

# **Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church**

**24 BURKE ROAD**

**FREEHOLD, NJ 07728**

**Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**

**August 20, 2017**

**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 insightful riches 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**

**+++ His Grace, Bishop Gregory, will be visiting our parish the week – end of November 4, 5, to bless the icons on the icon screen and to impart his episcopal blessing**



to our faithful. We will have a service Saturday afternoon honoring our tear - shedding icon and the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy followed by a dinner in honor of the Most Blessed Bishop. Please set aside these dates to assure your presence with the parish family for this auspicious event.

+++ We have festal anointing today on the occasion of this past week's holyday, the Dormition of the Birthgiver of God. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we reply, "He Is And Shall Be!".

+++ Next Sunday at 9: 15 AM, we will have a Memorial Service for the repose of the soul of +George Szmajda at the request of his beloved wife, Debbie. We pray the Lord grant the soul of his departed servant, +George a blessed repose and creates for him Eternal Memory!

+++ With regret we note many of our faithful are not offering their Diocesan Dues. Please bring them in because the parish is responsible for remitting \$65.00 per adult for support of the diocese.

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Betty, James, Yevlogia, Nicholas, Maria, William, Cynthia, Patricia, Pani Anna Marie 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, \$131.00; Candles, \$14.00; Holy Day, \$25.00, for a total of \$170.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer one tenth of their God-given treasure and labor 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, Pani Lucas, Maria Idromenos, Anna Zacharyczuk, 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 **\$1860.00** from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ 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, blankets and fabrics.

LORD



TEACH  
US

### BIBLE WEATHER

*He probes the wellsprings of the streams; and brings hidden things to light. He has weighed out the wind and fixed the scope of the waters; when he made rules for the rain and a path for the thunderbolts Job 28: 11, 25 , 26.*

*You rule over the surging of the sea; you still the swelling of waves Psalms 89: 10.*

*He hushed the storm to a gentle breeze, and the billows of the sea were stilled Psalms 108: 29.*

*For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the sea, and the flood enveloped me; all your breakers and your billows passed over me...the waters swirled over me, threatening my life; the abyss enveloped me, seaweed clung about my head Jonah 2: 4. 6.*

*Meanwhile the boat, already several hundred yards out from shore, was being tossed about in the waves raised by strong headwinds...he perceived how strong the wind was...the wind died down Matthew 14: 24, 30, 32.*

*It happened that a bad squall blew up. The waves were breaking over the boat.... He awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea: "quiet, be still!"... "Who can this be that the wind and sea obey him? Mark 4: 37, 39, 41.*

*When Moses stretched forth his hand toward the sky, the Lord sent forth hail and peals of thunder. Lightning flashed toward the earth and the Lord rained down hail on the land of Egypt and lightning constantly flashed through the hail, such fierce hail as had never been seen in the land since Egypt became a nation Exodus 9: 23, 24.*



# ARE YOU SAVED?

An Orthodox Christian Perspective



If you were asked this most important question, how would you respond? Not knowing how to respond suggests indifference. Jesus calls the indifferent "lukewarm" and warns that He will spit them out of His mouth on the Day of Judgment (Rev 3:16).

What do you need to be saved from? From damnation—eternity far removed from God's goodness. The basic fact is that death will come to each of us, but death does not mean obliteration. There *is* life after death—either in a perfect place where there will be no death, no sorrow, no crying, no pain (Rev 21:4), or in a place of torment (Mt 13:41-42 and Mk 9:48). God wants us all to be saved from eternal agony (2 Pet 3:9). He has prepared a place for each of us near Him (Jn 14:1-3). However, He gathers only those who want to be with Him because they believe in Him and love Him. He has therefore given us the gift of free will, the ability to make a choice; and has established the way to His Kingdom.

God's divine plan for our salvation required that man's sins be atoned for. Jesus paid that price by laying down His perfect life for us (Jn 10:17-18). All we have to do is BELIEVE that He did that for us and is therefore our Savior. But just as Adam and Eve and all God's people were asked to prove their love through obedience, we have to PROVE our love and BELIEF by the way we live—by trying to become as much like Christ, our Savior, as we can, and by doing His work (1 Cor 15:58).

THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN IS TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, OUR SAVIOR.

HOWEVER, AS JESUS MADE CLEAR (MT 7:21), IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO JUST SAY WE BELIEVE. WE MUST PROVE OUR BELIEF AND SHOW OUR LOVE BY TRYING TO LIVE A CHRIST-LIKE LIFE.



The Bible and the writings of the Fathers of the early Church show that salvation is a process that is simultaneously past, present and future. As Orthodox Christians we say

**I WAS SAVED** when Jesus died on the Cross to pay the penalty of death for my sins (Rom 5:6-11). Before He did this for me, the only path to Heaven was through perfection through the Law (Rom 4:13-15 and 7:7-8:4). An impossible feat!

**I AM SAVED** because I know this. I accept it. It is personal to me. I know that belief in Jesus as the Son of God and my personal Savior is the only path to Heaven and eternal life with God (Jn 14:6). **I KNOW THE SECRET!** However, when studying a subject such as math, a student cannot say to the teacher, "I know the secrets of math, I'm *taking* a passing grade!" The student must take a test given by the teacher to see whether this is so. In like manner, Christians must be tested. So, in the fullness of truth we go on to say

**I AM BEING SAVED** because whereas belief in Jesus is the *only* way to Heaven, I must prove I believe in the way established by God—by *trying* to become as much like Him as I can through obedience (THEOSIS) (1 Pet 2:21 and 2 Cor 3:18).

**I WILL BE SAVED**

when my life, my period of testing, is over, or at the Second Coming of Christ, whichever occurs first (Heb 9:27-28 and 1 Thess 4:13-18). At that point I must face judgment (Jn 5:26-30) because only God (through His Son on the Throne of His Glory) can judge whether I really believed. The details of my life will be judged not by whether I succeeded in one endeavor or another, but by whether I really *tried* to follow the example of perfection Jesus left us (1 Cor 3:14-15). Where does God's grace fit into the picture (Eph 2:8-10)? It compensates for our shortcomings. God calls us to be perfect in imitation of Jesus to prove our faith. He requires though only that we do the best we can. His grace fills the gap, justifies us, sanctifies us (Rom 3:23-24).

Jesus has said that if we are not (actively) for Him we are against Him (Mt. 12:30). Make or renew your commitment to Jesus now and grow in grace and in knowledge of Him (2 Pet 3:18) to prove your belief. Be able to say with confidence (for we have the "hope" of salvation (Rom 8:24)...

**I AM BEING SAVED!**

The way to the Kingdom contains the following steps:

1. BELIEVE      that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died to pay the penalty of death for our sins.
2. PROVE BELIEF      by trying to follow Jesus' example in all things throughout our lives. The sacraments of the Church provide the basis for this life in Christ. They are tools to help us reach our goal and to strengthen us for the struggle (Mt 11:12).
3. FACE JUDGMENT      where Christ will determine, from the way we lived our life, with our own treatment of others used as a standard, whether we really believed in Him and loved Him (Rom 2:1-16).
4. RECEIVE REWARD      the kingdom of Eternal Joy for those who lived the life in Christ—doing His work and showing love and belief. Eternal torment for those who rejected (or were indifferent to) salvation through Jesus (Mt 25:31-46 and Rev 3:21).

**Being with those  
you love  
is  
ENOUGH!**

**LOVE  
IS  
ALWAYS  
SPOKEN  
HERE**

## *From a Russian Fairy Tale*

*"Here are the riddles [which the Tsar has set me], my little daughter: 'What is the strongest thing in the world? The fullest? The safest? The loveliest?'" "Father, go tell the Tsar, 'The strongest thing in the world is the WIND. The fullest -- the EARTH. She feeds all that live. The softest -- the HAND. And the loveliest thing in the world is SLEEP.'"*

*("The Wise Little Girl," Russian Fairy Tales, Guterman, N., tr. Pantheon, 1945, pp. 252-55.)*

