



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

October 26, 2014

**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

+++ Today is the simple feast of St. Demetrius the Martyr. Our celebration concludes with festal anointing. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He Is And Shall Be!

+++ 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.

+++ The next monthly Pirohi Sale will be held November 8 and the Thanksgiving Bake Sale will be on November 22.

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Father George, Anna, Barbara, Betty, James, Yevlogia, Nicholas, Maria, Cynthia, Ncholas, 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, \$300.00; Candles, \$20.00; Food Coupons, \$320.00; Kitchen, \$63.00, for a total of 703.00. 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, Eleanor Korba, 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 \$1818.00 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.

+++ Work is about to begin on the exterior of our building with the soffit being replaced completely so that new gutters and down spouts may be installed. Plans are being made to have the dome refurbished and reinstalled on the roof.



God's Acceptance

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but approved, nonetheless, and precious in God's eyes. You too are living stones, built as an edifice of spirit, into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ 1 Peter 2: 4, 5.

"I tell you, that is why her many sins are forgiven - because of her great love. Little is forgiven the one whose love is small." He said to her, then, "Your sins are forgiven" Luke 7: 47, 48.

Who is there like you, the God who removes guilt and pardons sin for the remnant of his inheritance; Who does not persist in anger forever, but delights rather in clemency, and will again have compassion on us, treading underfoot our guilt? You will cast into the depths of the sea all our sins Micah 7: 18, 19.

You yourselves were once alienated from him; you nourished hostility in your hearts because of your evil deeds. But now Christ has achieved reconciliation for you in his mortal body by dying, so as to present you to God holy, free of reproach and blame. But you must hold fast to faith, be firmly grounded and steadfast in it, unshaken in the hope promised you by the gospel which has been announced to every creature under heaven, and I, Paul, am its servant Colossians 1: 21-23.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits; He pardons all your iniquities, he heals all your ills. he redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion, He fills your lifetime with good; your youth is renewed like the eagle's Psalm 103: 1- 5.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him Psalm 103: 12-13.

Wisdom Of
The



Byzantine
Fathers

If a man be an actor or one who makes shows in the theater, either let him desist or let him be rejected. What am I to say of the mimes who make a public profession of corruption? They teach men the tricks of adultery by representing them on the stage, and by pretense train to reality St. Hippolytus

Adam, while he spoke not, had paradise at will St. Gregory Nyssa.

Schism is altar against altar St. Optatus.

The altar is a type of the Body and the Body of Christ is on the altar St. Ambrose.

The Reason For Giving

Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor,
that you through his poverty might become rich
2 Corinthians 8: 9.

There are still some around who are old enough to remember the Great Depression of the 1930's. For several years, one particular family had no car, no plumbing, no electricity. They did, however, have a house, a spring nearby, an outhouse, wood for fuel, adequate, though worn clothing, and enough food. Were they poor? Not by any standards back then. Today, however, they would be, if they lived in that same area.

How much money does a person need to be considered rich? And how much money does a person have to give away to be considered generous? It is very hard to say, isn't it? In fact, it may be impossible to give a specific answer to those two questions.

The apostle Paul did not set a percentage as a rule for giving because it was assumed that the ingrained Jewish tithe culture was enough understood and conscientiously observed. Of course, he did not say that only the rich alone should give because he well understood and accepted we all have an inner need to share and give of our earthly treasure.

Instead he challenged the Corinthian Christians by telling them about the Macedonian believers who sacrificed and gave out of their "deep poverty" and "beyond their ability" because they "first gave themselves to the Lord" 2 Corinthians 8: 2 – 5. He very simply reminded his readers of their Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who exchanged the riches of heaven for poverty on earth so that they might be enriched in heaven for all eternity. Whether we consider ourselves rich or poor, our love for the Lord should provide us with all the reason we need to be generous in our giving particularly to the Body of Christ which is entrusted to our devoted care.

Incline our hearts towards giving
that we may then express
to you, the great Provider
our love and thankfulness.

