

Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

Epistle Lesson: First Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians 9:4-17

BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Matthew 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

The Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus...4 August

There was a great persecution of Christians during the reign of Decius. The emperor himself came to Ephesus and there arranged a boisterous and noisy celebration in honor of the lifeless idols as well as a terrible slaughter of Christians. Seven young men, soldiers, refrained from the impure offering of sacrifices and they earnestly prayed to the one God to save the Christian people. They were the sons of the most influential elders of Ephesus and their names were Maximilian, Jamblichus, Martin [Martinian], John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus, and Antonin [Antoninus]. When they were accused before the emperor, they retreated to a hill outside Ephesus called Celion and there they hid in a cave. When the emperor learned of this, he commanded that the cave be sealed off. However, God according to His far-reaching Providence caused a miraculous and long-lasting sleep to fall upon the young men. The imperial courtiers, Theodore and Rufinus, secret Christians, built in that wall a copper sarcophagus with lead plaques on which were written the names of these young men and their martyr's death during the reign of Emperor Decius. More than two hundred years then passed. During the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450 A.D.), there was a great dispute about the resurrection. There were some that doubted the resurrection. Emperor Theodosius was in great sorrow as a result of this dispute among the faithful and prayed to God that He, in some way, would reveal the truth to men. At that time of turmoil in the Church some shepherders of Adolius, who owned the hill Celion began to build folds for the sheep and removed stone after stone from that cave. The youths then awakened from their sleep young and healthy, the same as when they fell asleep. The news of this miracle was spread abroad on all sides so that even Theodosius himself came with a great entourage and with delight conversed with the youths. After a week, they again fell into the sleep of death to await the general resurrection. Emperor Theodosius wanted to place their bodies in gold sarcophagi but they appeared to him in a dream and told him to leave them in the earth as they were laid out. *From the Prologue by St. Nicholas Velimirovich*

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

Archangel Gabriel Greek Orthodox Church

Traditional Worship for Modern Life

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PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

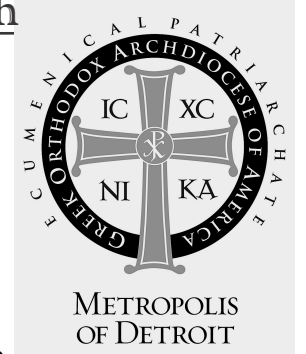
Sunday, 1 August	11th Sunday After Pentecost. 10th Sunday of St. Matthew. Feast of the Procession of the Wood of the Cross. Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed 9 AM Orthros 10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM Church School 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/TOG Captains' Meeting
Monday, 2 August	Translation of the Relics of St. Stephen the Protomartyr Fast Day 5:30 PM Paraklisis
Tuesday, 3 August	St. Salome the Holy Myrrbearer Fast Day
Wednesday, 4 August	Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus Fast Day 5:30 PM Paraklisis
Thursday, 5 August	Forefeast of the Transfiguration of the Lord Fast Day 5:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers/Blessing of Grapes
Friday, 6 August	Feast of the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed 8 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos/Blessing of Grapes 5:30 PM Paraklisis
Saturday, 7 August	Afterfeast of the Holy Transfiguration Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed 5:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers
Sunday, 8 August	12th Sunday After Pentecost. 11th Sunday of St. Matthew. Fast Day—Wine and Oil Allowed 9 AM Orthros/10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM Church School/11:30 AM Fellowship Hour Afternoon—Church School Outing at Pirates' Cove

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Prosfora This Morning... was prepared by Pam Bemis for use in the celebration of the Holy Liturgy. Thanks to Pam 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 is encouraged to speak with Fr. Iakovos for more information.

Repose of Peter Dendrinis. The beloved brother of our parishioner Michael Dennos, passed away at his home on 24 July. A Funeral Mass was held for him this past Wednesday at St. Francis Catholic Church here in Traverse City. Peter passed away at age 84. A major figure in Traverse City business and government, Peter was instrumental in founding the Chef Pierre Pie Company in 1956 along with his brother Michael who worked in the family pie business from 1954. Peter also served in various civic and governmental positions over his long career of public service. Our parish joins in sending heart felt condolences to Peter's wife, Peggy, as well as Barb and Mike Dennos on their loss.

The family suggests memorial contributions in Peter's name be made to the Father Fred Foundation.

Taste of Greece Follow-up Meeting Today. TOG Captains are invited to the event wrap up meeting being held following the coffee hour. At that meeting they will be covering the following items. All captains are encouraged to attend. A full report of the event will be made following the outcome of this meeting.