Yea, little daughter, the WIND, Holy Spirit, sets into motion all precious Life! At Genesis, the Breath of God woke Adam's soul. And when Jesus Christ breathed on the Apostles, full-sail in their duty, they sped out of their doldrums. The WIND, Holy Spirit, separates chaff from the wheat, powers the windmill, cradles the deep, whips from four corners the flames of Hell. Yea, Angel CPR, between the quick and the dead, breathe on the heart! Our strength is in Thee, Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

Yea, little daughter, EARTH is all-bounteous, wheat field and cornfield, gold mine and oil field, pasture and meadow, garden and haymow, grain bin and grasses, mountains and fountains, graves and ashes, dust of Creation, sands of all Time, surrounding still waters, Hearth and Home mothering earthlings and nurslings.

Yea, little daughter, Christ's HAND is the softest from drying all tears, weaving nets to catch men, blessing the Bread, cooling the brow, healing the eye, raising the dead. Dearest small creature, you were formed by HAND in the image of God! May your own be as gentle with all that you handle and be folded in prayer as you pray to the Father.

Yea, little daughter, hearken to Paul, "think on things pure, whatsoever...are lovely" (Phil. 4:8). SLEEP to the weary may be loveliest of all! As the sun shines on evil along with the Good, God grants us rest from iniquity, sin, if we sleep securely trusting in Him whose Light floods and calms all-consuming anger. You have fought the good fight, slip off the cold armor, lay down your sweet head—a little SLEEP, a little slumber—folding the hands, sleep the long SLEEP, or a little one which is only a blink in the twinkling of an eye unto DAWN'S GLORIOUS RESURRECTION!





# Am I practicing my religion sincerely?

You may feel close to God in your spiritual life right now, but you can begin to doubt yourself. You have turned to him before, only to forget him later. How can you know if your most recent conversion is sincere?

We make a huge mistake when we look at conversion as a once-in-a-lifetime turning from sin to sanctity, from the values of the world to Christ. Conversion also requires perseverance, the gradual and continual redirecting of our lives. It is like fine tuning a television picture that is already good, but could be better with a delicate turn of the knob. Ongoing conversion means steering our lives, bit by bit, closer to our heavenly Father.





Every event in our life steers us closer and forward to perfection. We are never done with the conversion process. Everything we encounter should be a turning point which inspires us to advance forward.

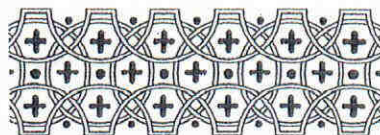
The grace of conversion never abates. It can continue to come at any moment. The Holy Spirit might knock on our door during a church ceremony or a serious illness.

Conversions occur in ordinary circumstances too, a meeting with a stranger, a wedding or a funeral, a visit to a church or a hospital. Simple things like putting up with an irritating neighbor or an in-law can be a moment of grace. We will be changed and further converted to the degree that we respond to our call to conversion which means change and upward growth. We can ignore the grace or we can respond totally. It is not God's initiative that is lacking. We are chased "down the nights and down the days" as described by Francis Thompson's *The Hound of Heaven*.

Ordinary experiences can be turning or re-turning points in our lives. Who has not denied Christ like

the great St. Peter? Who does not question the Lord as did St. Thomas? But do not think that means your past "conversions" were insincere. In conversion, we always need perseverance, the ability to live out the commitment on a daily basis. Perseverance is the difference between a passing religious experience and a true turning point. Of course, God's grace and power must both begin it all the carry us through. We must call upon and depend on his help.