Christ is our reason for living and giving!

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.

Wonderful

"For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given; His name shall be called Wonderful" Isaiah 9: 6.

Jesus Christ is *"the same yesterday, today, and forever"* Hebrews 13:8, and those who think Him commonplace or at most only an unusual man, will some time stand ashamed, confounded, and doomed as they witness this prophecy fulfilled, *"His name shall be called Wonderful."* They will be overwhelmed when they come to realize how quietly and mystically He always labors for our salvation, many times when we do not even realize it or wish to admit it or confront it. Today in our midst He works just as wonderful things as when He created heaven and earth. Today He works such wonderful works on our behalf just as He did when He created us. His wondrous grace, His wondrous omnipotence, His wondrous labors on our individual behalf are for the awesome child of God who needs Him and trusts Him even today. The awesome sacramental Mysteries of our Church are intended for us to participate in His wondrous life. Wondrous are His works, as the Psalmist sings out, *"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your spirit; from your presence where can I flee?"* Psalm 139: 8. If we by grace, attempt great things and in faith commitment expect great things from Him, we will also sing His praises because we will not be confounded or disappointed. Has He not involved us in the wonder of His creation and love? *"I give thanks to you that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works. My soul also knew you full well; nor was my frame unknown to you"* Psalm 139: 14, 15.

Twenty Second Sunday

One day many, many years ago, when it cost you your life to be a Christian, an early priest of the Church spoke to a small group of believers who surrounded him in their home-church on the Lord's Day.

Here is some of what he said: "Brothers and sisters, is your life full of difficulties, repeated problems and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, when times are difficult, your patience has a real chance to grow. So let it develop and grow and do not try to squirm your way out of problems. Do not complain and ask, "Why me?" For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, you will be strong in character and full and complete in the Lord.

If you want to know what our heavenly Father wants you to do, ask him, and He will gladly tell you, for He is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him, and will not resent it, even if He has to continually repeat himself because of our limitation. But when you ask him, be certain that you really expect him to tell you, for a doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the stormy sea that is driven and tossed by the unruly wind; and every direction you then make will be uncertain, as you turn first this way and then that direction. If you do not ask with genuine faith, do not expect the Lord to give you any solid answers.

A baptized Christian who does not amount to much in this world should be glad, if he does not measure up to the standards and demands of a secular society, he should rejoice, for he is greater in the sight of the Lord. But a rich man should be glad that his riches mean nothing to the Lord, except as they are used for God's glory, for the riches and he will be soon gone, just like the flower that has lost its beauty and fades away, withered and, killed by the scorching summer sun. So it is with the self-absorbed, with the limited and self-important in worldly values. What they think is so important and vital in this life will always be left behind. Our God desires that we live a rich tradition and history of noble deeds, holy activities, religious life behind us as our patrimony for others to follow and emulate. We will die and certainly as the saying insists, material things cannot be taken with us, as the pharaohs learned long ago in Egypt. But we can take our virtue into eternity with us. We must take our good deeds, our religious life, our spiritual values to adorn and enrich our souls for all time. Sin, too, as we learn in today's gospel narrative follows us. But we have an opportunity to rid ourselves of it

here and now in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation. If we remain indifferent to God's plea and instruction, we are like the rich man who thinks he is insulated because his physical belongings separate him from the normal pain of the world. But these or anything else cannot separate us from the spiritual values which we must and should pursue.

Riches have a Godly purpose which the man in the gospel conveniently did not comprehend. Trials also have profound meaning if they are embraced in the will of our Lord. Whatever happens in our lives that seems like an entanglement can easily be offered up to the Lord as a sacrifice. Let the Lord take it, let the Lord have it, to be transformed into redeeming grace for our souls.

