

Holy Scripture Lessons for the Day

Epistle Lesson: First Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Vespers of Forgiveness Next Sunday. Our Lenten observance will begin with the celebration of the Vespers of Forgiveness next Sunday following the fellowship hour. This important service is the signal that the Lenten struggle has begun. The climax of the service is the Rite of Mutual Forgiveness which takes place at the end of vespers. In this rite, the priest asks forgiveness of each person individually and then each person attending the service asks forgiveness of the other until everyone has forgiven each person everything. It is only then that we can begin our Lenten journey—only after we have forgiven. Please make it a point to start your Lenten observance by attending this moving and most beautiful service.

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 6- Sunday, 7 February 2010

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 7 February
Orthros Eothinon 2
Apolytikion Tone 2

Meatfare Sunday.

The Second Coming of Christ and the Last Judgement.

Scout Recognition Sunday

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos-Recognition of Scouts
11:15 AM Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Monday, 8 February

St. Theodore the Commander

Fast Day—Dairy, Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted

Tuesday, 9 February

Apodosis of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Fast Day—Dairy, Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted

Wednesday, 10 February

St. Haralambos the Martyr

Fast Day—Dairy, Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted

Thursday, 11 February

St. Vlasios the Martyr of Sebaste

Fast Day—Dairy, Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted
6 PM Special Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 12 February

St. Meletios, Archbishop of Antioch

Fast Day—Dairy, Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted

Saturday, 13 February

St. Martinianos the Righteous. Soul Saturday

Fast Day—Dairy, Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted
Please Note: There will be No Vespers this Evening. Father will be serving at St. George's Church in Sault Ste. Marie and returning in the evening.

Sunday, 14 February
Orthros Eothinon 3
Apolytikion Tone 3

Forgiveness Sunday. The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise

Fast Day—Dairy, Fish, Wine and Oil Permitted
9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos
11:15 AM Vespers of Forgiveness
Noon Fellowship Hour



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

www.tcorthodoxchurch.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6350 Traverse City, MI 49696

Meeting Address: 1030 Hastings St., Traverse City, MI 49686

Church Phone: 231.668.6583 Cell: 231.590.2038 e-Mail: iakovos@charter.net

Scout Recognition Sunday, 7 February. In 1955, the hierarchs leading the various Orthodox Christian jurisdictions in our land came together to recognize and endorse the work of the Boy Scouts of America. This encounter prefigured the promising possibilities for witnessing to our unity in Jesus Christ in this land and culture when we live and work in unity. Then and now, we believe that the Scout Affirmation and Law are significant aids to parishes and families in raising young men and women who “do their duty to God and Country.” The methods of the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts USA, and the Camp Fire Boys and Girls programs are tremendous tools and the hierarchs of the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas continue to endorse the work of these valued institutions.

This year’s celebration is particularly meaningful as the Boy Scouts of America celebrate 100 years of vital service to the youth of our nation. Today we recognise and honour those of our parish involved in Scouting; they include: Melana Kain, Jacob, James and Jenna Olszewski. Additionally, Mrs. Holly Olszewski is Den Leader in Silver Lake Pack 87 providing valuable leadership service there. Our Scouts will receive their Scout Sunday 2010 patch for display on their uniforms in a special presentation held during the Holy Liturgy this morning. Join us in honouring the important contribution that these people make to our parish and community.

Welcome, Dr. Peter Bouteneff! This morning we welcome to our parish Dr. Peter Bouteneff, Professor of Systematic Theology of St. Vladimir’s Seminary in suburban New York. Through the gracious underwriting of one of our parishioners, Dr. Bouteneff arrived yesterday afternoon to join us for the vespers and the provide about an hour’s long meet and greet in our community center. He joins us this weekend to make a presentation this afternoon at the Denno’s Museum on the campus of Northwestern Michigan College in conjunction with their exhibit dealing with Stalin era Soviet gulags. This lecture is a complement to our parish book club study of the text, *Father Arseny, Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father*. Dr. Bouteneff, while primarily a theologian, brings a special dimension to this lecture as his mother, Vera, was involved in translating the book into English for all of us to enjoy. In his informal talk to our parish last night following vespers, Dr. Bouteneff explained the impact of the translation and wide popularity and distribution of the book, not only in the United States but around the world. “It has become a bit of a phenomenon,” he said. Surely the book is far more popular than anyone would have guessed.

Dr. Bouteneff’s lecture is free to the public and begins at 2 PM at the museum. A free will offering will be taken at the museum to benefit our church. Also available at the museum will be additional books and pamphlets about our community here. Join us this afternoon for a remarkable opportunity to hear a world class speaker illumine the text by explaining the impact of the dehumanizing and soul corrupting gulag system on the spiritual lives of those whom we learn of in the book.