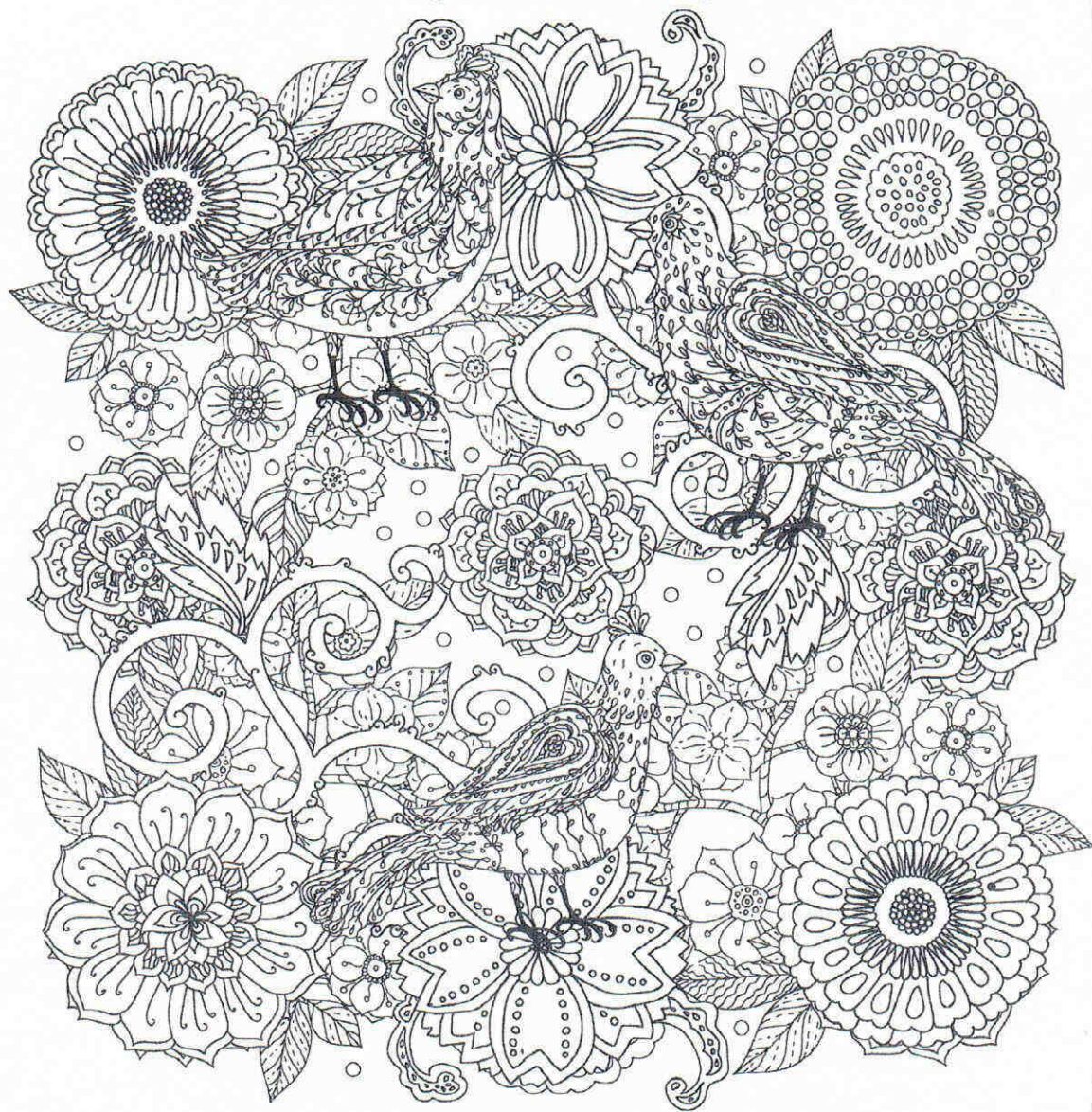
The grace of conversion touches us and calls us to advance in holiness even further. Our life in God is one of continued and continuing conversion. We are called upon to respond with all our heart!



**Let us be  
SILENT  
that we may hear  
the  
WHISPER OF GOD**



Show me your ways, Lord,



teach me your paths.

—Psalm 25:4



# Heart To Heart

*Pour out your hearts before him Psalms 62: 8.*

Life is so tender and sensitive. We are so fragile. Our bodies disappoint us. Our emotions overwhelm us. Sometimes all we feel like doing is crying.