Every life needs revival from time to time that we become stabled and devoted forever in Christ. We have to permit God's spirit to descend on us and revive us, change us, alter us, make us people who understand his will. That deep need for physical food poor man Lazarus at the gate of the estate in today's gospel narrative understood far better than most others there is a purpose, a genuine directive in the circumstances of our lives which most times we ourselves cannot understand. But he accepted because he could not change it and so he was witness to the goodness of God's abundant and enriching grace in his life. It may not have led him to the best seat in the house at a high grade restaurant, or even a sated stomach, but it permitted him to find satisfaction of soul in eternity. If you cannot change life circumstances it means God desires you to be patient and learn from your circumstances. During this holy season, learn from the example of our Creator God who did not send his son into the world to save us until it was the right time for us to accept him. "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his only-begotten son..."

LIFE BLESSING

May you be strong in Courage and
Confidence - May you be Wise in choices and
decisions. May you be caring of all relation-
ships and Compassionate to those in need -
May you meet life's adventures with a clear
mind and a bold heart - May your Integrity
be a gift to the world, and May the
Spirit of God be with you always. Amen.

Why We Need Our God

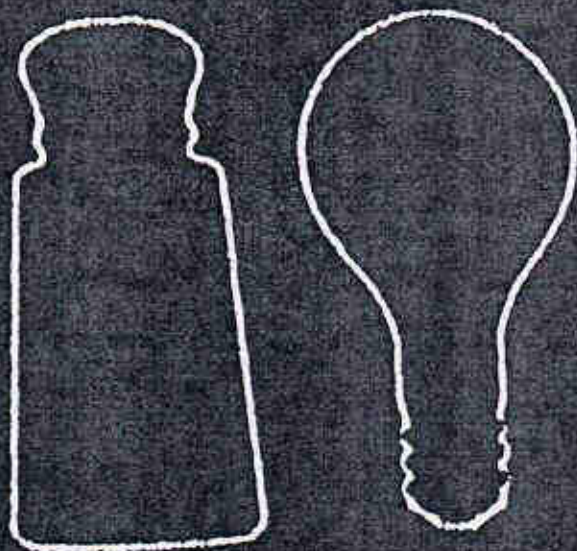
Not too long ago, a man sailing on his yacht, lost his balance and fell overboard from his seacraft forty miles at sea off the Virginia coast. The accident went unnoticed, and the ship continued on its way. At first he was very much encouraged he would be missed and that the vessel would turn about and return to retrieve him.

In his despair, the man felt his end had come, but he would do whatever he could to sustain life. He prayed sharks would not discover his presence and attack him. He was successful in managing to stay afloat for some two hours by treading water. Just at the moment when everything seemed lost, a seaman on a passing ship caught glimpse of him, floating in the distance. He was rescued and his hopes were realized.

"We are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man sees, why would he yet have hope for? But if we hope for what we cannot see, then we do with patience wait for it" Romans 8: 24, 25. Many find themselves engulfed in a sea of despair and utter hopelessness. The problems and difficulties of life seem to overcome us. When everything seems lost, the watchful eye of those who have Christ-like love, compassion and concern, catch a glimpse of God's presence and protection. By the saving grace and power of God, they are lifted out of their lost and doleful condition. Their hope is rewarded and made reality. The saving hand of the Lord touches the heart at its most needy point.

We all have reason to be grateful people because Christ has made our salvation possible. We do not have to despair, regardless of what occurs in our lives. Our God is mindful of us and watches over us continually. Because of the hope that is ours in Christ, we dedicate our lives in service to Him. We are impelled to glorify Him because of the hope He places in our hearts. If we are destined for the Kingdom of Heaven, all else that happens in our lives is almost inconsequential, as long as our hope for salvation is realized.

Our Lord has done all He can to redeem and save us. The rest is up to us. It is our cooperation now that is vital. Many times we lose hope because our spiritual life is not what it should be. We recognize within ourselves a lack and a deficiency and instead of remedying it by bolstering our faith commitment, we squander our investment in eternity by losing hope. Our faith commitment must remain undefiled and our hope undiminished if we are sincere and serious believers. Christ has made available all that is necessary, but we must avail ourselves of His grace. We must so dispose ourselves that His grace operates in us, that there are no closed doors within our souls where the Holy Spirit cannot freely enter. Have I experienced God's willingness and power to save? Without God, there is no hope. Is it because I have not permitted Him sovereignty in my life?



