



SAINT JOHN

- ✠ Forerunner
- ✠ Baptist
- ✠ Prophet
- ✠ Earthly Angel
- ✠ Martyr

*Sent
by God
to prepare
the way
for the
coming of
the Lord.*

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 27, 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.

+++ Tuesday is the simple feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9: 00 AM. Please join us for prayer and praise.

+++ Today at 9: 15 AM, we have a Memorial Service for the repose of the soul of +George Szmaida 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, \$334.00; Candles, \$46.00; Holy Day, \$25.00, for a total of \$405.00. 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.

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



The Need For Salvation

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven. They certainly had knowledge of God, yet they did not glorify him as God or give him thanks; they stultified themselves through speculating to no purpose, and their senseless hearts were darkened. Romans 1: 18, 21.

The Lord does not delay in keeping his promise - though some consider it delay. Rather, he shows you generous patience, since he wants none to perish, but all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3: 9.

Well, then, do we find ourselves in a position of superiority? Not entirely. We have already brought the charge against Jews and Greeks alike that they are under the domination of sin. It is as Scripture says: "There is no just man, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one in search of God. All have taken the wrong course, all alike have become worthless; no one of them acts uprightly, no not one." Romans 3: 9- 12.

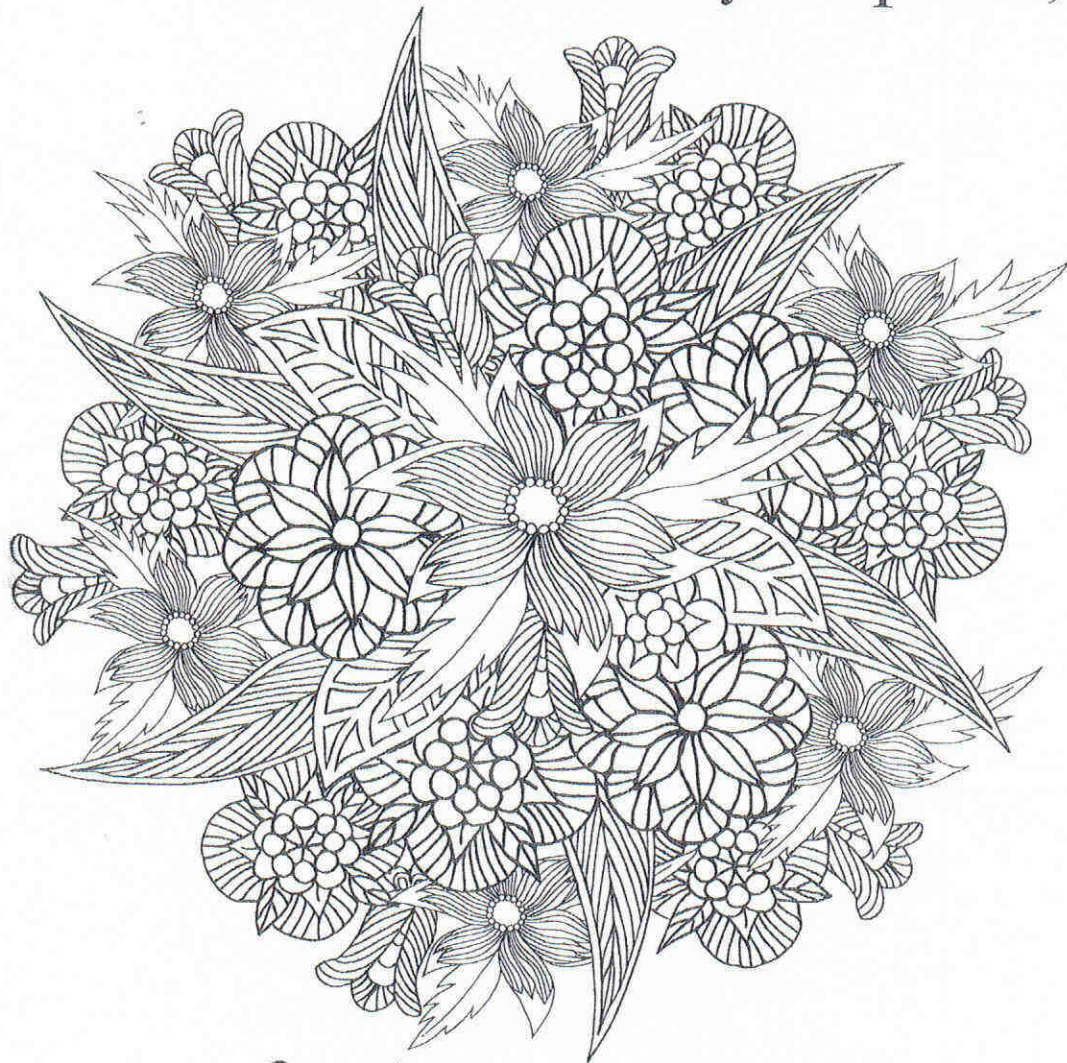
Jesus gave him this answer: "I solemnly assure you, no one can see the reign of God unless he is born again." John 3:3.