No, it is true we are not depressed in a clinical sense. We are just overwhelmed by sorrow, loss, pain. Some who feel this way are elderly, vulnerable and weak. But, surprisingly, many who feel this way are young people as well. Our hearts – that mysterious center of our being – can suddenly be plunged into the depths of despair.

The Old Covenant King David speaks out of experience for the brokenhearted. He develops a marvelous description of God as our shield, our protection, our ultimate and perfect resource in time of trouble. In it we find a declaration that we should carry with us every moment: *Our Lord is strong and He is loving Psalms 62: 11, 12.*

God's revelation to us invites us to pour out our hearts to God, to give expression to the sentiments that overwhelm us. And the comfort our heavenly Father has for us does not consist in his writing down choice little statements about his love and power so that we, reading them, will be encouraged. Our God gives expression of his heart for us, as do we in our limitation. God's heart is full of embracing love

Heart to heart is the way it is when we in our anguish approach our God and Creator. What if bad advances to worse in our life? What can we do then? We can literally pour out our hearts to God. In our anguish we can struggle into God's presence and bring our broken heart near to his, to be revived, affirmed and strengthened and restored in his everlasting love.

Some times our broken hearts threaten to engulf our consciousness with paralyzing anguish. The pain becomes almost too much to bear. Then we realize our God was also brokenhearted over our sins and sent his only-begotten Son into the world to bear our pain and heal our separation.

We slowly come to know our God understands us, Our Lord experienced precisely what we sadly have come to know. He underwent and withstood the forces of evil and misery, then triumphed because of perseverance in love for us.



## PRAYER FOR WANDERING SHEPHERDS

ETERNAL FATHER, CREATOR OF ALL, WE PRAISE YOUR CONTINUED GRACE AND PRESENCE IN THE PRIESTHOOD OF YOUR ONLY - BEGOTTEN SON, NOW SHARED BY HIM WITH THE WEAKNESS OF OUR MORTAL NATURE. IN THE WEAKNESS WHICH YOU KNOW, SOME OF THOSE CALLED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST HAVE FALLEN FROM THE HEIGHTS TO WHICH THEY WERE INITIALLY SUMMONED. DO NOT, WE BESEECH YOU, AS YOU DID WITH REBELLIOUS ANGELS, CAST THEM FOREVER FROM YOUR SIGHT. BE MINDFUL, RATHER, OF THEIR HEARTS AS THEY WERE TOUCHED BY HEAVENLY BLESSING IN THE BEGINNING OF THEIR PRIESTHOOD AND RESTORE TO THEM BY A FLOOD OF YOUR GRACE THAT GENEROSITY WHICH THEY KNEW IN LIFE'S MORNING.

DEAR LORD JESUS CHIST, GREAT HIGH PRIEST OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT, BE MINDFUL OF YOUR BROTHER PRIESTS WHO HAVE WANDERED FROM TRUTH AND RIGHTNESS. THEY STRAYED BECAUSE THEY HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR THOUGHTS AND HEARTS FROM THE CONTEMPLATION OF YOUR CROSS. AS BY YOUR HUMANITY, YOU ARE TRULY THE BROTHER OF ALL PRIESTS, MAY WE IMPLORE YOUR DIVINITY CONJOINED IN YOU, TO IMPART TO THEM EVERY NEEDFUL IMPULSE OF SALUTARY GRACE TO RETURN TO THE LOVE OF THEIR PRIESTLY GIFTEDNESS AND THE SERVICE OF YOUR SPOUSE WHICH IS OUR BLESSED

CHURCH, THE VEHICLE OF OUR SALVATION,  
ENTRUSTED TO OUR CARE.

HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, LORD AND LIFE - GIVER,  
RESTORE TO DIVINE FRIENDSHIP THE SOULS OF  
PRIESTS NOW DEAD BY SIN. YOUR SPECIAL MARK  
INDELIBLY MARKED THROUGH ALL TIME AND  
ETERNITY, WAS SEALED UPON THEM ON THE DAY OF  
THEIR ORDINATION. HOWEVER STAINED AND SOILED,  
ALL BUT FORGOTTEN BY THEM, IT REMAINS AT ONCE  
THE REASON FOR YOUR LOVE AND CAUSE FOR EVERY  
FEAR IF THEY DO NOT DIE IN THE HOLY SERVICE OF  
ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR GLORIOUS CREATOR!

