



EHOLD, THOU ART MADE WHOLE;  
SIN NO MORE, LEST A WORSE  
THING COME UNTO THEE.

(John 5:14)



# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sunday of the Paralytic

May 3, 2015

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;  
Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris,  
Cantors

Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

## We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

*It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, 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 us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 - 8.*

## GLAD TIDINGS

+++ We thank all who labored to make the Pirohi Sale a success. May the Lord continue to bless all with good health for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ We remind our faithful diocesan and parish dues are DUE. Only fourteen diocesan dues are received. Please fulfill this obligation during this sacred season.

+++ Every Monday, we have prayerful devotions before the Myrrh bearing icon at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to be present in praise. The Birthgiver invites us to manifest our faith in response to her first shown love, to unite our prayers with hers for the salvation of our souls. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Father George, Barbara, Betty, James, Yevlogia, Nicholas, Maria, Cynthia, Pani Anna Marie, Father Myron, Pani Delores and Andrea.

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received last Sunday: Tithe Offering, \$376.00; Candles, \$25.00; Holy Day, \$15.00; Resurrection, \$50.00, for a total of \$466.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls!

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Maria Idronmenos, Anna Zacharyczuk, Bob Gorbich, Marilyn Korba and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of **\$1819.00** from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ Please be certain to see a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$5750 on this project to date!

+++ The Clothing Drive is a permanent on-going project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals and shoes for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing, shoes and fabrics.

+++ We invite all pray the Lord our God grants us the grace of enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.



### God Answers Prayer

*Anyone who sees his brother sinning, if the sin is not deadly, should petition God, and thus life will be given to the sinner. This is only for those whose sin is not deadly. There is such a thing as deadly sin; I do not say that one should pray about that* 1 John 5: 14 - 16.

*I will bring the one third through fire, and I will refine them as silver is refined, and I will test them as gold is tested. They shall call upon my name, and I will hear them. I will say, "They are my people," and they shall say, "The Lord is my God"* Zechariah 13: 9.

*Know that the Lord does wonders for his faithful one; the Lord will hear me when I call upon him* Psalms 4 :4.

*The Lord has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry. When the just cry out, the Lord hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them* Psalms 34: 16, 18.

*The Lord is far from the wicked, but the prayer of the just he hears* Proverbs 15: 29.

*He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in distress; I will deliver him and glorify him* Psalms 91: 15.

*Before the call, I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hearken to them* Isaiah 65: 24.

*You who hear prayers, to you all flesh must come* Psalms 65: 2, 3.

## ALL FOR LOVE

+++ Can your love for Christ match the intense flame of a burning candle? +++  
Will the candle lighted at your death bed testify: "He, too, was a flame of burning  
love." +++ Love for God does not care what others will say or do. +++ Love is  
untiring when it never rests to reach its goal. +++ Love is pure when it is free of  
selfish designs and the spirit of the world. +++ Love is boundless when it is  
always susceptible to further depth and growth. +++ Love is invincible when it  
conquers all obstacles like a burning fire. +++ Love is insatiable when it longs  
for God more and more. +++ Love directs our efforts toward an unwavering  
perseverance in love, and not only with avoiding sin and imperfections. +++  
Unless the idea of love for God becomes an overwhelming passion, it will never  
result in anything truly great. +++ Love can triumph only if it becomes the  
dominating passion of your life. +++ Love recognizes that while Christ gives  
you everything you have, you ought to return all that you can to Him. +++ You  
must be convinced beyond a doubt that everything that stands in the way of love  
must disappear. +++ God will give more of Himself to You as you lovingly give  
yourself to Him. +++ Christians unwilling to surpass their own mediocrity give  
little and receive little, but those who genuinely love give all they possess. +++  
No one can arrive at perfect love of God who is afraid of the height and depth of  
holiness. +++ There should not be a single being we do not love because we  
first love God. +++ Love is a treasure that we acquire only if we give up  
everything in exchange for it. +++ No trial will ever defeat you if you live a life  
of love. +++ If we do not bear the insignia of His love, others will not believe  
we are His followers. +++ If you wish to know how much you love God,  
examine your soul and see how much you love your neighbor. +++ As the moon  
could not be bright if there were no sun, so also the love of our neighbor is lifeless  
without the love of God. +++ A heart full of loving kindness has a high value  
in the eyes of God. +++ A heart of loving kindness is the place where the seeds  
of charitable thoughts are born. +++ Allow yourself no rest until the love of  
God conquers your mind completely. +++ The love of neighbor grows in the  
fertile ground of love of God. +++ Love is genuine if it perseveres despite a lack  
of love in return. +++ The more intimate and stronger your love for God, the  
brighter its rays will be. +++

How many marriages go upon the rocks  
because of little angry words!



It was early in the morning when someone was pounding on the door. Thinking it was a sick call frantic request, the priest answered. "Father, please," the man on the office stoop said, "will you come? My wife says she's through with me and this time she means it!"

