

Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

Epistle Lesson: St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans 2:10-16

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Matthew 4:18-23

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

I Asked God

by: Author Unknown, Source Unknown

I asked God to take away my pain.

God said, "No, It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up".

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said, "No, her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary".

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, "No, patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is earned".

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said, "No, I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you".

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, "No, suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me".

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said, "No, you must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful".

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, "No, I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things".

I ask God to help me **love** others, as much as he loves me.

God said, "... Ahhhh, finally you have the idea".

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 25- Sunday, 21 June 2009

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 21 June	2nd Sunday of St. Matthew. Fathers' Day. Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed 9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM Church School 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
Monday, 22 June	St. Eusebios, Bishop of Samasota Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted 5:30 PM Church School Faculty Meeting
Tuesday, 23 June	St. Agrippina the Martyr of Rome Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted
Wednesday, 24 June	Nativity of St. John the Baptizer. Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted
Thursday, 25 June	Apodosis of the Nativity of St. John Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted
Friday, 26 June	St. David the Righteous of Thessalonika Strict Fast Day
Saturday, 27 June	St. Sampson the Innkeeper of Constantinople Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted 5:15 9th Hour and Vespers 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 28 June	3rd Sunday of St. Matthew. Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed 9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM Church School 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour Noon Philo托chos Annual Meeting and Elections



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Fathers' Day Greetings to All of Our Fathers. Today the nation joins in recognizing the contributions and sacrifices that our fathers make in making life better, fuller and more humane; providing much needed leadership and mentoring to the society. Our parish also takes the opportunity to salute our fathers. Whether that fatherhood is a matter of blood, or borne of love and choice, the role of fathers is critical to revitalizing and building up the notion of family and enriching the humanity of our society. But more than that, it provides a direct relation to developing the understanding and appreciation of the nature of our Father who is in heaven. Dads are the first "icon" we see of the Father. Through them we learn of the love of the Father. This awesome responsibility is not always appreciated by our fathers. None-the-less, it is one which belongs to them and one which they are duty-bound to carry out.

St. Leo of Optina tells us, *"He who honours his father is cleansed of his sins, he who honours his father will enjoy his own children, and when he prays, his prayers will be heard. Honour your father so that his blessing will be upon you. Child, come to your father's aid in his old age, and if he loses his senses in some way do not scorn or reproach him with all your might, for the prayers of a father will not be forgotten by God; do not criticize your father."* Following this good advice, this morning we will offer special prayers and petitions on behalf of our fathers. As part of this observance, it wouldn't be a bad idea for you to take a moment to light candle and offer a prayer for the fathers in your life; those that have gone on to everlasting life, as well as those that remain in the world with us. Pray that God will give them strength, courage, perseverance, patience, and most of all, love. Happy Fathers' Day to all of our fathers. May God grant the many years in peace, health and happiness.

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" aluminium 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. Also needed are brown paper shopping bags which will be used to transform the boat into Noah's Ark. Finally we are in need of 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 to Meet Tomorrow. A working meeting of our church school faculty will take place tomorrow evening at 5:30 PM in the parish education centre. Members of the faculty are: Holly Olszewski, Nikki Lennox, Karen Kain, and Rebekah Olechnowicz. Faculty will use this time to help plan lessons and programming for the summer and fall semesters. Tentative agendas for the meeting will be circulated via electronic media for use at the meeting. Following this meeting the faculty will develop an instrument to help appraise the types of offerings our church and greater community would be interested in receiving. Also at the meeting the group will make place for developing our float for the National Cherry Festival parade.

Altar Boys' Day Out a Real Success. This past Monday, Sean and Ryan Lennox and Jake Long joined Fr.

Iakovos for a two hour in-service on serving in the altar. As part of the in-service they covered practical things like: altar protocol, making up processions, starting and maintaining charcoal fires as well as the use of the incense burner, maintenance of candles and other altar appurtenances, maintenance of oil lamps and changing of wicks, and proper operation of the curtains covering the deacon's doors, and the royal doors. Following their in-service, the boys were treated to lunch and then a round of putt-putt golf at Pirates' Cove in Traverse City. The day out ended around 2 PM with everyone having enjoyed their time together.

All boys aged six and older are invited to join Fr. Iakovos in the altar to serve during the many liturgical services that we celebrate.

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.

Saturday Evening Vespers. The start time of our 9th Hour and Vespers services on Saturday evenings has been pushed back by 45 minutes from 4:30 PM to 5:15 PM through August. This is being done to enable more of our parishioners to attend during to increased afternoon summer activities. Please make a note of it.

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 next 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."

Church Seating Project Close to Goal! Our church seating project is very close to reaching its goal of fully funding the acquisition of the comfortable seating that we enjoy in our chapel. We only need funds to pay for 14 more chairs of the 80 that were purchased. That means that 66 chairs have already been purchased. Total remaining funds to be raised are \$490. 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. We have an anonymous donor who has agreed to match one chair for every two chairs paid for in full in order to quickly close the gap. For every dollar you pay, the church will get an additional 33 cents! Please help us reach our goal by writing your check for \$35 (or more) today!