MARY, BIRTHGIVER OF GOD, QUEEN OF HEAVEN,  
INSPIRATION OF PREISTS, ENFOLD WITHIN THE  
MANTLE OF YOUR COMPASSION AND LOVE THE  
TROUBLED HEARTS OF YOUR PRIEST - SONS WHO HAVE  
FORGOTTEN THEIR EXALTED DIGNITY AND THEIR  
MINISTRY OF SERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF MAN'S  
SALVATION. THEY ONCE KNEW THE CALL OF JESUS TO  
SERVE HIS PEOPLE, AS THEY ONCE KNEW THE  
TENDERNESS OF YOUR PROTECTION AND AFFECTION.  
RENEW IN THEIR HEARTS BY YOUR INTERCESSION THE  
SENSE OF DEDICATION WHICH MAKES THEM ONE WITH  
THEIR SAVIOUR AND MAKES THEM HIS INSTRUMENTS  
FOR THE SALVATION OF MANKIND. TO THEM, ABOVE  
ALL, SHOW YOURSELF A DEVOTED MOTHER AND JOIN  
YOUR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION TO OURS THAT THEY  
RETURN IN CONTRITION AND LOVE TO THE UNCREATED  
LOVE FOR WHICH ALONE THEY WERE MADE PRIESTS.  
AMEN.



# Did You Know That ...

...there is comfort in prayer which is not elsewhere to be found?

...it is God who gives us liberty when He created us?

...contentment is not fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have?

...having someone to love is family; having somewhere to go is home; having both is a blessing?

...marriage requires falling in love many times; always with the same person?

...life may not always be the party we hoped for, but while here, we may just as well dance?

...love overflows and joy never ends in a home that is blessed with family and friends?

...we are present in church for worship because we listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit?

...we should never let yesterday fill up today?

...families ought to thank God for the food before us, the friends beside us and the love between us?

...believers live simply, love generously, speak kindly, care deeply and leave the rest to God?

...it is never too late to live happily ever after?

...the plans of God for us are to prosper and bless us?

...our parish church is where believers are glad to gather and praise God?

...some people make things happen, some watch things happen and some wonder at the end of life, "what happened"?

...being with those we love is enough?

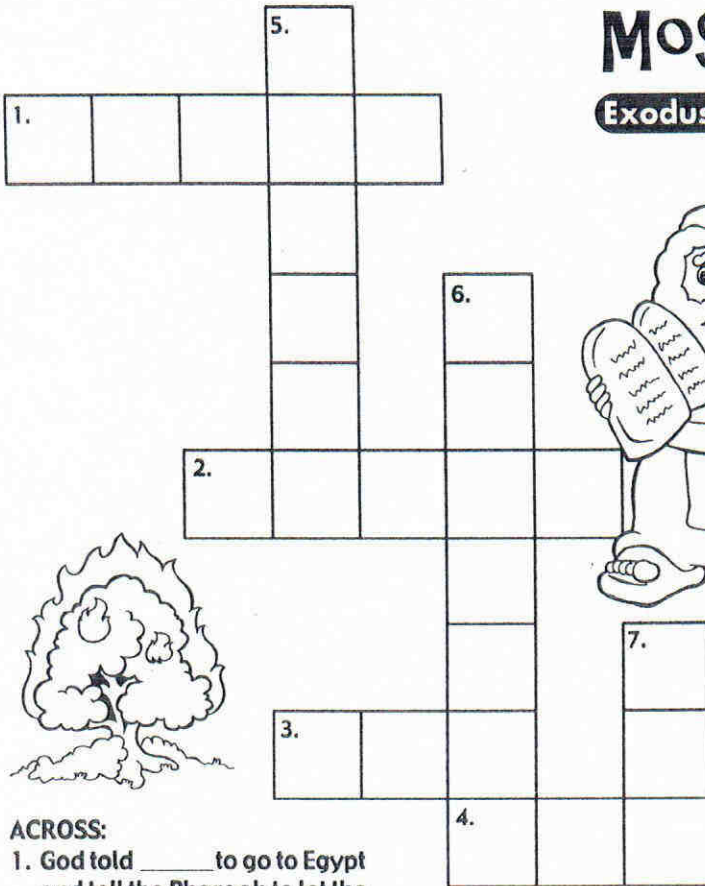
...there is a time and place for everything but sin?





