

## Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

### Epistle Lesson: Second Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians 4:6-15

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

### Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. Matthew 35-46

At that time, a lawyer asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying "What do you think of Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

**Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos This Wednesday.** This is a major feast day of the Church and all Orthodox are encouraged to keep the day Holy by attendance at the Divine Services. On this day we commemorate the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God to SS. Joachim and Anna.

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson-but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity-this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anna. She was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.

*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

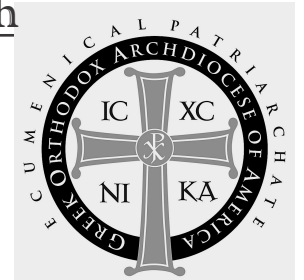
Sunday, 5 September	<b>16th Sunday After Pentecost. 15th Sunday of St. Matthew. St. Zacharias the Martyr and his wife, St. Elisabeth, parents of St. John the Baptizer.</b> 9 AM Orthros 10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos 11:15 AM Church School 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
Monday, 6 September	<b>Miracle at Colassai of the Archangel Michael</b>
Tuesday, 7 September	<b>The Forefeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos</b> 5:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers
Wednesday, 8 September	<b>Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos</b> Fast Day—Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed 8 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
Thursday, 9 September	<b>SS. Joachim and Anna, parents of the Most Holy Theotokos</b> 6 PM Sloop Madeline Community Sail
Friday, 10 September	<b>Forefeast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross</b> Fast Day
Saturday, 11 September	<b>Forefeast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross</b> Please note that there is no vesper service this evening.
Sunday, 12 September	<b>17th Sunday After Pentecost. Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross. Leavetaking of the Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos</b> 9 AM Orthros 10 AM Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos and Back to School Blessing 11:15 AM Church School 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour 12 Noon Ladies Philoptochos Meeting

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METROPOLIS  
OF DETROIT

**Prosfora This Morning...** was prepared by Theresa Underwood for use in the celebration of the Holy Liturgy. Thanks to Theresa for making this offering so that we can celebrate the Lord's presence among us.

**Welcome Nancy and Stan Takis and Choir of Holy Assumption Greek Orthodox Church.** Visiting with us this morning is Nancy and Stan Takis along with the choir of Holy Assumption Church located in St. Clair Shores. The group is in the area touring Traverse City and agreed to make time in their itinerary to spend part of the weekend with us. Last night, following the vespers service, Nancy and Stan conducted a workshop for those in attendance dealing with their arrangement of traditional Byzantine chant for parish usage. This arrangement is the one that this parish has been using for the past three years. In their workshop they gave an excellent explanation of some of the historical components behind the Byzantine singing as well as the philosophy used in arranging the music so that it "works" with the English language. Stan Takis highlighted in his lecture the fact that the most important element communicated in chant are the words themselves. "The text takes precedence over the music. In chant, the focus is on the words, not the music." Nearly fifteen members of the Holy Assumption Choir were in attendance in addition to some of our own choir members and parishioners who had attended the services.

This morning, Nancy Takis leads in the chanting of the Matins service sung according to traditional Byzantine style, and Stan leads his choir along with members of our own choir in the responses to the Holy Liturgy. We are very pleased and excited to have them visiting with us this morning and encourage our congregants to give them a warm Northwestern Lower Michigan welcome!

**Save the Date for our Back-to-School Event.** The religious education department will be sponsoring our traditional Back-to-School Sunday to be held a week from today. The day will be marked with special prayers and events to propel our students, their families and those working in the education world into the new school year. Persons are encouraged to participate in this dedication of the new school year.

**Ladies to Meet.** The Philoptochos will have a quick general meeting following the services on Sunday, 12 September. This meeting will be brief. Items on the agenda include: an update of the group's current finances, organizing resources for the November food drive and dinner, as well as other housekeeping items. The meeting will conclude no later than 1:15 PM. It is asked that the membership please consider coming to this worthwhile meeting.

