

## 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.

### Homily on the Feast of Holy Pascha by St. Gregory Nazianzen

Today is the feast of feasts, the solemnity of solemnities; it surpasses not only those that are secular and worldly in character, but even excels, as the sun outshines all stars, those feasts which are dedicated to and are celebrated in honor of Christ Himself.

Yesterday the Lamb was immolated and the doorposts reddened with its blood; the Egyptian sorrowed over his firstborn; but the Angel of death passed over us, for we were protected by the precious blood of the Lamb. Today in great flight have we fled from Egypt, from ill-natured Pharaohs, from harsh masters, from mud and from the baking of bricks.

There is no one who can hinder us from celebrating our exodus unto our Lord and God. We shall celebrate not with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and of truth. We shall retain with us nothing Egyptian, nothing of the leaven of evil.

Only yesterday was I in anguish with Christ on the Cross; today am I glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him; today I receive new life in Him. Yesterday was I buried with Him; today I arise together with Him.

Nevertheless, let us bring and offer gifts to Him who for us has suffered and has risen. But do not think I have in mind gold or silver, rich damasks or glistening jewels of princely prices. No, it is ourselves that we ought to offer; such is the gift most befitting and dear to God. According to the divine image and likeness have we been made—let us humbly attribute the high dignity of our being to its model; with greatest esteem let us imitate our exemplar. Let us understand the power of this mystery, and for whom it was that Christ has suffered death.

Let us be like Christ, for He was like unto us. Let us become divine because of Him, since He became man for our sake.

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

## Archangel Gabriel Greek Orthodox Church

*Traditional Worship for Modern Life*

Volume IV Number 14- Sunday, 4 April 2010

### PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 4 April

#### **Great and Holy Pascha.**

Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!  
Χριστος ωσκησε ιξ μερτωβ, μερτωβ μερτωβ πορρω, ι ουσιν βο γροβεχ βιωτο δρωωω!

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

Χριστος Ανεστη εκ νεκρων, 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  
3 PM Agape Vespers followed by Church School Egg Hunt and Piñata Party

Monday, 5 April

#### **Bright Monday.**

8 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

Tuesday, 6 April

#### **Bright Tuesday**

8 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos  
5:30 PM Building and Grounds Meeting at Father Fred

Wednesday, 7 April

#### **Bright Wednesday.**

No Fast

Thursday, 8 April

#### **Bright Thursday.**

5:30 PM Philoptochos General Meeting

Friday, 9 April

#### **Bright Friday. The Life-Giving Font.**

No Fast

Saturday, 10 April

#### **Bright Saturday**

Philoptochos Festival of Flowers Event in Ann Arbor  
Please note: No Vespers or Choir Rehearsal



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OF DETROIT

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**Sunday, 11 April**      **2nd Sunday of Pascha. St. Thomas Sunday**

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

**Greetings to All on the Feast of the Resurrection!** Today we celebrate the Feast of Feasts and the Holy Day of Holy days...on this day we bless Christ forevermore! Our parish sends greetings on this most auspicious day that heralds our salvation and deliverance from death! Greetings are extended on behalf of our priest, parish council, ladies philoptochos, parish choir and chanters and faithful to: H. B. Bartholomeos, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and New Rome; H. E. Demetrios, Archbishop of America; H. E. Nicholas, Metropolitan of Detroit; Fr. Dean Hountalas, Chancellor of the Metropolis of Detroit; to our parishioners absent from us in Florida, North Carolina, Arizona and Texas as well as those that are celebrating with family out of town. To each and to all we shout Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

**Thanks All Around.** There are so many people that we must acknowledge for the wonderful holidays we have been able to enjoy, it is hard to know where to begin. First, we must thank our ladies Philoptochos for putting on a wonderful Palm Sunday dinner to start the Holy Week. Chairpersons for the event were Donna Psaros and Karen Kain. Soup was provided by Katerina Stavros; Fish by Karen Kain; Pilaf by Helen Dalbo; Vegetables by Martha Ealy; Salad by Helen Knapp; Children's Menu by Karen Kain and Rolls, Margarine, Picked Beets, Domathes and Pickled Herring by Donna Psaros. Desserts were provided by Judy Weston, Harriet Rennie, Nikki Sobkowski, Kiki Sebestyen, Presvytera Joleen, Holly Olszewski, Denyse Everett, Theresa Patterson, Terri Bethea and Sara Moss. Clean Up was provided by John Psaros and Pam Bemis.