God may well have overlooked bygone periods when men did not know him; but now he calls on all men everywhere to reform their lives. He has set the day on which he is going to 'judge the world with justice' through a man he has appointed, one whom he has endorsed in the sight of all by raising him from the dead. Acts Of The Apostles 17: 30, 31.

All men have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God. Romans 3:23.

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them which says, "Listen as you will, you shall not understand, look intently as you will, you shall not see. Sluggish indeed is this people's heart. They have scarcely heard with their ears, they have firmly closed their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn back to me, and I shall heal them." Matthew 13: 14, 15.

My steps have held to your paths;



my feet have not stumbled.

—Psalm 17:5

Wisdom Of
The



Byzantine
Fathers

So little heed did they give to His words! Do you not expect, He implies, to rid yourselves of me and slay me? But I tell you that then you shall most assuredly know that *I AM* by reason of the miracles, the resurrection, and the destruction of Jerusalem. For all these things were sufficient to manifest His power. You shall know both my power and my unity with the Father. Do you see that everywhere He speaks in this way, because He is still not yet believed? He addresses Himself to their weakness and at the same time He honors Him Who begot Him. For this reason, He does not say, 'I leave your house desolate,' but 'it is left.' He puts it in the past since it has already happened because of their lack of faith response. - St. John Chrysostom.

He is *Revealed*
by many Names...



"...and His name shall be called..." Isaiah 9:6.

The Holy Name of our Lord, God and Saviour was revealed by the angelic visitor. Throughout salvation history, He is referred to in a variety of ways, each of which make known more and more of the enduring love of our Heavenly Father for each of us. Salvation history is replete with these descriptions.

A Sceptre

"...and a sceptre shall rise from Israel" Numbers 24: 17.

There is a perception of Jesus Christ which many fail to understand. Some are simply slow and some adamantly refuse. But surely, the sceptre is here, and the ruler shall make Himself manifestly known to those who cannot understand now will then come emphatically to know. All evil will be destroyed and His righteousness will become plain more swiftly than ice must melt before the glowing sun. It is the very nature of things that sin must be consumed before His glorious and eternal holiness. Can it be something other than the love of sin and wickedness that blinds the spiritual eyes of man to His consuming righteousness? Do we really believe the Lord does not care if we are holy and that we can have a place with Him if we are not? His rule has begun in the life of our blessed Church. If we but follow and live what the Church teaches, we are assured of belonging to Him forever. In our baptism we submitted to His rule in our lives. Sin removes us from His dominion and places us in that of the evil one who desires our destruction. There is only one sceptre we can be subjected to and live. Daily we must choose it! "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; see if my way is crooked and lead me in the way of old" Psalm 139: 23.

