

Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

Epistle Lesson: Letter of the Holy Apostle, Paul to the Romans 12:6-14

BRETHREN, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Matthew 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Are You A Little Crafty? The Ladies Philoptochos is sponsoring a booth at the Taste of Greece this year, and we are looking for craft items to sell at our table. Proceeds from the sale of these items benefit our Parish Crisis Fund and newly established Altar Fund for our church. Persons that would like to offer craft items such as: crocheted/knitted hot pads, scarves, etc., decorative home items, homemade Christmas ornaments, and other interesting things that people might like to have are asked to speak with Presvytera Joleen, Helen Knapp or Rebekah Olechnowicz for more information. The sale is scheduled for 23 July...it'll be here before you know it.

Dinner to Honour Archangel Gabriel Next Sunday. The Church calls our attention to the Feast of the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel on 13th July. To help commemorate this feast day, which is the patronal feast of our parish, our local ladies' philotochos will be catering a celebratory meal. This coming Sunday the group will sponsor and prepare a chicken bbq dinner with all the fixin's. The menu for the day includes: Barbecued chicken (cooked by our expert BBQ chefs Randy Kain & Doug Partlo), baked beans, baked macaroni and cheese, home grown vegetables, potato salad, fresh tossed salad, dinner roll, beverage, and a choice of many tempting desserts made by our ladies. The suggested donation for the meal is \$10. Profits from the dinner will be given to the Parish Crisis Fund for use in assisting the poor of our parish as well as of our area in honor of our patron saint Archangel Gabriel. Persons interested in volunteering to help with the dinner are encouraged to speak with Karen Kain or Donna Psaros. Come join us after the services and enjoy the feast together!

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 27- Sunday, 4 July 2010

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 4 July	7th Sunday After Pentecost. 6th Sunday of St. Matthew. Independence Day St. Andrew of Crete. 9 AM Orthros 10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM Church School 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/TOG Meeting
Monday, 5 July	St. Athanasios of Mt. Athos
Tuesday, 6 July	St. Sisoës the Great
Wednesday, 7 July	St. Kyriaki the Great Martyr Strict Fast Day
Thursday, 8 July	St. Prokopios the Great Martyr
Friday, 9 July	St. Pancratios Bishop of Sicily Strict Fast Day
Saturday, 10 July	45 Holy Martyrs of Nikopolis in Armenia 4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers
Sunday, 11 July	8th Sunday After Pentecost. 7th Sunday of St. Matthew. St. Euphemia the Great Martyr 9 AM Orthros 10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM Church School 11:30 AM Patron Saint Dinner Sponsored by Philoptochos Chapter



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Prosfora This Morning... was prepared by Holly Olszewski for use in the celebration of the Holy Liturgy. Thanks to Holly for making this offering so that we can celebrate the Lord's presence among us. Anyone interested in providing prosfora or artos for the services of is encouraged to speak with Fr. Iakovos for more information.

Fr. Iakovos Makes Presentation to US Navy Blue Angels. The excitement was palpable as the hangar at USCG Air Station Traverse City filled with dignitaries, National Cherry Festival workers and family members on Friday afternoon. Fr. Iakovos was honoured to attend the pre-flight ritual and taxi of the six Boeing F/A-18 Hornet jets that make up the Navy's premier flight demonstration squadron, The Blue Angels. In town for the National Cherry Festival, the team spent late last week rehearsing and then presented a show yesterday with another one scheduled for today.

At a reception held for the group last night at the NMC hangar, Fr. Iakovos presented the unit with an icon of the Archangel Gabriel, patron of our parish church. In his presentation he highlighted the fact that both of our identities are intimately tied to the notion of angels. Gratefully receiving the gift on behalf of the unit was Maj. Chris Collins, USMC who flies the number 4 plane of the seven plane squadron. Maj. Collins flies the "slot" position for the group. He is a graduate of Norwich University (1997) in Vermont. Interestingly enough, Fr. Iakovos' maternal grandfather was also a graduate of Norwich (1915). Small world. Maj. Collins is a combat pilot seeing service in Operation Iraqi Freedom (2002), and Iraqi Freedom III (2003). He received his "wings" in May 2000 and has been a Blue Angel since 2008.

Father's visit to the installation also provided him with an opportunity to renew his friendship with the Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City's Commanding Officer, CDR. Jonathon Spaner. His relationship with the unit there spans two years.