Be these.

Matthew 9:13-16

The GOOD Of Trouble

We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance
Romans 5: 3.

A young man asked an elderly believer in one of our parishes recently to pray that he would have more patience. The older man immediately dropped to his knees and began, "Lord, send this young aspiring man tribulation in the morning; send this young man difficulties in the afternoon; send this young man..." At that point, the young man, obviously upset, blurted out, "No, no. I did not ask you to pray for difficulties and tribulation. I want you to pray for patience." "Ah," replied the wise old man, "it is through tribulation and difficulties that we learn patience."

His words seem to echo those of the apostle St. Paul when he said that "tribulation produces perseverance" According to a well-known father of the Church the word that is translated *patience* or perseverance really means "steadfastness, the ability to remain under difficulties without giving in."

We see it today in the life of Lazarus the beggar at the gates of the rich man. He accepted his circumstances in life after he attempted to change them. And this certainly is true of the apostle to the Gentiles in his life and service. He suffered beating, whipping, stoning, and shipwreck, yet he remained steadfast in the faith and did not shrink from his calling.

If you face a difficult test, praise the Lord for the opportunity of overcoming it with God's grace. Praise God again for affirming your vocation as a believer. Under his wise direction, everything that happens to you, whether enjoyable or painful, is designed to develop patience, perseverance. That is precisely why suffering souls can glory in tribulation. You are a chosen one with promised grace and strength to overcome!

Looking back, it seems of me
all the grief which had to be
left me, when the pain was over,
more enriched than I had been before.

A Beggar's Heart

He is close to all who call upon him; all who call on him from the heart
Psalms 145: 18.

Yahweh, I am calling! I am calling from the heart! From the heart? Am I really calling from the heart? No doubt the beggar in today's gospel narrative questioned himself always and incessantly. Perhaps he pondered over this heart of his for a long spell and it may have occurred, much to his distress that all too often he merely called upon God with his lips. If he calls with all his heart, that has to mean not any of him is left out. It means he is totally and completely present to the one he calls upon. It means he can wait for God's answer. He can patiently wait for the divine presence to fill his life. And so, as he lays beside the entrance way to the rich man's mansion, he is satisfied in the loving care of our heavenly Father.

He does not expect the Almighty Lord to come like instant food appears, with no delay. He waits and expects the Holy One to be more like good dough in his life, to rise slowly after experiencing the warmth and joy of God's persistent and faithful call. With all his heart he calls because he desires a heart that delights in being present, a heart intent on giving all. We all need the heart of the beggar so that we are glad to sit by the roadside and wait on the fulfilling grace of our God. We then become delighted in life and fulfilled in vocation because He is all we need and in whom alone we trust.

No doubt it was not always so. He may have understood the mind of Job and asked "What have I done to you, watcher of men? Why have you made me your target?" Job 17: 20? Often prayer may have consoled him, but not always. Do we not hear of the saints spending a whole night in prayer? Perhaps most of these prayers were serene, but we can suspect rightfully that our heavenly Father heard some angry prayer the saints were reluctant to express when others were around.

The story is told of a saintly woman crossing a river by oxcart. When the cart tipped over, and she was drenched, she promptly prayed, "Lord, if that is the way you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" Many nights of anxious prayer about other matters may have been summarized in that one-liner. Every now and then, we all ask the Lord to send us a blessing with no disguise.



The Old Country Priest says...

All you have to do to change your life is to change your mind. It really is that simple, but it isn't always easy. All you have to do to stop feeling bad is to start feeling good...but feeling good is not a one-time event; it is a conscious decision we make minute-by-minute, day by day. It is participation in God's creation. The way to change the world is to change yourself and your attitude toward it, not just once, but every day!