The Story Of The Praying Hands

All of us have admired the art masterpiece known as "The Praying Hands." Here is the fascinating story behind that masterful work of art. In the late fifteenth century two struggling art students, Albrecht Durer and Franz Knigstein, worked as laborers to earn money to continue their art studies. The work was long and difficult; it left them little time for their studies. Finally, they agreed to draw lots and let the loser support them both while the winner continued to study. Albrecht won. If and when he attained success, Albrecht agreed to then support Franz so that he too could finish his studies. After Albrecht achieved success, he returned to keep his bargain with Franz. He soon discovered the enormous sacrifice his friend made for him. As Franz worked at hard labor, his fingers had become twisted and stiff. His long, slender fingers and sensitive hands had been ruined for life. He could no longer manage the delicate brush strokes so necessary to execute fine works of art. In spite of the price he had paid, Franz was not bitter. He was genuinely happy his friend Albrecht attained success. One day Albrecht saw his loyal friend kneeling, his rough and gnarled hands entwined in silent prayer. Albrecht sketched his friend's hands. From this sketch he later completed a truly great masterpiece, lauded by critics. He gave it the simple, but moving title, "The Praying Hands."

The Message Of My Money

My money is really another pair of feet to walk today where Christ would walk if He were still on earth.

My money is another pair of hands to heal and feed and bless the desperate families of the earth.

My money is a prayer of intercession suddenly crossing time and space to help answer itself in one swift, unselfish gesture.

My money is one big part of my Byzantine Catholic life. If my money is not committed to Christ, then I am not totally dedicated to Jesus and His will for me.

Knowing About God

Knowledge about God does not guarantee any relationship with Him, but without it you have a guarantee your relationship with God will be shallow and superficial at best. It will not be able to save your soul unless you personalize it by living and practicing it.

EVERY



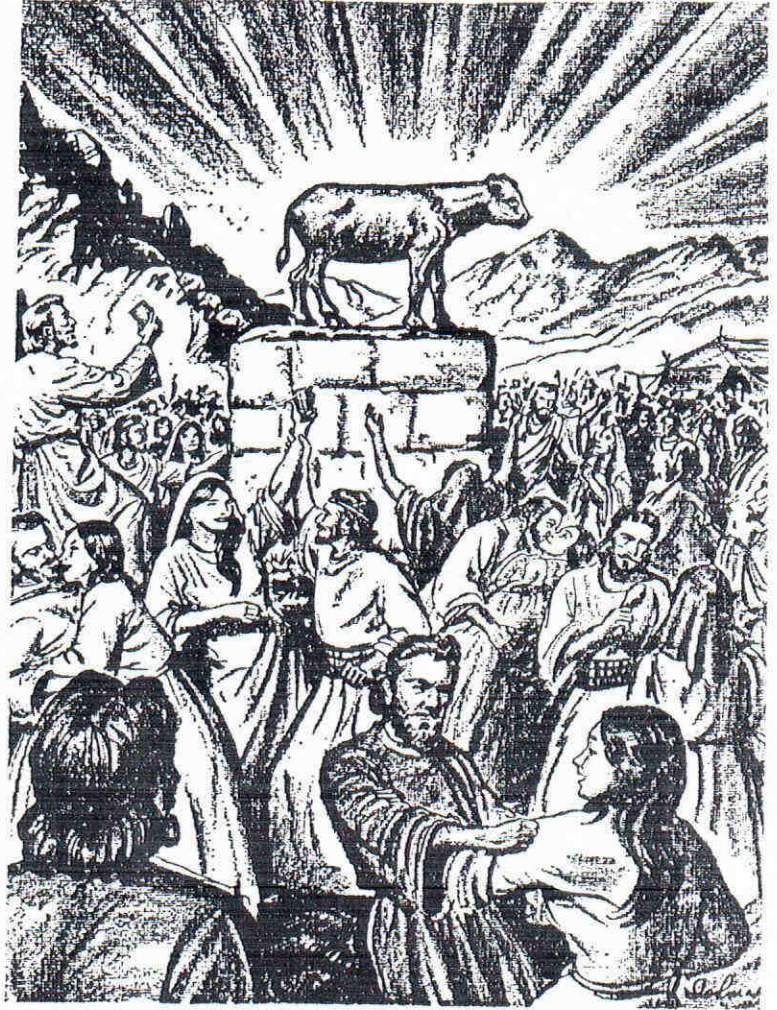
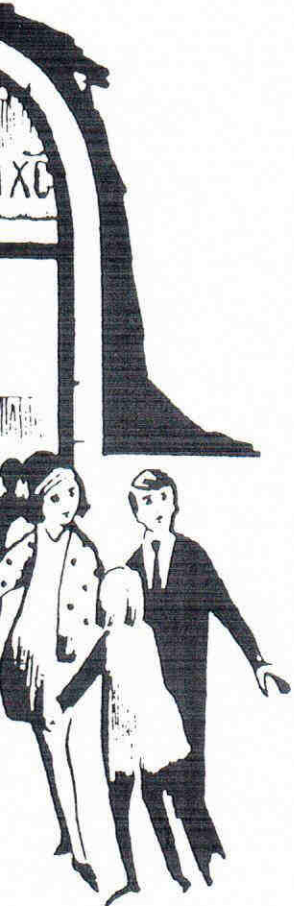
We are called upon to make a choice...

