

Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

Epistle Lesson: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priest and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things: Treasury of blessings and giver of Life: Come and abide in us. Cleanse us of all impurity and of thy goodness save our souls.

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

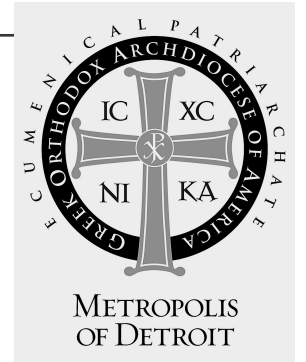
Traverse City Orthodox Mission Church

Traditional Worship for Modern Life

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PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 7 June	Holy Pentecost. The Descent of the Holy Spirit. 9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM 9th Hour, Vespers and Kneeling Prayers 12:30 PM Fellowship Hour
Monday, 8 June	Holy Spirit Monday. St. Kalliope the Martyr and St. Melania the Rigious 8:00 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
Tuesday, 9 June	St. Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria. 5:30 PM Monthly Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 10 June	SS. Alexander and Antonia the Martyrs. No Fast
Thursday, 11 June	SS. Bartholomeos and Barnavas the Holy Apostles.
Friday, 12 June	St. Onouphrios the Great. No Fast
Saturday, 13 June	St. Akylina the Martyr of Syria. Please Note: No Vesper Services this Evening
Sunday, 14 June	1st Sunday After Pentecost. Feast of All Saints 9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM Church School 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour



www.tcorthodoxchurch.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6350 Traverse City, MI 49696

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

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

Armed Forces Bible Drive Continues Today. The American Bible Society has recently completed a project under the leadership of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and with the direct involvement of our Metropolitan, Nicholas of Detroit as well as Fr. Bill Bartz, Capt., USN and several other Orthodox chaplains. *The New Testament and Psalms* was expressly printed with Orthodox servicemen and women in mind. It is a wonderful example of scholarship, beautifully illustrated with iconography and augmented by articles that address the needs of those serving in the military and trying to live out their faith.

Last week we took up a special collection to fund this programme. We continue soliciting funds this week in the hopes of giving everyone an opportunity to participate. A special collection will be taken up today to be forwarded to the Metropolis for this purpose. Please help us to reach out to those that are helping to defend us and our nation.

Church Celebrates Pentecost Today and Re-introduction of Kneeling in the Services. The Church celebrates this feast fifty days (thus the term "Pentecost") after the Holy Pascha. It is the day that we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit and reintroduce into our services and private prayers the prayer "O heavenly King..." which has not been recited since Holy Pascha. We also add back into our prayer repertoire the penitential attitude of "kneeling" which has been restricted during the days following Pascha as testimony to the joy and deliverance that we have received through Christ's Holy Resurrection.

During the vespers celebrated immediately following this morning's Holy Liturgy we read three "prayers of kneeling." These prayers were originally spread out over the three days of celebration of the feast of Pentecost, one read at Sunday vespers, the next read at Monday evening vespers and the last read at Tuesday evening vespers. They were ultimately collapsed into the Sunday evening vespers following the great prokeimenon and interpolated between the various litanies prior to the litany of supplication. These prayers are exquisite expressions of mankind's cry for repentance and acknowledgment of God's great graciousness towards us. They explain our attitude of kneeling and why we do it. Appended to the end of these prayers are the first, second and third little antiphons of the sung vespers of the Great Church in Constantinople. Prayers one and two deal largely with our confession of sin and desire for mercy. Prayer number three deals with those that have gone before us marked with the sign of faith—those that have fallen asleep.

In the joy of this feast, the Church permits us to refrain from any fasting during this week, much like is done during the Bright Week following Pascha. It is a time of rejoicing as the Church enjoys the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who "proceeds from the Father."

Strategic Planning Meeting Results. Last Sunday close to 40 persons attended our planning meeting which had as its focus the finalization of our vision statement and narrowing down the mission objectives that we were working on at our previous meetings. After a good deal of constructive and significant discussion as a large group, we were split off into smaller groups to be working on fine tuning the statements which had been presented. As it is, it was not possible to arrive at a vision statement that could be accepted by all.

However, there was progress made on narrowing down the many brainstormed ideas for our mission. There was an attempt to try and get to three top ideas to take forward for consideration. As we had run out of time, it was agreed that individuals would continue thinking and praying about these items and be prepared to bring them to a follow up meeting to be held in about two week's time. Additional information will be posted on our web site and made available in print form at the church for those that would like to follow our progress on this project. Watch this space to see when the next meeting will occur after the parish council has considered all of the work done. Thanks to everyone that took time from a beautiful Sunday afternoon to spend it hammering out these important documents for our church.

Philoptochos Chapter Announces Annual Meeting for Elections-- Our local chapter of the Friends of the Poor (Philoptochos) which was chartered by the Archdiocese of America at the end of March 2009 will have their annual meeting for the election of a seven member Board of Directors on Sunday, 28 June 2009 following the Holy Services. Martha Ealy, current president of the group announces, "On Sunday, 28 June 2009 there will be a philoptochos meeting to hold elections for the Chapter Board of Directors pursuant to the Philoptochos By-Laws. All ladies of the parish are encouraged to attend."

Ladies' Friends of the Poor Chapter Seeks New Members. Our local chapter of the Ladies' Friends of the Poor—a church-sponsored service organization for women, is seeking new members to join in the ministries and other activities that will be part of their work in our community. Interested ladies are encouraged to speak with Fr. Iakovos or Martha Ealy for more information.

Lounge and Book Store Take Shape. Our parish has acquired a beautiful sofa and love seat set for use in the educational center as part of our plan to establish a "Borders" style bookstore setting as well as a "youth hang-out" for our young people. Once our new floor has been waxed and buffed, our bookstore will be moved from its temporary home in the community centre to its permanent home in the education centre. To complete our project we are in need of a coffee table, some end tables and lamps. Also needed are a couple of comfortable wing chairs with side tables. Persons interested in donating these items to the church for use in this setting are encouraged to speak with Karen Kain for more information.

Parish Council to Meet This Week. Our parish council will have its regular monthly meeting this Tuesday evening beginning at 5:30 PM in the community centre of our church. All council members should have received information via electronic media for the meeting. Anyone that has not received reports, etc., should contact Karen Kain or Judy Weston in order to get materials prior to the meeting.

Council meetings are open to the members of the parish and our people are encouraged to attend these meetings in order to participate in, and stay informed about, the workings of the church. There is a time for "public comment" in which the council receives ideas, etc., from the membership. Why not join us and see about the workings of our parish?

Save The Date Altar Servers! Our altar servers will enjoy a day with Fr. Iakovos on Monday, 15 June. The day will include putt-putt golf, lunch and then some practice and instruction in serving the altar.