On the walk through deserted streets he blamed himself: "I have a nasty temper. I say things that cut and hurt. Then we fight like cats and dogs. Although," he added wistfully, "we love each other."

For something like a few hours the priest pleaded with the angry wife to give her husband another chance. Stubbornly she continued to shake her head, until the priest recalled the joy of the wedding day. When she was reminded she entered the marriage to be Christ for each other, her thinking began to change. She was reminded of the Master's counsel to forgive as we expect to be forgiven. If that was not possible, our Lord taught us that we must love each other, even love our enemies and do them good. If she could not love him as her spouse, she was still bound to love him as an enemy, but love him she must.

Around 4:30 that morning, the priest had the couple kneel before a cross in the living room and lift their right hands and vow "I solemnly promise that, under no circumstances, shall I ever speak a harsh, angry, ill-tempered word to my wife...to my husband. So help me God, the Mother of God and all the saints." Literally that moment of prayer and promise marked the turning point; having recaptured the feeling of consecration of their wedding day, they held it until the end. As if it were yesterday, that scene is still vivid in the heart and mind of the priest, as it must be in

the lives of that couple. The insight it offers into one of the deadliest and most unnecessary causes of marriage failure has been deepened and confirmed by time.

Since then priests should remind those they counsel and prepare for marriage that they pronounced their vows of fidelity in marriage, but there is another vow which is scarcely less important in safeguarding their happiness and fulfillment. They must promise each other that they will never speak an angry word to each other. It is true a newly married couple can hardly conceive of differences arising between them. But they will inevitably occur because of their common humanity. Yet, there is no difficulty, no matter how serious, which cannot be healed and settled if you will only talk about it with a real desire to express your genuine love for each other.

That particular priest always asks each couple he marries to repeat the second vow he first administered in the middle of the night and is happy to report people take it seriously because a defect in human character is pointed out to them in advance and they make a serious effort to avoid it in their married relationship.

Of course a mere resolution is not a panacea for unhappy couples: there is no magic elixir for any sickness of the heart and soul. But all newly-weds need desperately a technique by which to preserve the beauty and splendor of married love amidst the realities of the world. Few realize that harsh words, more than harsh deeds, are the termites that can undermine the foundation of their loving relationship. When an angry word provokes a quarrel, each party soon has a position to defend. A "principle" is at stake, they think, when in reality it is simply vanity and pride. The peace that a simple, kindly word of apology could have quickly restored is now rendered exceedingly difficult.

A skeptic may object that while some people can learn to control themselves, others are too hot-headed; they blow up before they have time to think, and then the harm is done. Of course, impetuous persons do find it hard to keep the vow, but even the fiercest heart, once convinced of the permanent harm that can be done by the malicious word, will be careful.

When people hear that the couples who have been warned and exposed to the pitfalls of anger wrongly expressed lived a more peaceful life, they ask that same priest to assist them. There is always a mixture of stubbornness and pride in each

marriage partner which is offended and hurt. There are some who feel that an explosion of anger is a relief good for the body and soul. Of course, it is destructive to swallow grudges and then nourish them silently. But we can rid ourselves of resentments without blowing up like volcanoes. Psychiatrists testify that there is healing in unbosoming oneself to a sympathetic, friendly auditor. It restores peace of mind and normal healthy outlook. Troubles shared are troubles halved; troubles hidden are troubles doubled. But with whom can an angry wife talk? With her husband! Talk it out together!

What the heart cries for is not an explosion, but a release, and the healthy way to achieve that release is for one to make clear to the other any feelings of injury or injustice. People will consider virtually any suggestion made in a friendly manner; they will bristle with resentment if it be shouted at them in ill temper. Then stubbornness gets its chance. In any tongue the words most difficult to pronounce are "I was at fault...I'm sorry...please forgive me."

The best way to solve such situations is to prevent them from developing. If not nipped in the bud, the tendency to quarrel can become chronic. Testifying in a divorce court in Los Angeles, a wife once said her husband was growing angry with her for not removing a little spot from the wall. "He told me repeatedly I was a poor housekeeper for not removing the spot," she testified. "Then one day he decided to get some soap and water and remove it himself. He rubbed the spot, but instead of disappearing, it became larger and larger and he got madder and madder. I just stood watching and that seemed to irritate him more. So finally, he shouted angrily, and punched me in the nose."

Mirrored in that hapless spot on the wall is the role of the angry word. It will cause ever-increasing misunderstanding and bitterness. Many experienced souls suggest that more than half of all divorces could be avoided if husband and wife refrained from angry bickering and talked over their differences in a spirit of good will.

Long ago, the wise and insightful teacher wrote: "The tongue is ...a little member, and makes great pretensions. See how tiny the spark is that sets a huge forest ablaze! The tongue is such a flame..." James 3: 5, 6. "If a person is without fault in speech he is a man in the fullest sense, because he can control his entire body" James 3: 2.