EITH



OR

IER



“...come, let us go to the House of God”
Micah 4: 2.

Did You Know That ...

...good thoughts bear good fruit, bad thoughts bear bad fruit, and man is his own gardener?

...it takes an awful long time to grow and old friend?

...the best gift we can give the next generation is the ability to laugh at mistakes?

...people that value privileges above principles soon lose both?

...fatherhood is sometimes pretending that the present you love most is soap-on-a-rope?

...the chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken?

...a wish is a desire without an attempt?

...the pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change and the realist adjusts his sails?

...high expectations are the key to success in our spiritual life?

...the surprising thing about young fools is how many survive to become old fools?

...the invasion of armies can be resisted, but not the idea of salvation in Christ?

...it is better to ask spiritual directions twice than to lose your way once?

...no one ever excused his way to spiritual success?

...election year is that period when politicians get free speech mixed up with cheap talk?

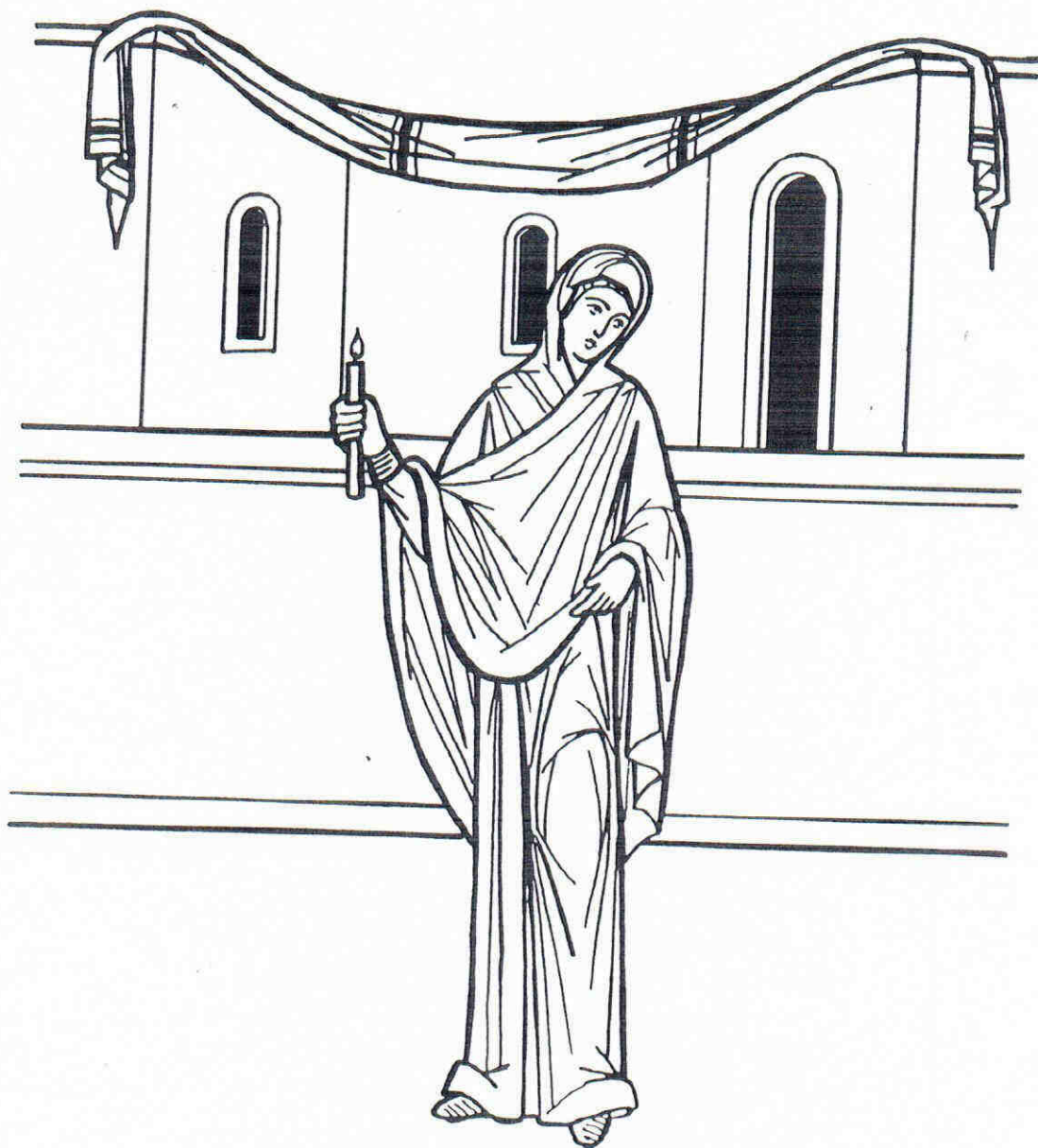
...the more we share our faith, the more we have of it ourselves?