Finding Out Why

The little boy came in the other day with a serious look on his face and said to his father, "Dad, can I ask you a question? Where do I come from?" The father said it was a question he had been dreading, but nevertheless, he sat him down and told him, as gently as He could, all about the birds and the bees. When he finished, the boy was very quiet and he got up and politely said, "Thank you, Dad," and headed for the door. Then the father inquired of him, "So what made you ask me?" The young boy turned around and said, "I just wanted to know because Bobby next door always is telling me he comes from Atlanta."



"God of God" *Nicene Creed from the Council of Nicea.*

The Council of Antioch wrote against Paul of Samosata, who declared that Jesus was the Son of God by adoption. Hence, the name of the heresy was adoptionism. This meant that Jesus was just a man and not really God. If Christ is not God, then the crucifixion cannot save us because it is the death of only a man.

The Council of Nicea wrote the above line against Arius who said that Jesus did not share the same substance (divinity) with the Father.

St. Gregory of Nyssa points out that it is Christ's union of humanity and divinity at the Resurrection allows us also to rise from the dead. "For as the principle of death took its rise in one person and passed on in succession through the whole of humanity, in like manner the principle of Resurrection-life extends from one person to the whole of humanity." (*The Catechism* 16)

Did You Know That ...

...nothing is interesting if you are not interested?

...learning is that you suddenly understand something you have understood all your life, but in a new way?

...intentions *may* be written in pencil, but commitments *should* be written in stone?

...everyone complains of his memory, no one of his judgment?

...many of us are not really as interested in remembering the religious tenets of our faith as we think we are?

...success is simply the extension and utilization of an entire series of failures?

...one is foolish who does not know and does not know that he does not know?

...those need to be instructed who do not know and know they do not know?

...those are asleep who know, but do not know that they know?

...they are wise who know and know that they know; we should listen to them?

...you are in trouble if you are living on a one-way dead-end street and do not know how you got there?

...when we fail, our failure should be a challenge for others to succeed?

...to see a man beaten not by a better opponent but by himself is utter tragedy?