## Wisdom, Be Attentive!

*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; with His arm, the Lord has won victory; by His death, He has conquered death; He has become the first born of the dead; He has delivered us from the depth of the Abyss and has granted great mercy to the world* Troparion, Sunday of the Paralytic.

*With your divine protection, O Lord, as you once raised the paralytic, now lift up my soul paralyzed with all kinds of sins and evil deeds of wickedness, so that saved I may cry out to You: "Glory to your might, O merciful Christ!"* Kontakion, Sunday of the Paralytic.

*Although You descended to the grave, O Immortal One, You destroyed the power of death; You rose again as a Victor, O Christ God! You announced to the women bearing ointment: "Rejoice!" You gave peace to your apostles and resurrection to the fallen* Kontakion, Sunday of the Paralytic.

*May your kindness O Lord, be upon us who put our hope in You* Prokimenon, Sunday of the Paralytic.

*Receive the Body of Christ! Drink the Source of Immortality! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!* Communion Hymn, Sunday of the Paralytic.

*When the Paschal Feast is half-completed, quench my thirsty soul with the waters of devotion, for You, O Saviour, have announced to all: "Let him who is thirsty come to me and drink," O Christ God, Source of our life, glory to You!* Troparion, Feast of Mid-Pentecost.

*O Christ God, Creator and Lord of all, when the Paschal feast was half-completed, You told those present: "Come and draw the water of immortality." Let us therefore adore You and cry out with faith: "Grant us your goodness, for You are the Source of our life!"* Kontakion, Feast of Mid-Pentecost.

*He* who wants to  
 get into WHO'S WHO must  
 first learn what's  
 what...



Proverbs 1:8-9

Only fools refuse to be taught. Listen to your father and mother. What you learn from them will stand you in good stead; it will gain you many honors.

Don't think people judge your generosity by the amount of advice you give away.

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalms 34:1-8 (19-22)

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

*P*  
 RAYER

Great High Priest:

We need  
 your loving  
 intercession

more than ever.

Give us the desire  
 to seek your peace

in all that  
 we say and do.

Amen.

WHAT CAN I DO TO SHARE MY FAITH AND SUPPORT MY CHURCH?

- |                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| HAVE GOD .....       | WILL WORSHIP |
| HAVE BIBLE .....     | WILL READ    |
| HAVE CONVICTION..... | WILL SHARE   |
| HAVE CONCERN.....    | WILL PRAY    |
| HAVE VOICE .....     | WILL SING    |
| HAVE MONEY .....     | WILL TITHE   |
| HAVE CAR .....       | WILL BRING   |
| HAVE INTEREST .....  | WILL COME    |
| HAVE PEN .....       | WILL WRITE   |
| HAVE PHONE.....      | WILL CALL    |

# Did You Know That ...

- ...sin deceives, then defiles, finally deadens our soul?
- ...honesty is something you cannot wear out?
- ...when our heavenly Father forgives in the confessional, He removes the sin and renews the soul?
- ...loving those who love us is natural; loving those who hate or dislike us is supernatural?
- ...the highways of man's history on earth are strewn with the wreckage of nations who forgot about God?
- ...our vocation as disciples of Christ inspires us to invite others to our Divine Liturgy to share in the joy of the Resurrection?
- ...we all have a serious responsibility to make our parish warm and friendly, and inviting?
- ...we are pleased to welcome sinners into our parish who are serious about becoming saints?
- ...our joy in the Resurrection of the Saviour must find its expression in our faithful attendance at the Divine Liturgy?
- ...our Lord's Resurrection provides us with the inspiration to live the Word of God in our daily lives?
- ...our parish would greatly grow and increase in size if we took seriously our responsibility to befriend and invite churchless souls to worship with us?
- ...sincere prayer changes the way we look at things?
- ...unlike food for the baby, food for the mind and soul is best taken with mouth closed?
- ...you should not assume that spending twice as much for something will make it twice as satisfying?

## A CROWN FOR HIS PATIENCE

**L**ooking back at our life and all that we have experienced, we see that our path has not always been smooth or unincumbered. Throughout our lives, we have all been met with obstacles and afflictions, placed there to test us. Our Lord went as far as to confirm it when he said, "In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

What better way is there than to read what the Bible says about AFFLICTION. It tells us that it serves a purpose and gives us examples to help us make sense of it. One such "victorious hero" is presented to us today in the form of the PARALYTIC MAN.

It was not a day, a week or just a few months but 38 long years that this man was sick and completely paralyzed. He could have easily fallen into a state of horrible gloom and depression. Yet he chose not to wallow in despair, cursing the day he was born. In order to conquer sorrow, he armed himself with PATIENCE. With a firm resolve, he passed his days of trial and tribulation believing that the Lord above had not abandoned him. He looked forward to the day he would be shown mercy. The One True God, Jesus Christ Himself, came and cured the paralytic.

May all who suffer afflictions be rewarded for their patience. To help us endure, may we be reminded of the strength of the paralytic man and especially the sorrow and pain our Lord endured for us, for our salvation.