Partners with Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary Club. Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) is pleased and grateful to partner with the Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary Club, as the club launches its first annual ‘Shoes & Snacks for Backpacks’ fundraising event, scheduled to take place at Timber Ridge Resort on *Sunday, February 21st, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.* The \$15 event registration fee will sponsor one fully supplied backpack for the 2010 ‘Backpacks for Kids’ program. Participants will enjoy a snowshoe trek on groomed trails with complimentary hot beverages and snacks. Limited on-site rentals are available at \$5.00 per pair thanks to event partner, GT Cycle (231) 941-4868. Advance registration is encouraged. This is a family-friendly event with a maximum registration fee of \$25.00. Additional donations are welcomed. Please contact Jessica Luckey at (231) 932-6238 or visit: www.tcsunriserotary.org for more information.

Special Choir Rehearsal Thursday. The third in a series of special rehearsals to prepare for the Great Lent will be held this Thursday at between 6 and 8 PM. The group will continue to work on the special music for the Liturgy of St. Basil as well as the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified. Everyone is welcome to join us for these rehearsals. For more information please contact Presvytera Joleen-Elisabet.

Sunday of the Last Judgement. The Gospel lesson for the day is Christ’s parable of the Last Judgement. When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The parable answers: love—not a mere humanitarian concern

for abstract justice and the anonymous “poor,” but concrete personal love for the human person, any human person, that God makes me encounter in my life. This distinction is important because today more and more Christians tend to identify Christian love with political, economic, and social concerns; in other words, they shift from the unique person and its unique personal destiny, to anonymous entities such as “class,” “race,” etc. Not that these concerns are wrong. It is obvious that in their respective walks of life, in their responsibilities as citizens, Christians are called to care, to the best of the possibilities and understanding, for a just, equal, and in general more humane society. But Christian love as such is something different, and this difference is to be understood and maintained if the Church is to preserve her unique mission and not become a “social agency,” which definitely she is not.

Christian love is the “possible impossibility” to see Christ in another man, whoever he is, and whom God, in His eternal and mysterious plan, has decided to introduce into my life, be it only for a few moments, not as an occasion for a “good deed” or an exercise in philanthropy, but as the beginning of an eternal companionship in God Himself. For, indeed, what is love if not that mysterious power which transcends the accidental and the external in the “other” and reaches the soul, the unique and uniquely personal “root” of a human being, truly the part of God in him? If God loves every man it is because He alone knows the priceless and absolutely unique treasure, the “soul” or “person” He gave every man. Christian love then is the participation in that divine knowledge and the gift of that divine love. There is no “impersonal” love because love is the wonderful discovery of the “person” in “man,” of the personal and unique in the common and general. It is the discovery in each man of that which is “lovable” in him, of that which is from God.

The parable of the Last Judgment is about Christian love. Not all of us are called to work for “humanity,” yet each one of us has received the fit and the grace of Christ’s love. We know that all men ultimately need this personal love—the recognition in them of their unique soul in which the beauty of the whole creation is reflected in a unique way. We also know that men are in prison and are sick and thirsty and hungry because that personal love has been denied them. And finally, we know that however narrow and limited the framework of our personal existence, each one of us has been made responsible for a tiny part of the Kingdom of God, made responsible by that very gift of Christ’s love. Thus, on whether or not we have accepted this responsibility, on whether we have loved or refused to love, shall we be judged. For “inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me...”

*Adapted from the book **Great Lent** by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann*

Fasting Regulations For the Week. With this week the Church begins to wean us from the rich foods that are normally a part of our diet. If we think of the hierarchy of foods, at the very top is meat and meat products. Next come dairy products followed by fish and finally wine and oil. For this week, the Church will take away the eating of meat. Today is the last day that we are permitted to eat meat or meat products. All other foods will be permitted this week, but we will have a week to get used to forgoing meat. Next Sunday will be the last day for taking dairy products. And, once Lent starts on the 15th wine and oil will be taken away except for the weekends and special feast days. According to the Holy Fathers, the stomach is the root cause of many sins. Controlling one’s appetite is seen as an important physical discipline that has spiritual implications. And while Lent is not just about the food, paying attention to the Fast is an integral part of making this season one that is going to be spiritually profitable for you.

Also part of our Lenten fasting we abstain from a lot of activities and entertainments. This frees up more time for spiritual pursuits as well as opportunities to perform corporal acts of mercy for the less fortunate which is also part of our seasonal discipline. Make a plan now to participate as fully as you can in the work that lies before us. For more information, contact Fr. Iakovos for an appointment and consultation.

O Lord and Master! O God of heaven and earth! Show Thy favour and open to me the door of repentance, I pray Thee with mine afflicted soul. Regard me according to Thy great mercy; incline Thine ear to my prayer and forgive me, who am guilty of falling into many sins; forgive me all of the wretched things I have done, for I have been conquered by my own evil will. St. Theophan the Recluse