...if you wait, all that happens is that you get older?

...money can change people just as often as it changes hands?

✧ THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN ✧

(Luke 15:8)



In a divine way, God feels a deep loss whenever a person turns away from Him. He looks for us; He never forgets us. When we are found, like a silver coin in His hand, God rejoices: "He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in His love, He will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals." (Zeph. 3:17) We are happy to be in the hand of God, but God is far more happy to have us found in His hand!



Luke 15:8-10

1 Lost Coin

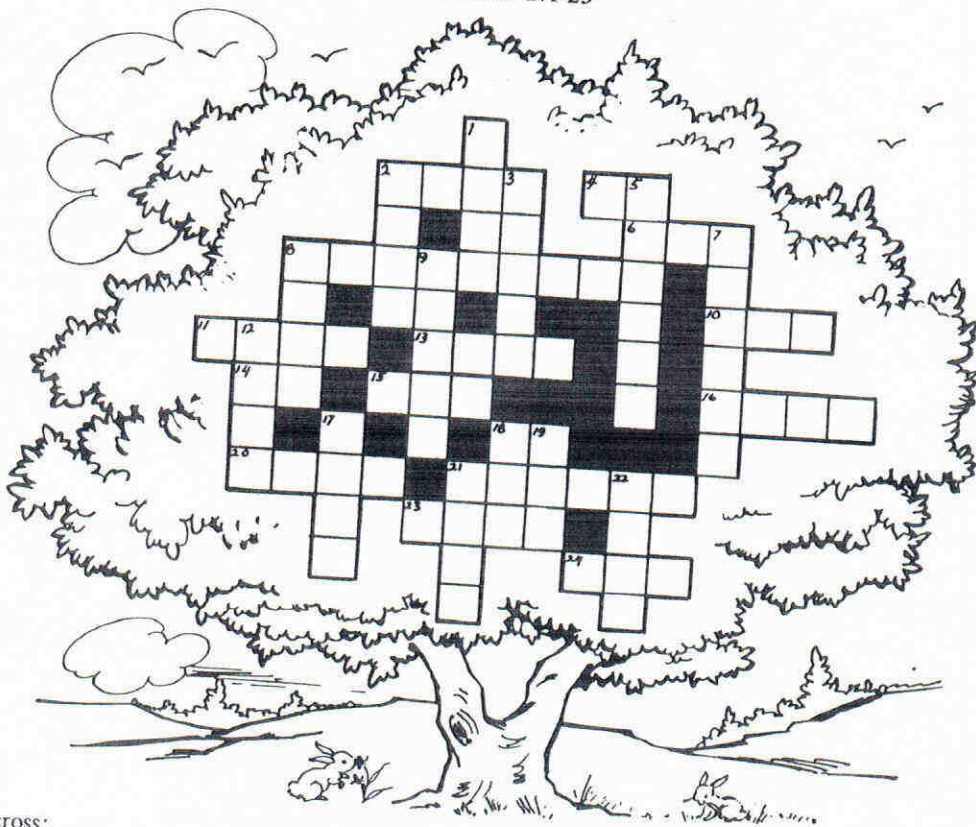
Jesus told the story of a woman who lost one coin. She had nine other coins, but she hunted through her house until she found the one lost coin.