# MOSES

Exodus 3-25

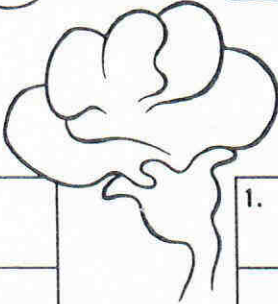


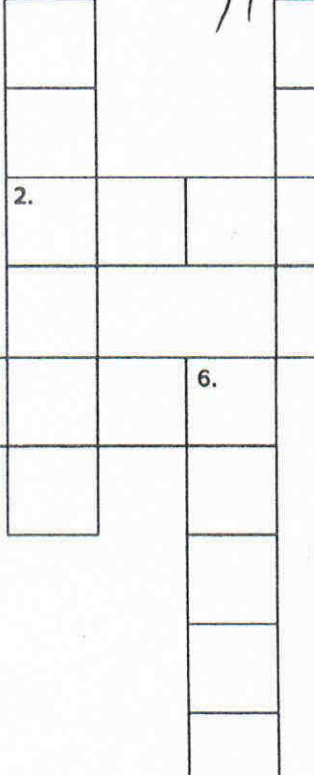
## ACROSS:

1. God told \_\_\_\_\_ to go to Egypt and tell the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.
2. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 430 \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God wrote the \_\_\_\_\_ commandments on tablets of stone and gave them to Moses.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ led Moses and the Israelites out of Egypt by appearing in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night.

## DOWN:

5. God sent plagues on Egypt because the Pharaoh would not let His \_\_\_\_\_ go.
6. God came to Moses in a \_\_\_\_\_ bush.
7. God told Moses to part the \_\_\_\_\_ Sea so the Israelites could escape from the Pharaoh's army.





5.

2.

3.

6.

4.

1.

**ACROSS:**

1. Moses' sister's name was \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Miriam hid by the \_\_\_\_\_ and watched the baby to make sure he was safe.

3. The pharaoh ordered that all the Israelite baby \_\_\_\_\_ were to be thrown in the river.

4. Baby Moses' mother hid him in a \_\_\_\_\_ and placed it in the river.

**DOWN:**

1. The pharaoh's daughter named the baby \_\_\_\_\_, and he became her son.

5. The \_\_\_\_\_'s daughter found the baby in the basket.

6. The Israelites were \_\_\_\_\_ in Egypt.

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# How Many are there?

Look down, across, and diagonally to see  
how many times you can find the word **GOD**.



## THE APOSTLE MATTHIAS

**F**ollowing the wretched betrayal of Christ by Judas, our Lord's inner circle of disciples fell to eleven. When the Apostles gathered in Jerusalem as they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit, it is recorded that they undertook the task of selecting a successor. Peter's words concerning this are chronicled in the Book of Acts: "Of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

Two candidates were proposed: Joseph called Barsabas, and Matthias. Lots were cast and, through the grace of God, Matthias was chosen to be an Apostle. Little is known of the background of this holy man. In fact, there is no other reference to him in the New Testament, aside from his election! Sacred Tradition tells us that he first took Christ's Gospel to Armenia, where he was met with great opposition. Armenia would become the first country to officially adopt Christianity as its state religion some 300 years later, but the number of converts won by Matthias was relatively small.

The missionary labors of the Apostle Matthias carried him to other remote areas of the world. He visited ancient Abyssinia and eventually found his way to Ethiopia. It was here that Matthias suffered martyrdom, giving his life for the Saviour that he loved dearly.