

## Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

### Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans 5:1-11

BRETHREN, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

### Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

*The sole secret of attaining perfection is a hearty love of God, and the only way of attaining that love is by loving. You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; and just so you learn to love God and man by loving. Begin as a mere apprentice and the very power of love will lead you on to become a master of the art.*

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

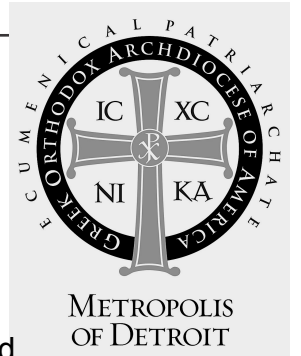
## Traverse City Orthodox Mission Church

*Traditional Worship for Modern Life*

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### PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| Sunday, 28 June   | <b>3rd Sunday of St. Matthew.</b><br>Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed<br>9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos<br>11:15 AM Church School<br>11:30 AM Fellowship Hour<br>Noon Philoptochos Annual Meeting and Elections<br>4:30 PM 9th Hour and Great Vespers |
| Monday, 29 June   | <b>SS. Peter and Paul.</b><br>8 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos   |
| Tuesday, 30 June  | <b>Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles.</b><br>5:30 PM 9th Hour and Great Vespers  |
| Wednesday, 1 July | <b>Holy Unmercenaries SS. Cosmas and Damianos</b><br>Fast Day—Wine and Oil Permitted<br>8h00 Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos   |
| Thursday, 2 July  | <b>Deposition of the Robe of the Theotokos at Blachernae.</b><br>5:30 PM Taste of Greece Meeting at TC St. Francis High School Kitchen   |
| Friday, 3 July    | <b>St. Hyacinth of Caesarea.</b><br>Strict Fast Day  |
| Saturday, 4 July  | <b>St. Andrew of Crete.</b><br>5:15 9th Hour and Vespers<br>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  |
| Sunday, 5 July    | <b>4th Sunday of St. Matthew.</b><br>9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos<br>11:15 AM Church School<br>11:30 AM Fellowship Hour  |



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**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 its annual meeting today, following the Holy Services, for the election of a seven member Board of Directors. 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."

**National Cherry Festival Touchstone Energy Junior Float.** Our church school will be building a float to participate in the parade on Thursday, 9 July. We are in need of someone with a truck that is willing to pull the 14'00" aluminum boat and trailer that will be Noah's Ark for us. We are also in need of 4 adults to carry the banners in the parade representing the church school and our Taste of Greece dinner. Thanks to Nikki Sobkowski who donated the paper needed to wrap the boat. We are still in need of workers and children to ride on the float and wear the animal hats and costumes that identify them as residents of the Ark. Watch this space in the near future for float prep information. Persons interested in helping on this project are encouraged to give their names to Holly Olszewski or Fr. Iakovos.

**Church School Faculty Meeting Outcomes.** Our faculty met on Monday evening to consider programming through December 2009. Present at the meeting were: Holly Olszewski, DRE and faculty member, Karen Kain, Council President; Nikki Lennox, Rebekah Olechnowicz, Presvytera and Father Iakovos. Considerable discussion was made concerning programmes for our youth, tweeners, and teenagers. New programming for this group will be launched on 1 August. Currently an enrollment student roster is being put together by our faculty. Once this is completed, faculty will be assigned and letters will be sent to parents encouraging them to bring their children. Closer to the date, personal phone calls will be made to parents and students inviting them to participate. In other news, the group approved the curriculum for our Vacation Church School which will take place from August 3rd through the 7th. Classes will meet from 8 AM to 1 PM each day. On the afternoon of the 5th there will be a special "children's vespers" to help the children prepare for the Feast of the Transfiguration. On the day of the Feast, the sixth, class will begin with "children's orthros and Holy Liturgy." These will be "teaching" services in which Father will stop and engage the children as we move through the different pieces of the services. The last day, the 7th, the school will wind up with prizes, awards and a picnic. Persons interested in serving as faculty or teacher's aides are asked to contact Fr. Iakovos.

In other news, the group has planned a Back-to-School picnic for Sunday, 30 August following the Holy Services. The picnic will take place at Blair Park in Blair Twp. More information on the picnic will be available as it develops. Persons interested in helping out on this project are encouraged to speak with Karen Kain.

Rebekah Olechnowicz will be teaching a once-off seminar scheduled in mid-September entitled ***The Richness of Ancient Byzantine Church Singing***. The course will be a survey of this style of singing and follow the outline of a general music appreciation course. It will provide an understanding of where this singing fits into the history of the Church as well as western music. She has been asked to complete the

lesson plans and syllabus for review by our next meeting. Additionally, there is consideration being given to a more in-depth course which would focus on reading Byzantine musical notation and developing singing skills with this music which will be offered if there is demonstrated interest from the music appreciation seminar.

Father Iakovos was asked to prepare a Bible study focusing on the 2nd Book of Moses, Exodus. This will be a Saturday morning class to be held some time in the month of October. It is a once-off offering that will provide an historical survey of the book and its importance with respect to the Orthodox Liturgical and Theological traditions. Additionally, Father was asked to generate materials for a Book Discussion Group that would meet several times over the year. Father will be choosing three books for our use this year. The discussion group will launch in September.

Presvytera and Rebekah Olechnowicz are working on the generation of laminated cards for placement in the backs of our chairs. These cards will include translations of: The Trisagion Prayers, The Lord's Prayer, The Symbol of Faith, The Prayer Before Communion, and Prayers of Thanksgiving After Communion. They have also been charged with putting together a new pew book that has the music integrated into the text as well as other pieces that are missing from the Takis book. The laminated cards should be completed in a week's time; the pew book by the end of July.

Finally, there is a call for the donation of a sandbox on legs to be used by the K-5 church school class. In this sandbox, the children "act out" Bible stories and lives of the saints in order to help them learn about God and the Holy Faith. Anyone interested in building or purchasing a sandbox for the school is asked to speak with Holly Olszewski. Also needed for the school is some elementary furniture; chairs and tables. We are currently soliciting bids for this furniture. Information will be brought back at our next meeting which should take place on 20 July.

**Sponsor a Scarf Campaign Launched.** Our parish is sponsoring a campaign to provide scarves to those in need as well as generate money for our crisis fund to aid the poor and destitute. It works like this: Rebekah Olechnowicz (and other persons that would like to participate) will crochet scarves that are about five feet in length. The cost to "sponsor a scarf" is \$5.00. This covers the cost of yarn and supplies leaving approximately \$3 per unit to be donated to the church crisis fund. The scarves, once made, will be donated to the Father Fred Foundation for distribution to the poor beginning in late August or early September as part of their winter coat drive and distribution. Anyone interested in participating by making a scarf, or sponsoring a scarf, is encouraged to speak with Miss Olechnowicz for more information.

**Church Seating Project Needs \$140 to Reach Our Goal!** We only need funds to pay for 4 more chairs of the 80 that were purchased. That means that 76 chairs have already been purchased by our people. Total remaining funds to be raised are \$140. We are so close. If you haven't thought to purchase a chair, there is still an opportunity and your donation can mean a lot. Write your check today!