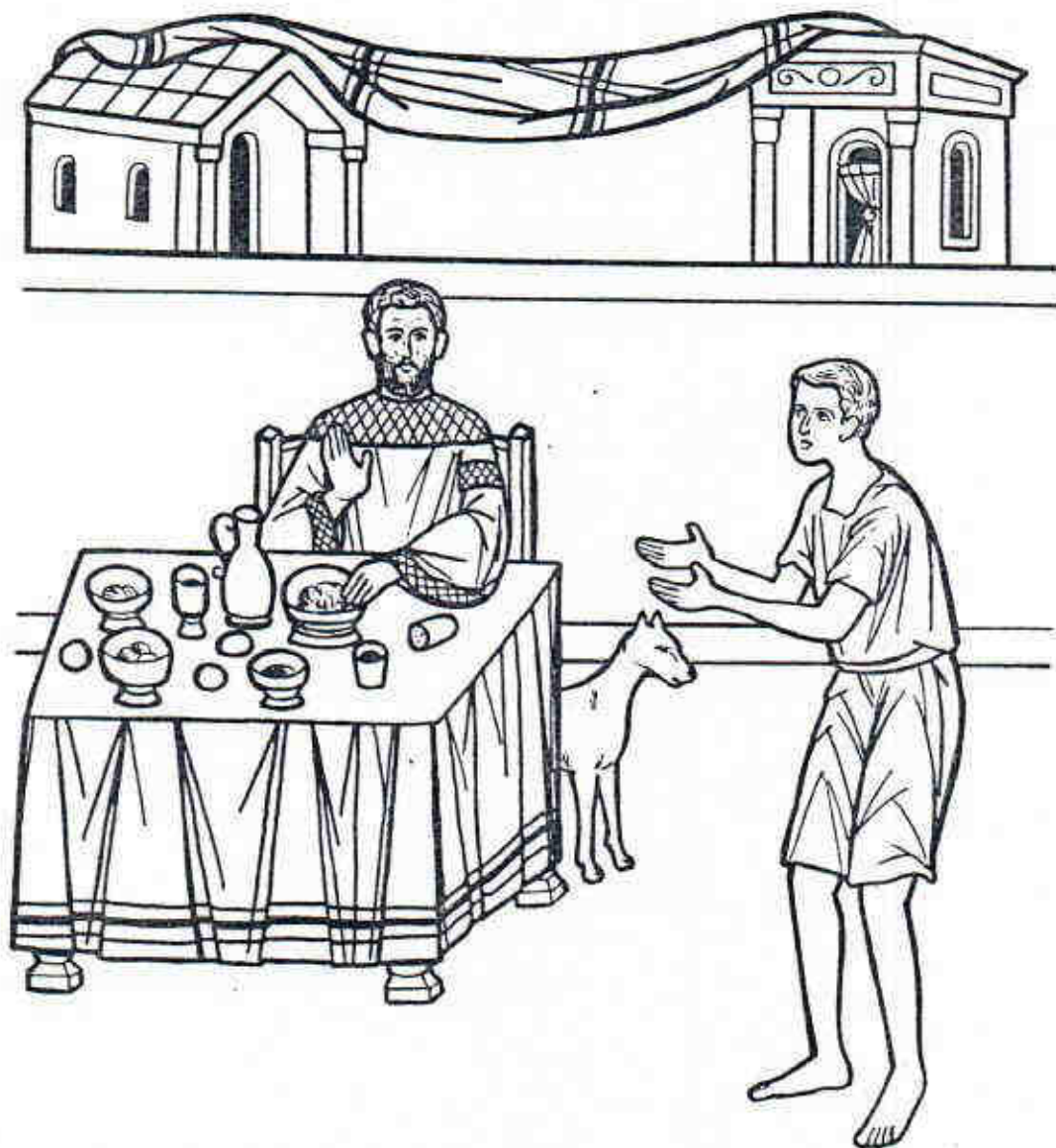
...nothing can match the treasure of common memories, of trials endured together, of quarrels and reconciliations which endure?

...half of getting what you want is knowing what you must give up to get it?

...the joys of life have nothing to do with age?

✧ THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS ✧

(Luke 16:19)





The rich man was poor in generosity and deaf to the voice of God, who, through Lazarus, was calling him to be generous. Lazarus in all his sorrows never abandoned his love for God, and won paradise. The rich man could have discovered God's Kingdom by sharing his goods with others. However, he failed to do so and lost out on God's Kingdom, which is far more valuable than anything anyone could own in this life.





HARK!

Your time
has come!

GREAT MARTYR OF THE CHURCH . . .

Not very many of the saints of the church are called "Great Martyrs." ST. DEMETRIOS is one of them. He died for his faith during the violent persecutions of Diocletian in the early fourth century, in the year 306.



Demetrios was a soldier, but he was also a skilled orator and leader. More important, he was a Christian, and it was a time when believers in Christ were hounded by the pagan rulers and killed for their faith. Demetrios was named to a governmental position at Thessalonica. But instead of persecuting the Christians there, Demetrios preached to them and guided them.

It wasn't long before the emperor heard of his faith and ministry and ordered him arrested. He was promptly put into prison. While there, he urged a young Christian named Nestor to engage in combat a famous gladiator who had thrown many a believer to death in the amphitheater. This time the gladiator was killed before the angry mob. Soon after, Nestor was martyred and Demetrios was pierced with spears.

A church was built over the remains of St. Demetrios at Thessalonica and devotion to him spread far and wide. This early church was destroyed by fire in the 7th century and replaced by another, containing artistic Byzantine mosaics.

Icons of St. Demetrios are depicted in many ways: Often as a soldier, holding a lance; at times on a horse, other times as a protector of children. He is widely revered and his day is commemorated with great festivity in Thessalonica.

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