Third Anniversary Celebrated. This past Wednesday marked the completion of three years on what was to be a two year assignment here in Traverse City for Fr. Iakovos. Sent here by Metropolitan Nicholas to establish a fully functional parish, Father has worked closely with parishioners, council members and members of the general population to establish and stabilize our presence here. These three years have seen: the establishment of a semi-permanent home for us here on Hastings Street; fit up and decoration of our chapel; expansion of a community center and education center; the establishment of a parish book store; establishment of a men's fellowship and a functioning chapter of the Ladies Philoptochos Society; an Internet web site that sees an unbelievable level of traffic; participation in the Adopt-a-Highway Program, Habitat for Humanity projects and the Michigan Reads Program; presence in the National Cherry Festival parades; representation at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy as chaplain; representation in the scouting program here as a leader in Pack 87; participation in local philanthropies like the Father Fred Foundation; development of close inter-denominational ties, especially with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gaylord; and participation in numerous community-wide events, Today Father Iakovos extends his thanks to all who have supported and assisted him in his ministry here.

National Clergy-Laity Conference Meets in Atlanta. The 40th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, convenes today in Atlanta, GA and runs through the 8th of July. The theme for this year focuses on "Come and See," which was set by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America as a follow up to "Gather My People to my Home" the theme of the last Congress held in Washington, DC in 2008. The Clergy-Laity Congress is convened biennially and is concerned with all matters, other than doctrinal or canonical, affecting the life, growth and unity of the Church, her institutions, her finances, her administration, educational and philanthropic concerns and her growing role in the religious life of the nation.

The 40th Congress takes place this year in the Metropolis of Atlanta headed by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, and is co-chaired by William Marianes and Nick Moraitakis of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Atlanta. This year's Congress will be shorter by one day in an effort to reduce overall expenses and make participation more affordable.

Protocol 68/10

July 4, 2010
Independence Day

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this annual observance of Independence Day, we give thanks to God for the spiritual freedom we have in Christ and for the freedom we have in this nation in which we live. As people of faith we are recipients of the grace of God, which frees us from the bondage of sin and death and enables our ascent to restoration and eternal communion with Him. As citizens and residents in the United States of America, we are beneficiaries of a form of government that recognizes both the political and social freedoms inherent to each of us as human beings.

One of these freedoms is religious liberty. Over two centuries ago, many of the framers of our political system realized that this was a necessity for the stability and function of the new government and that it was a right belonging to all in relation to freedom of conscience and the pursuit of truth. In the process of establishing the new nation, it was apparent to the framers that the country had many different religious groups. They were well aware of the dangers of adjoining one religious tradition with the power of the state. These modes of governance that were based on coercion often resulting in oppression and exclusion, had led many to leave their homelands and come to America. The framers also believed that freedom of conscience expressed in religious belief, speech, and association was not a threat but a right of each and every person and should be protected from the power of government. None of this was an attempt to inhibit the vitality of religion, as in fact many of the framers recognized the moral and communal role of religious faith in contributing to a strong citizenry. The primary motivation was religious liberty—the freedom of each and every person to choose, to believe, to practice, and to offer and share with others without fear of the interference or oppression of government.

As Orthodox Christians living in this nation, we have and continue to share in this freedom. We gather as communities, worship and minister freely, build churches and schools, and share our faith with others. In addition to our faithfulness to God and our determination to cherish and share what He has given us, religious liberty has contributed to the vitality of Orthodox Christianity in America. May we give thanks for this, and may we use our freedom as an opportunity to participate fully in our faith and to share the Gospel with all.

May we also be mindful of those who labor for faith and ministry within societies that have a problem with religious liberty either as a right or as an essential element of a free society. This is the political context that continues to challenge and heavily press our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate and especially His All Holiness our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Governments, commissions, and world leaders have addressed these issues and continue to champion the necessity of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. However, more must be done.

As Orthodox Christians in America and as beneficiaries of religious liberty, many of you have offered warm prayers and precious services to our Ecumenical Patriarchate recognizing its needs as well as the importance of religious freedom. I give thanks to God for your precious contribution and pray for His continued guidance and strength in these efforts. Let all of our faithful throughout the United States, all of us who live in a free society and cherish religious liberty, pray and continue to increase our assistance. Now is a critical time to voice our support, to encourage leaders in government, and to guide awareness into action. May we do this in gratitude for the freedom we have, for the sake of the Church and the Gospel which we are called to share, and for the glory of God.

With paternal love in Christ,

†DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America