

## Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

### Epistle Lesson: Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians 4:22-27

BRETHREN, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

### Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Matthew 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Genesaret.

**2 Free Books per Child at the Father Fred Summer Book Sale. Doug Stanton, to Read Favorite Kids Books.** All preschool and school aged kids, courtesy of the Bank of N. Michigan, can choose two free books when they come to the Father Fred Foundation Summer Book Sale, Grand Traverse Heritage Center, 322 Sixth St. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, July 30 and 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 31. Doug Stanton, founder of the National Writers Series, will do a reading of favorite children's books, July 30, 1 p.m. For more information on the Summer Book Sale or The Father Fred Foundation, call (231) 947-2055 or visit FatherFred.org.

The Traverse City National Writer's Series, co-founded by Doug Stanton, investigative journalist Anne Stanton and attorney Grant Parsons, is also the creator of the National Writers Series Scholarship program, whose mission it is to support young authors planning to study writing in college. Series organizers are partnering with area schools, libraries, bookstores, and businesses to host the events and fund the scholarships. For more information, visit [nationalwritersseries.org](http://nationalwritersseries.org).

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

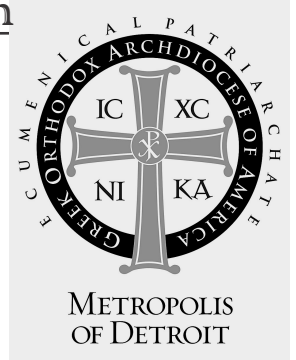
## Archangel Gabriel Greek Orthodox Church

*Traditional Worship for Modern Life*

Volume IV Number 30- Sunday, 25 July 2010

### PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 25 July	<b>10th Sunday After Pentecost</b> <b>9th Sunday of St. Matthew</b> 9 AM Orthros 10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM Church School 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour and Blessing of Automobiles and Wheeled Conveyances
Monday, 26 July	<b>St. Paraskevi the Righteous Martyr of Rome</b>
Tuesday, 27 July	<b>St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr</b>
Wednesday, 28 July	<b>St. Irene Chrysovalantu</b> Strict Fast Day
Thursday, 29 July	<b>St. Kallinikos the Martyr of Asia Minor</b>
Friday, 30 July	<b>SS. Silus and Silvanus, Apostles of the Seventy</b> Strict Fast Day
Saturday, 31 July	<b>Forefeast of the Precious Cross</b> 10 AM Services at St. George's Church Sault Ste. Marie, MI No Vespers this evening. The service can be found on-line.
Sunday, 1 August	<b>11th Sunday After Pentecost. 10th Sunday of St. Matthew. Feast of the Procession of the Wood of the Cross.</b> Fast Day—Fish Wine and Oil Allowed 9 AM Orthros 10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM Church School 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour



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**Prosfora This Morning...** was prepared by Helen Dalbo for use in the celebration of the Holy Liturgy. Thanks to Helen 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.

**Blessing of Vehicles This Morning.** As part of our celebration of the Feast of the Holy Prophet Elijah held this past Tuesday there was the blessing of automobiles. You'll recall that the Prophet was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot and you can read about it in the Holy Bible. Anyway, it is custom in some churches to bless automobiles on this feast. Persons that would like to have their vehicles blessed may process with Fr. Iakovos to the parking lot for the service of blessing immediately following the close of the Holy Liturgy this morning. You are asked to open the doors of your vehicle and stand by it as Father makes his way round the lot blessing with the Holy Water.

**Taste of Greece or "I'm Grillin' in the Rain!"** Gene Kelly's classic "Singin' in the Rain" from the 1952 musical of that name has nothing on what Doug Partlo and Alex Batsakis were singing as they stood in pouring rain grilling the last of the souvlaki. Joining in the chorus were our "road runners" who were working the drive thru line and our traffic control people managing the double line of cars waiting to turn into the parking lot at TC St. Francis High School...also quite wet by the end of the evening. In the face of very wet weather conditions, the customer turn-out for the 2010 edition of the Taste of Greece was surprisingly good pushing the work crew at a brisk pace at the half-way point. Customer flow had a slow start and thinned out by 7:30 PM but we were still able to serve approximately 1,130 meals during our four hour program. The final tally is not known yet, but the "buzz" is that we were about 100 meals shy of last year's 1,230 total. Financial results are still sketchy but a full disclosure will be made as soon as all of the bills are paid. The fact that the inclement weather had such a small negative influence on the final turn-out is a true testimonial to the staying power of this event, and it's positioning on the greater Traverse City calendar of events. It truly is phenomenal!

