Zosimus, bury the body of the humble Mary on this site; render dust to dust. I died on April 1, the same night of the saving-suffering of Christ, after having received Communion of the Divine Mysteries." From this inscription Zosimus first learned her name and the other and awesome miracle was that, she, on that same night the previous year, when she received Holy Communion, arrived at this brook which took him twenty days to travel. Thus, Zosimus buried the body of this wonderful saint, Mary the Egyptian. When he returned to the monastery Zosimus related the entire history of her life and the miracles which he had personally witnessed. Thus, the Lord knows

how to glorify penitent sinners. St. Mary is also commemorated on the Fifth Sunday of the Honorable Fast (Fifth Sunday in Lent). The Church holds her up as an example to the faithful during these fast days as an incentive for repentance. She died about the year 530 A.D. As told in the book, *The Prologue of Ochrid* by St. Nikolai Velimirovic.

**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; there is one week left so act now!

**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!** Holy Week will be upon us in less than a week. Lent concludes this week. Due to the sheer volume of material involved in these services it is impractical for the church to provide service books to the faithful. 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!

**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 activity.

*Most Holy Mother Mary of Egypt Pray for Us!*