

Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

Epistle Lesson: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

IN THE FIRST BOOK, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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 16- Sunday, 19 April 2009

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 19 April

Great and Holy Pascha. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead.

Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

Христос воскрес из мертвых, смертию смерть поправ, и сущим во гробех живот даровав!

Al-Masih qam min bain'il-amwat, wa wati al mowt bil mowt, wa wahab'l hayah lil ladhina fi'l qubur!

Χριστός Ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανατω θανατον πατησας, και τοις εν τοις μνημασι, ζων χαρισαμενος!

Midnight Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
2 AM to ? Blessing of Paschal Foods and Agape Meal
4 PM Agape Vespers followed by Pig Roast Dinner

Monday, 20 April

Bright Monday.
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

Tuesday, 21 April

Bright Tuesday.

Wednesday, 22 April

Bright Wednesday.
No Fast

Thursday, 23 April

Bright Thursday. St. George the Great Martyr.

Friday, 24 April

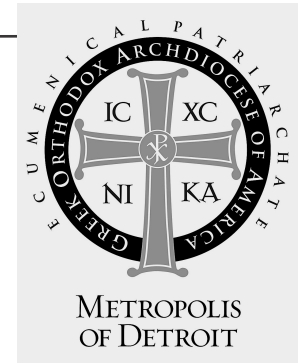
Bright Friday. The Life-Giving Font.
No Fast

Saturday, 25 April

Bright Saturday.
4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers

Sunday, 26 April

2nd Sunday of Pascha. St. Thomas Sunday.
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:15 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
Noon Parish Council Meeting



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Christ is Risen! Χριστος Βοσκρεσε! Al-Masih qam! Χριστος Ανεστη!

Catechetical Homily of St. John Chrysostom for the Feast of Holy Pascha

If any man be devout and loveth God, Let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast! If any man be a wise servant, Let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have laboured long in fasting, Let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, Let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, Let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, Let him have no misgivings; Because he shall in nowise be deprived therefore. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, Let him draw near, fearing nothing. And if any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, Let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness. For the Lord, who is jealous of his honour, will accept the last even as the first. He giveth rest unto him who cometh at the eleventh hour, Even as unto him who hath wrought from the first hour. And He showeth mercy upon the last, And careth for the first; And to the one He giveth, And upon the other He bestoweth gifts. And He both accepteth the deeds, And welcometh the intention, And honoureth the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter ye all into the joy of your Lord; Receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival! You sober and you heedless, honour the day! Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast.. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away. Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness.. Let no one bewail his poverty, For the universal Kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, For pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, For the Saviour's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it.. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered When it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen. O Death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory? Christ is risen, and thou art overthrown! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life reigns! Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, Is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Paschal Greetings. Our community extends greetings on the Holy Feast of Pascha to H. B. Bartholomeos, Patriarch of Constantinople and New Rome; H. E. Demetrios, Archbishop of America; The Holy Synod of the Archdiocese of America; H. E. Nicholas of Detroit; those serving our parish in her various ministries; the parishioners, parish council

and benefactors of this holy house and those visiting with us for this Feast of Feasts. May God grant us all to see his glorious Resurrection on the Third Day.

Thanks are extended to the following persons for their role in making this a memorable Holy Week and Pascha celebration: Presvytera Joleen-Elisabet who prepared our music and service books as well as lead the choir; our chanters and choir members; servants in the Holy Altar including Sub-deacon Euphrosynos Patterson, Matthew Benis, Steven Bemis, Jacob Long, Thomas Patterson, Jacob and James Olszewski; Helen Knapp for organizing all of the floral arrangements and supplies for the week as well as the tsourekia bread sale; Katerina and Dennis Stavros for donating the flowers for and making the crown for the Holy Cross in memory of beloved sister Lambrini and baby Angelica; our myrrh-bearers Malena Kain and Jenna Olszewski; Karen Kain for organizing all of our candle supplies for the week as well as coordinating the pig roast; an anonymous parishioner for providing our coloured eggs for distribution this morning; Holly Olszewski for organizing the afternoon Easter Egg hunt and pinata party for our church school; and The Cook's House of Traverse City for catering our pig roast dinner.

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 place them in the community center on the tables provided. Baskets will be blessed immediately following the midnight service.

New Seating for the Church. The parish received an order of 80 chairs to replace the chairs that are currently used in the church. These are cloth covered with a book rack in the back, are interlocking and can be stacked for easy storage and transport. The new chairs were delivered on Tuesday and thanks are extended to John Batsakis and Bob Dalbo who helped with loading the truck. The current chairs which were donated to our congregation by the Lansing church will be moved into our new community center and our education center. Persons are invited to help underwrite the purchase of these new chairs by "buying" one. The cost of a chair is \$35. Persons that would like to buy a chair can do so by submitting a check for \$35 and writing in the memo section "Church Seating Project." We look forward to having all 80 chairs paid for by individual donations. A work day will be scheduled to assemble the chairs and move them into the church in the near future. Watch this space for more information.

Adopt a Highway Clean-up Day. Our parish project to clean four miles of M-72 between Kalkaska and Grayling (eastbound and westbound) will require some work this week. MDOT has identified the week of 19-26 April as Spring Clean-up. Persons that would like to volunteer are asked to contact Fr. Iakovos early in the week so that we can set a time to go do this work. We will car pool to the site. Based on the fall clean-up you can expect to invest about four hours on site doing the clean-up plus an additional two hours in transit. There is a mandatory safety meeting that takes about fifteen minutes that must be attended if you are going to help out. Our participation in this programme has resulted in the state erecting two signs on the route, one westbound the other eastbound, indicating that the road is maintained by the Orthodox Church of Traverse City.

New Floor in Community Center. Just in time for Pascha, we recognize the hard work of our crew of men that worked to install the new flooring in our community center. Tear out was done by Randy Kain, Steve Bemis, Doug Partlo, John Batsakis, Tom Sebestyen, Robert Fickling. The sub-floor was leveled and then the new flooring laid in by Randy Kain assisted by Doug Partlo. What a beautiful enhancement to our facility! Thanks to these men we have a wonderful meeting place that looks just stunning!