

Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

Epistle Lesson: Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

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 19- Sunday, 9 May 2010

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 9 May

**6th Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the Man Born Blind
St. Isaiah the Prophet**

9 AM Orthros
10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:15 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Monday, 10 May

St. Simon the Zealot and Apostle

Tuesday, 11 May

Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodios, Apostles to the Slavs. Renewal of Constantinople

Wednesday, 12 May

Apodosis (Leave-taking) of Pascha

Fast Free Day
5:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers

Thursday, 13 May

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

8:00 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

Friday, 14 May

St. Isidore the Martyr of Chios

Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed

Saturday, 15 May

St. Pachomios the Great Martyr

9AM-4 PM Yia Yia's Attic Sale
4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers
5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 16 May

Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

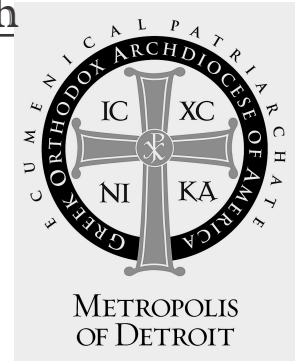
9 AM Orthros
10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:15 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
3:00 PM MDOT Highway Clean-up Meet at BP Station on M-37 and M-115

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Happy Mother's Day! This day honoring mothers has a long and rather convoluted history. And yet with all that, the observance really began to gel in the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century. The first North American Mother's Day was conceptualized with [Julia Ward Howe's](#) Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870. Despite having penned The Battle Hymn of the Republic 12 years earlier, Howe had become so distraught by the death and carnage of the Civil War that she called on mothers to come together and protest what she saw as the futility of their sons killing the sons of other mothers.

After Anna Reeves Jarvis died, her daughter Anna M. Jarvis campaigned for the creation of an official Mother's Day in remembrance of her mother and in honor of peace. In 1908, Anna petitioned the superintendent of the church where her Mother had spent over 20 years teaching Sunday School. Her request was honored, and on May 10, 1908, the first official Mother's Day celebration took place at Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia and a church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The West Virginia event drew a congregation of 407 and Anna Jarvis arranged for white carnations—her Mother's favorite flower—to adorn the patrons. Two carnations were given to every Mother in attendance. Today, white carnations are used to honor deceased Mothers, while pink or red carnations pay tribute to Mothers who are still alive. Andrew's Methodist Church exists to this day, and was incorporated into [the International Mother's Day Shrine](#) in 1962.

In 1908 a U.S. Senator from Nebraska, Elmer Burkett, proposed making Mother's Day a national holiday at the request of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). The proposal was defeated, but by 1909 forty-six states were holding Mother's Day services as well as parts of Canada and Mexico.

Anna Jarvis quit working and devoted herself full time to the creation of Mother's Day, endlessly petitioning state governments, business leaders, women groups, churches and other institutions and organizations. She finally convinced the World's Sunday School Association to back her, a key influence over state legislators and congress. In 1912 West Virginia became the first state to officially recognize Mother's Day, and in 1914 Woodrow Wilson signed it into national observance, declaring the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Today we honour all of our mothers, those that are with us and those that have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. We honour the mothers who have birthed us, as well as the women who fill or have filled the role of "mother" in our life. Special prayers are offered this morning for our mothers and the parish makes a special gift of a flower to the women of the parish in appreciation for the hard work, dedication and perseverance that are part and parcel of what it is to be a mother. May God grant to all of the mothers of this parish, and mothers everywhere, peace, health, happiness, and furtherance in all things that lead to salvation for many happy and blessed years. And for those that have fallen asleep, May God make their memory to be eternal.

Appeal Made For Nashville Churches. May 1st and 2nd saw massive amounts of rainfall in the Nashville area that resulted in severe flooding of the three rivers that wind their way through the countryside and into the city of Nashville itself. Our Metropolitan has two parishes in the area, St. John Chrysostomos mission and Holy Trinity Church. While neither church sustained any damage from the flooding many friends and neighbors did. The Metropolitan has instructed all of the parishes of the Metropolitan to take up a special relief collection to be forwarded to the priests in Nashville for distribution to those requiring assistance. Our parish will take up a special collection for the relief of Nashville next Sunday. You are asked to be as generous as possible with this collection.

Please make your check payable to the Archangel Gabriel Greek Orthodox Church and write "Nashville Flood Relief" in the memo section.

Feast of the Ascension This Thursday. We will say "good bye" to the season of Pascha on Wednesday with the Apodosis or leave-taking of the Feast. On that evening we will welcome the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord with the 9th Hour and Holy Vespers. This feast occurs forty days after the Holy Pascha and marks the transition to the Holy Pentecost which will be celebrated fifty days after Holy Pascha. The Church commemorates the Ascension of Jesus Christ into Heaven as He is lifted up from His apostles having traveled with them as far as Bethany (Luke 24:50-51). This is one of the twelve great feasts of the Church and as such, it is incumbent upon us to do whatever we can to keep the day holy. Attendance at vespers is one way for those who work regular daylight hours through the week to mark the day. Those that are available in the daytime are obliged to attend services on the feast. If work or health issues keep one from attending the services then it is suggested that persons keep the day by reading the Holy Scriptures appointed for the feast as well as the various liturgical hymns in the Pentecostarion. These are available on the Internet or from Fr. Iakovos.

Yiayia's Attic Sale. Our local Ladies Philoptochos Chapter will hold a garage sale this coming Saturday, May 15. With Spring upon us it's a good time to do that cleaning and sorting out of things that need a new home. Gently used furniture, framed pictures, antiques, clean and in good shape towels and sheets, lamps, house wares, books, CDs, DVDs, tools, toys, and women's accessories (purses, scarves, jewelry) are needed. Please no clothes or shoes. Drop off times and days are indicated on a poster in the community center. Please contact Helen Knapp or Nikki Sobkowski with questions or to volunteer.

MDOT Highway Cleanup Planning. We must really get after our stretch of roadway and clean it up. We require at least six participants in order to carry on with the work. Attendance at a short safety meeting is required prior to the pick-up work. We have a firm project date of Sunday afternoon, 16 May beginning at 3 PM. In case of snow or rain, we will scrub the project and reschedule. The operating rules of the programme do not permit crews to work in the rain. The project takes approximately 3 hours. This provides a great opportunity for our parish to perform a service that builds camaraderie and pride in our community. Persons interested in helping out are asked to report their availability to Father.

NMC BBQ Next Sunday. The NMC Barbecue is one of northern Michigan's most popular and enduring traditions. The annual event brings thousands of people to NMC's campus for an old-fashioned picnic and a chance to see their community college. The late Gerald W. Oleson and his wife Frances, founders of Oleson's Food Stores in Traverse City, started the annual fundraiser picnic in 1956. Oleson's Food Stores continues to donate the food, and hundreds of volunteers turn out to make the event happen. Advance tickets cost \$5. Tickets on the day of the BBQ are \$6. All tickets will be placed in a drawing for a two year full tuition scholarship to the college. The scholarship is good for ten years and is transferable. For more information see the NMC website or contact the school. See you at the BBQ!

The Father Fred Foundation will hold its biggest garage sale ever on Saturday, May 15, 826 Hastings Street, Traverse City, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thousands of items will be on sale, great bargains on quality clothing, jewelry, collectables, furniture, sporting goods, books, household goods, and toys. All proceeds will benefit the Foundation's financial assistance program that helps families in crisis. For more details visit www.fatherfred.org or call 231-947-2055.