**What Does It Take To Be a Parish Council Officer.** Parish council members represent their parish and the Orthodox Christian faith. As leaders of the community, parish council members are on the front lines and are able to have a long-term positive effect on their parish. To serve on the parish council is a ministry and those who serve are called to represent Christ to all whom they meet in all aspects of life. The mission of the parish as defined in the Uniform Parish Regulations – and therefore the mission of the Parish Council – is "... to keep, practice and proclaim the Orthodox Christian Faith pure and undefiled." In the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, the Rich Man walked by poor Lazarus every day. The Rich Man didn't hate Lazarus – he just ignored him, committing the sin of indifference. The opposite of love is not hate. The opposite of love is indifference. We have been blessed with great treasures of the faith and Lazarus lies at our gate. Lazarus is the visitor that walks through the doors of our church on Sunday morning. Lazarus is the non-Orthodox spouse. Lazarus is the lapsed Orthodox Christian visiting the parish after a long absence. Like the Rich Man in the parable, we often walk right by without noticing, and they eat from the crumbs that fall from our table. If we believe that in Orthodoxy we have the fullness of the Truth, then we have the great responsibility – the Great Commission – to share it with everyone. As Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of ALL nations – ΕΙΣ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΤΑ ΕΘΝΗ .

For non-Orthodox as well as for inactive Orthodox Christians, entering an Orthodox church can be a very uncomfortable, intimidating experience. Research has shown that non-believers attend church at least once each year, and when they attend, they are profoundly affected by their first impressions. Often the first person our visitors see is a member of the parish council. Reaching out to those who enter our doors with a handshake, a greeting and a welcoming smile could be the most important missionary work we do. Simply put -- friendliness has eternal implications. Unless people see in us the light and the love of Christ, they will not believe.

Parishioners are often nominated as candidates for the Parish Council because of their education, business experience or legal background. **The best parish council members are not necessarily those who are business-oriented, but rather, those who are Church-oriented and Christ-centered. To be a good council member, one must be active in the worship and sacramental life of the Church. The best candidates are easy to find – they are in church.** The Priest is head of the Parish, and is charged with the guidance of the total Parish program. The parish council consists of the Priest, and the elected lay members, and is referred to as a board only when so required by local statute. In internal matters of the Church, we always use the designation of Parish Council. This is because one of the identifying traits of the Orthodox Church is that we are councilor – decisions are made in council. To refer to the Parish Council as "The Board" is a symptom of our inclination to apply the corporate paradigm to the operation of the Church. Although some tools used in corporate life may also be useful in the operation of the Church, the corporate paradigm falls short and reduces the local church to something less than she was meant to be.

**The duties of a parish council member ( UPR Ch 2, Article XII ) include regular attendance at divine services and participation in the sacramental life of the Church, "...thereby setting an example for the parish."** To set an example for the parish will require that we overcome the stereotype of the parish council member who is rarely seen in church. It is easy to be like Martha -- Jesus, the Son of God, came to dinner and Martha spent the entire time in the kitchen "anxious and troubled about many things." In the Oath of Office, the parish council members affirm that they "...will fulfill faithfully and sincerely the duties and obligations required of a member of the Parish Council..." A promise is made which rests on the shared commitment of all council members to serve the Church, which is the Body of Christ on earth. We are His hands, feet, eyes and more. To serve on the council is a ministry and a mission. We are called to use the gifts with which we have been blessed to carry out the work of the Church.

On the agenda of our Fall Assembly which will take place on Sunday, 3 October, we will be addressing the nomination of three individuals to fill the seats of Stephanie Long, current vice-president, Bob Underwood, member at large, and Doug Hadley who fills out the term vacated by Ray Ealy. Each of these seats are for three year terms beginning January 2011. Perhaps Our Lord is calling you to this type of service to His Church? Please begin to think now about making yourself available to attend.

**Religious Ed Department His Attendance Incentive.** Our church school developed a programme of incentives to encourage sustained participation in the classes offered here. Student attendance will be taken throughout the year and those showing consistent attendance will be awarded a gift card for purchase of I-tunes from the Internet. Sustained regular attendance will result in awards and prizes that will culminate with recognition at the end of the school year. Our parish has two professional educators who give of their time and talents in order to formulate and execute a truly excellent curriculum for our students. We have resources that would be the envy of many churches several times our size. And all of this is available in our part of Michigan for free to our children and those who have an interest in Orthodoxy. Parents are encouraged to see to it that their young people participate in this programme.