There were three new offerings being tried this year as part of our enhanced TOG program. These included sales of baklava in our drive thru line, including spinach and cheese pies in our bake sale, and the introduction of our own freshly made loukomathes to the menu. While the numbers are still unavailable, it seems as though each of these faired quite well. Certainly enough was learned to refine and improve these offerings for next year. And, the fact that the Bake Sale gross receipts exceeded \$1,000 for the first time ever is reason enough to be very pleased with the results.

Leftover cooked dinners from Thursday night's event were donated to the Community Meals Program operated by Sandy Svec. Sandy came to St. Francis on Friday morning, met Father there and together they loaded her van with the leftover dinners for distribution to the area's poor at the community meal to be held that day.

Thanks and recognition will be made as soon as a full list of participants has been assembled. At this point congratulations on behalf of a grateful congregation go to Steve Bemis and Andy Foster for co-chairing the

event as well as Paul Barbas (of Opa!), John Batsakis, and Eric Patterson (of The Cook's House) for supervising and heading up our kitchen activities.

More information will be given as it is made available by the committee. Captains are asked to watch for the announcement of a meeting time and date to review the performance of the event and make suggestions for next year's edition.

There are baked goods and some additional food items, as well as bookstore items available for sale in the community center following the services this morning. Persons are encouraged to take a look at these offerings and see if they wouldn't want a little something to take home.

**Dormition Fast Starts on Sunday, 1 August.** The first day of August marks the last fasting period in the Church's year. The Dormition Fast lasts from 1-14 August and is a preparatory period for the Feast of the Dormition...the falling asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos. Like any other fasting period, it calls us to focus on prayer, almsgiving, and a period of preparation as we strive to grow closer to the Lord. Fasting regulations are similar to the other fasting periods of the year. No meat or dairy products are to be eaten during the fast. Fish, wine and oil are permitted on certain days throughout the fast. Additionally we welcome back the service of the Paraclisis, or the Supplicatory Canon to the Most Holy Theotokos on alternating evenings with the Compline service. Make your plan now to prepare for this short period that calls us back to a life centered on prayer by looking at your schedule and making room for the services and time for reflection. For those that have not been to Holy Confession recently, this is a good time to participate in that Mystery. The Feast of the Dormition falls on a Sunday this year and we will have a very nice opportunity to enter into the joy of the celebration on that day. Most Holy Theotokos, Pray for us Sinners.

**On Holy Confession...** Making one's private confession in the presence of a priest is essential to the working out of one's salvation. There is no forgiveness of sins without participation in this Mystery of the Church. St. James tells us that we should, "confess your sins to one another." It goes without saying that without repentance there can be no absolution. But many people do not utilize this mystery of the Church for an assortment of reasons that really have no validity. "I don't respect the priest; The priest isn't 'holy enough' to hear my confession; Only Catholics do that, we don't do that; I don't like the priest's advice; It is embarrassing; I can confess directly to Jesus, what do I need a priest for?" all show a fundamental misunderstanding of the operation of the sacrament and have a certain arrogance about them as we try to circumvent answering for our own sinful behaviours. The reality is, like it or not, it is necessary to make a private confession and it is **YOUR** responsibility to get to this sacrament and preferably more than once a year let alone once in a lifetime.

Unlike in Europe and other parts of the world where there are a limited number of confessors appointed by the bishop, most every priest in the United States has been granted the faculty of hearing confessions along with his ordination. This means that the ordaining bishop has given the priest the authority to witness confessions and give absolution on his behalf. If you see yourself in any of the excuses written here, you must do something about that. There are monasteries—several in the state of Michigan alone, Orthodox priests posted at parishes in neighboring cities, opportunities to make appointments for confession locally (and distant from here) that fit into your busy schedule, and information available on the sacrament if you find you just don't understand why this is necessary. There are no excuses left. "I didn't know", just wont cut it. You're only fooling yourself.

As we approach this Dormition Fast, this is the perfect time to re-think Holy Confession and your aversion to it; to discover it for the first time...or rediscover it if you've ignored it. Christ beckons to you and invites you to repair your broken relationship with Him; what will you say to Him?