The woman lost this. Draw a line from dot to dot, beginning with No. 1.

MAN'S FIRST HOME

Genesis 2:1-25



Across:

2. It is not ____ for man to be alone (v. 18).
4. "Every plant ____ the field" (v. 5).
6. Woman was made out of this (v. 22).
8. "The tree of the ____ of good and evil" (v. 17).
10. "These ____ the generations" (v. 4).
11. Where God planted a garden (v. 8).
13. It watered the face of the ground (v. 6).
14. Moisture went ____ from the ground (v. 6).
15. God told Adam not to do this (v. 17).
16. "Not a man to ____ the ground" (v. 5).
20. Adam could eat every what? (v. 16).
21. God planted this in Eden (v. 8).
23. "This is now ____ of my bones" (v. 23).
24. "Thou shalt surely ____" (v. 17).

Down:

1. Adam named every beast and ____ (v. 19).
2. Same as 2 across.
3. Man was to do this to the garden (v. 15).
5. Adam was told to eat this way (v. 16).
7. These were named by Adam (v. 19).
8. What else was Adam told to do to the garden? (v. 15).
9. She was made out of Adam's rib (v. 22).
12. God formed man of this (v. 7).
17. Adam fell into this kind of sleep (v. 21).
18. Woman was taken out of ____ (v. 23).
19. "These ____ the generations" (v. 4).
21. This is in the land of Havilah (v. 11).
22. "The tree of the knowledge of good and ____" (v. 17).

Man's First Home

Across: 2—good; 4—of; 6—rib; 8—knowledge; 10—are; 11—Eden; 13—mist; 14—up; 15—eat; 16—till; 20—tree; 21—garden; 23—bone; 24—die.
Down: 1—fowl; 2—good; 3—dress; 5—freely; 7—beasts; 8—keep; 9—woman; 12—dust; 17—deep; 18—man; 19—are; 21—gold; 22—evil.

THE ICON OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

St. John the Baptist enjoys a distinction among the saints of the Church. One of the days of the week is dedicated to him. The Church observes his birth as a feastday - joining the Holy Virgin as the only saints so distinguished. But the greatest tribute to John is from Christ Himself, Who said that he is greatest "among those that are born of women . . ."

St. John is the Forerunner of Christ, that is, the one who prepared the way for the coming of the Lord. He is the Baptizer of Christ, performing this rite in the waters of the Jordan River. He is also a Martyr and Prophet, with his words echoing through the centuries: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand . . . The axe is laid to the root of the trees: therefore every tree which brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire . . ."

This finely executed icon of John graphically tells the story of his life, his ministry, and his death. He is portrayed with the wings of an Angel, not only because he was the unique messenger of God preparing the way for Christ, but also because of the sanctity and austerity of his life. He was, so to speak, an Angel in the flesh.

Clothed in an inner garment of camel's hair, John is poised in the stance of a preacher proclaiming repentance in the country about the Jordan. The rocky formations astride the Baptist represent the wilderness of Judea where he dwelt. The bush and the axe are references to his teaching. The plate with his decapitated head is a reminder of his martyrdom at the hands of King Herod. John stands facing the half-Figure of Christ (in the upper corner of the icon) for Whom the Forerunner prepared the way and Whom he pointed out to the people: "Behold the Lamb of God . . ."

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