The proposed agenda for the meeting is listed below:

- Final Financial Results by Dennis Stavros and Donna Psaros.
- Lessons Learned and Observations
- Consideration of Donation Amount to St. Francis High School
- Identification of Persons and Businesses to be Formally Recognized
- AOB
- Set First Meeting Date for 2011 TOG

A Message From the Bake Shop Captain.

Sisters in Christ:

THANK YOU SO MUCH for all the tasty sweets that you made for our 2010 Taste of Greece Bake Sale! I want to thank those who came on Tuesday to package the sweets: Presbytera Joleen, Kiki Sebestyen, Pam Bemis, Sharon Foster, and Judy Weston and her lovely granddaughter. Thank you also to all who came to St. Francis on Wednesday, the day before: Martha Ealy, Angie Dunlap, Kiki Sebestyen, Theresa Underwood, Kerri Kohler, Helen Knapp, Niki Sobkowski, and Presbytera Joleen.. I also thank God for our sister in Christ, Elizabeth Husby, who provided continuous moral support from Florida, and who was praying for our good works and success. Finally, my husband Dennis helped me to set up, drive me around and I am thankful for his support. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me, and let me know.

In His Love, AGAPE. Katerina, Bake Sale Captain

Dormition Fast Starts Today. The last of the fasting periods of the ecclesiastical year started today. This short fast is a preparation for the feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos which is celebrated on Sunday, 15 August. The fast falls during a season that challenges us because of the end of summer events as well as the blessing of having food in abundance. It is a time, like most fasts, that calls us to stand apart from the culture and consider the things of the spirit. In support of the fast we celebrate the

service of the Small Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos (see below) and other things to keep our attention focused on Christ. This fast traditionally requires abstention from the normal hierarchy foods for the duration with moderation of fish, wine and oil introduced on major feasts like the Holy Transfiguration. It is also a good time to participate in the mystery of Holy Confession if one has not done so in the recent past.

Paraklisis Service Returns Tomorrow Evening. August in Constantinople was a month of disease and pestilence and so it was the custom to carry the True Cross in procession through all the quarters of the City during the first two weeks of the month. The office for the first of the month still commemorates this practice, as does the solemn blessing of Holy Water, which is performed in many churches on that day, although it is the normal Orthodox custom to do so on the first of every month. In Greek use it is the custom to sing the Office of Supplication to the Mother of God each evening during the first fortnight of August. This may well be a survival of the ancient practice in an adapted form.

In present practice the two Canons, the Great and the Little, are sung on alternate evenings, but since the Typikon of the Great Church does not prescribe the office for the 1st, in many places the Little Canon is sung on the 2nd and the Great on the 3rd and so forth. The full rite supposes that the office is sung at Vespers immediately after the Song of Symeon, 'Now, Master'. It is the custom in many monasteries of the Holy Mountain and elsewhere to sing the Canon of the Mother of God from the Theotokarion, with its Prosomia, each weekday evening at this point of Vespers. The Canons of Supplication replace this during the first fortnight of August.

The Feast of the Holy Transfiguration is Friday. One of the twelve great feasts of the Church, the Transfiguration of the Lord brings before us the moment where Jesus was lifted up in the eyes of three of the Apostles, his face and clothes, transfigured ...shinning white as light, and conversing with Moses and Elijah the Prophet (Matthew 17:1-9).

As is the custom in the Orthodox Church, this is the time at which we bless the first fruits of the harvest including grapes. People bring their produce to the Church for blessing at this time and it is shared with all following the blessing as a sign of God's abundant kindness and graciousness towards us as he blesses the earth to produce her "fruits in due season."

While we don't call these days "holy days of obligation" in the Orthodox Church, there are days on which attendance at the liturgical services is very strongly advised. This is one of those days. If your work keeps you from attending, then you are encouraged to do something during the day to make you mindful of what is being commemorated and to "keep the day holy" as best you can. If you are neither at work nor sick, then there is really no reason not to be commemorating the day by attending the services. Our celebration begins with vespers on the eve of the feast and concludes with the Holy Liturgy. Make it a point to join us as we celebrate the manifestation of the divinity of Christ.

Pirates' Cove Afternoon. Our church school is sponsoring an afternoon of fun and learning about the Faith at Pirates' Cove in Traverse City for our students. Please RSVP with Fr. Iakovos by Wednesday!