Second, we must thank Helen Knapp for overseeing all of the floral arrangements for the week. She coordinated with our florist as well as several donors and also organized for Katerina Stavros to provide the beautiful home-made wreath for the Cross used on Holy Thursday evening as well as a small floral arrangement placed at the foot of the Cross. Thanks also to Kim Haggerty and the Haggerty family for donating the beautiful flowers used to decorate for our services. Helen also coordinated the decoration of the epitaphios for Holy Friday assisted by: Tom Sebestyen, Presvytera Joleen, Rebekah Olechnowicz, and Katerina Stavros.

Third, we must thank Helen Dalbo who provided the oversight and produced our supply of red eggs for distribution at the Pascha services. Fourth, we must thank our sub-Deacon Euphrosynos and altar server Steven Bemis who provided support for the majority of the services throughout the week. With them, we acknowledge the service of Jacob and James Olszewski, Calvin Patterson, and Jake Long. Fifth, where would we be without our capable choir and chanters? This is a grueling week of services and our group hung in there. Thanks are extended to Presvytera Joleen for directing and organizing the choral and chanted responses as well as to everyone that pitched in and helped with the reading and singing. Sixth, we extend thanks to those that assisted with the clean-up after Holy Friday services and the Saturday morning services as well.

Seventh, thanks are extended to Holly Olszewski and her staff for organizing our parish myrh-bearers for the Lamentation Service: Melena Kain and Jenna Olszewski. Also thanks to her for organizing the luminaries for this morning's procession and today's egg hunt and piñata party as well as the gift packets that are being given out to the children this morning.

**Church School Sponsors Egg Hunt and Piñata Party!** There will be an egg hunt for the children immediately following the Agape Vespers this afternoon. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. As part of our outdoor activities there will also be a piñata party with candy flying everywhere. All children are welcome to join in the fun!

**Building Committee Special Meeting.** A new sub-committee charged with undertaking a feasibility study for the parish council with respect to a building program will have their first organizational meeting on Tuesday 6th April at 5:30 PM at Father Fred Foundation. Council members are encouraged to attend this special meeting.

**Printer Cartridge Fund Raiser.** Used printer cartridges are being collected as a fund raiser for Traverse City Area Schools. Persons that have used printer cartridges are encouraged to bring them to the church so that we can turn them in for recycling. Participation in this program helps to raise funds for classroom supplies. The school will receive \$1 for each cartridge returned and recycled thru 7 May 2010. To recycle cartridges please place them in the box marked for them in the community center.

**Empty Bowls Event 18th April.** 11 AM to 2 PM on Sunday the 18th citizens of Traverse City will join together at the Haggerty Center on Front Street in order to participate in a function sponsored by the Fresh Food Partnership to raise awareness of hunger issues within our community. The emergency food distribution system here in Traverse City served over 255,000 individuals in 2009.

**Proceeds raised** from this event are "put to work" by the **Fresh Food Partnership**, a coalition of nonprofit organizations and volunteers (of which the Father Fred Foundation is a member) working to buy and distribute locally grown fruits and vegetables from area farmers to local food pantries for people in need, thereby fighting hunger while supporting local agriculture and reinvesting dollars into the local economy. Last year well over 600 people joined together for a simple yet delicious meal of soup, bread and beverages while entertained by music. Everyone that attended the event was invited to select a hand-made ceramic bowl donated by a local artist or student as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world.

**Empty Bowls™** is an internationally recognized program available for individual communities to sponsor in an effort to raise hunger awareness and to help feed the hungry within their own community. The fundraising concept has a second mission as well, to advocate for arts education and involve students in community service. Learn more at <http://www.emptybowls.org>. **Tickets are \$15** and are available for purchase at [Oryana Natural Foods Market](#), [ArtCenter Traverse City](#), [LIAA](#) or at the door on the day of the event.

**Resurrection Banner Dedicated This Morning.** After months of hard work and meticulous hand sewing our refurbished Resurrection banner is being blessed this morning. Judy Weston of our parish spent months working on this project; first, removing the icons from the old banner, cleaning them and restoring them and then sewing on new crosses and appliqués resulting in this beautiful addition to our liturgical appurtenances. The pole and Cross ornament were made and restored by Randy and Karen Kain of our parish. Judy is presented with gifts recognizing her contribution of love prior to the start of the services.