

Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians 4:4-9

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

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.

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

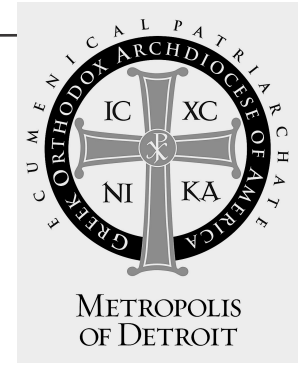
Traverse City Orthodox Mission Church

Traditional Worship for Modern Life

Volume III Number 15- Sunday, 12 April 2009

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 12 April	Palm Sunday. Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem 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
Monday, 13 April	Holy Monday. Fast Day 5:30 PM Bridegroom Matins
Tuesday, 14 April	Holy Tuesday. Fast Day 5:30 PM Bridegroom Matins
Wednesday, 15 April	Holy Wednesday. Fast Day 10 AM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified 5:30 PM Mysterion of Holy Unction
Thursday, 16 April	Holy Thursday. Fast Day 8 AM Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil—The Last Supper 5:30 PM Orthros of Holy Friday—The Passion of Christ
Friday, 17 April	Holy Friday. Fast Day 7 AM Royal Hours 10 AM-12 PM Decoration of the Tomb 3 PM Vespers and Apokathelosis 5:30 PM Service of Lamentations and Procession
Saturday, 18 April	Holy Saturday. Fast Day—Wine and Oil Permitted 9 AM Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 11 PM Mesonyctikos, Procession and Resurrection Svc.



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Sunday, 19 April

Holy Pascha. The Resurrection of the Lord.

Midnight Orthros/ Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

2 - ? AM Blessing of Paschal Foods and Breaking of the Fast

4 PM Agape Vespers followed by Pig Roast

Parish Council Meeting Report. Our council had their regular monthly meeting this past Tuesday. Present for the meeting were: Karen Kain, president; Stephanie Long, vice-president; Doug Partlo, treasurer; Judy Weston, secretary; and board members John Batsakis, Helen Knapp and Theresa Patterson. Absent with apologies were Ray Ealy and Bob Underwood.

The Stewardship Committee reported total pledges of record for the period ending 31 March of 58 valued at \$97,755. Total pledges received to date are \$24,025.

The Religious Education Committee reports that the coin drive will conclude on Lazarus Saturday. After the coins are counted the winning group will receive a Moomer's ice cream party. Proceeds from the drive will be deposited in the parish crisis fund. It was also reported that a pinata and Easter Egg Hunt will take place at the Agape Vespers in the afternoon during our pig roast event. Finally it was reported that Mrs. Nikki Lennox will be working with Father Iakovos and Mrs. Holly Olszewski to develop a youth ministry programme for our parish.

The Finance Committee reported a net surplus for the month of \$1,553.52. Total income for the period was \$12,874.61 against total expenses of \$11,321.09. For the first quarter of 2009 the Profit and Loss Statement shows a deficit of \$9,573.71 resulting from expenses of \$33,697.61 and income of \$24,123.90 for the period.

The Building Committee received approval for the purchase of 80 new chairs for use in the church. The current chairs being used will be moved into the newly completed community center and education center. The committee also reported on the flooring projects in the community center and education wing. Finally, the committee will be meeting with our landlord to go through a punch list of items that have not yet been completed with respect to improvements in our facility.

The next Strategic Planning meeting was set for Sunday, 17 May following the services. At that meeting the group will be working on honing our vision and mission statements.

There was also approval given to move forward on a parish-sponsored pig roast which will take place at the Agape Vespers on Pascha. Providing the pig and cooking expertise is Subdeacon Euphrosynos of our parish also known as Chef Eric of the Cook's House on Front Street in Traverse City. The council decided to forego a fish dinner that was originally slated for Palm Sunday so we could concentrate on putting on the Agape meal.

In other news the council discussed the upcoming parish General Assembly which will take place on Sunday, 3 May. The By-Laws require that this Spring Assembly be held so that the members can review the

audit of 2008 financial statements as well as review the 2009 budget. The council agreed to meet on 26 April to prep for the meeting.

The council also approved the purchase of a water cooler for use in our community center. In dealing with our coffee hour, the council decided that a donation basket to receive free-will offerings to underwrite the church supplied paper goods, etc., would be instituted.

Finally, the council approved our Holy Week and Pascha schedule for publication.

Pig Roast and Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is welcome to join us for a pig roast and Easter Egg hunt that will take place following the Agape services on Pascha at 4 PM. A free-will donation of \$10 per person is suggested in order to help defray the cost of the event although everyone is welcome to join us. In addition to the roast pig, various sides will be available including: potato salad, baked beans, salad greens, three bean salad and assorted breads. Plan to join us for this wonderful social and community event!

Basket Blessing. It is the custom of Slavic Christians to have their baskets containing the special foods assembled for the Pascha meal blessed at the church. Persons that would like to have their baskets blessed are asked to bring them to the midnight service, placing them in the community center on the tables provided. Following the service, Father will lead a procession into the community center where we will recite the prayers of blessing and then share our baskets with one another. If you would like to know more about how to make up your basket and learn about this heart-warming custom of our Church, please contact Fr. Iakovos or Helen Dalbo of our parish.

A Word About This Week's Services. This is the most Holy Week of the Christian year. It is the week that defines us as followers of Christ. With this in mind, Holy Mother Church provides us with numerous opportunities to be a part of the events of this week. But, it is truly up to us if we are going to participate in what is offered. Without being present, it is literally impossible to enter into the mystery that is this holiest of weeks. Your life should be different this week. This week should be unlike any other week of your year. In order for this to happen you must make some hard choices. This will mean turning down some activities that are quite normal for you during the rest of the year. It will mean being particularly attentive to what is happening at church. It will also mean that you will be out of step with the rest of your friends, co-workers and neighbors. But, without this effort, it is highly unlikely that you will witness the Resurrection.

The beginning of the week we have the opportunity to reflect upon the Bridegroom and His love for the church. Following that we have the Mystery of Holy Unction—the anointing with Holy Oil for the healing of body and soul. On Holy Thursday we commemorate the institution of the Mystery of Holy Communion as well as the Lord's passion and crucifixion. On Holy Friday we live the drama, the tragedy and the gut-wrenching reality of our Lord's death upon the Cross. On Holy Saturday and Pascha day we bask in the joy of Christ's victory over death! What a week! What an opportunity! Will you grab hold of it this Holy Week? Will you find a way to make yourself an eyewitness to the Resurrection? Will you make it a priority to be present at the most powerful and life-changing event in human history? You're invited! Come join us