

In Times of Trouble



It Gives Us Peace

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Meatfare Sunday

February 19, 2012

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

+++ Next Sunday is Cheesefare Sunday. We will have our Pre Fast Luncheon and subsequently have Forgiveness Vespers. Please sign up today on the Food donation Listing.

+++ The Cross and fans behind the altar table have been taken out for replating. These items are in need of work since they are over fifty years old and were received a few years ago as a donation to our parish. We expect the items will be back with us for Resurrection celebration.

+++ The Great Fast begins Monday, February 27.

+++ The Pre-Great Fast Luncheon will take place next Sunday. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen table to be filled in with suggested prepared foods.

+++ 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 this past week: Tithing Offering, \$[REDACTED], Candles, \$[REDACTED], Food Coupons, \$[REDACTED], Holy Day, \$[REDACTED], Kitchen, \$[REDACTED], Clothing Drive, \$[REDACTED], Christian Fellowship, \$[REDACTED] for a total of \$[REDACTED]. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offered 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! The attendance was 44 adults and 13 children last Sunday.

+++ 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, Robert Gorbich, Anna Zacharyczuk, Eleni Pallas, Debra Szmajda, Paul Szmajda, 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 \$[REDACTED] from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals \$[REDACTED]. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite and look forward to receiving additional and increased pledges from all our devoted parishioners.

+++ 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 \$[REDACTED] 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 remember only those who are present for the entire Divine Liturgy should come forward to receive Communion. The entire Liturgy means "Amen" to "Amen."**

+++ **Please pray the Lord our God grant us an enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.**

+++ **We need a volunteer to be in charge of arranging trips to the Lancaster Co., Pa. Theater for our parishioners. Please see Father immediately.**



Our Radiant God

His face shone like the power of the sun in unclouded brilliance Revelation 1: 16.

Moses did not realize...that his face glowed from being in the presence of God Exodus 34: 29.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes Psalms 19: 8.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you... The Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy Isaiah 60: 1, 2, 5.

They looked to him and were radiant Psalms 34: 5.

Suddenly the glory of the God of Israel appeared from the east. The sound of his coming was like the roar of rushing waters and the whole landscape shone with his glory Ezekiel 43: 2.

He was transfigured before their eyes. His face became as dazzling as the sun, his clothes as radiant as light Matthew 17: 2.

He led them up to a high mountain. He was transfigured before their eyes and his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than the work of any bleacher could make them Mark 9: 2, 3.

While he was praying, his face changed in appearance and his clothes became dazzlingly white Luke 9: 29.

SCRIPTURE

TRIVIA

QUIZ



- 1) How many decks were there on Noah's Ark?
- 2) What is the first imprisonment recorded in Scripture?
- 3) Who were the parents of King Solomon?
- 4) How much time did Jonah spend in the belly of the whale?
- 5) In which book of Scripture is the name of God not mentioned?
- 6) What kind of wood was used to make Noah's Ark?
- 7) If you lived as long as Methuselah, to what age would you live?
- 8) How old was Moses at death?
- 9) How tall was Goliath, the Philistine giant slain by David with a stone hurled from a sling?
- 10) What Babylonian king cast Daniel into a lion's den for praying to God?

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ

- 1) Three. (Genesis 6: 16) 2) The jailing of Joseph by Potiphar after he was falsely accused. (Genesis 39: 6 – 20). 3) David & Bathsheba. 4) Three days and three nights. (Jonah 2: 1). 5) The Book of Esther. 6) Gopher Wood. (Genesis 6: 14). 7) 969 Years. (Genesis 5: 27). 8) 120 Years Old. (Deuteronomy 34:7). 9) "Six cubits and a span" (1 Samuel 17: 4). Translated into understandable height would make him somewhere between 9ft 3 in. and 11 feet tall. 10) Darius the Mede. (Daniel 6: 17).





WARNINGS AND PROMISES OF OUR LORD

<i>Where Uttered</i>	<i>The Warning or Promise</i>	<i>Where Recorded</i>
Jerusalem—Temple....	He foretells His Resurrection within three Days after burial.....	John ii. 19-21
Jerusalem.....	His Crucifixion, and its Glorious Object and Result—referring to the Mosaic Type.....	John iii. 14-16
Sychar, in Samaria.....	the Substitution of the New for the Old Dispensation.....	John iv. 21-24
Jerusalem—Temple....	the General Resurrection of the Dead.....	John v. 25-29
Cana.....	the Rejection of the Jews and Acceptance of Gentiles.....	Matt. viii. 11, 12; see Luke xiii. 23-30
Nain.....	the Destruction of Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida.....	Matt. xi. 20-24; see Luke x. 13-15
Sea of Galilee.....	the Great Judgment.....	Matt. xiii. 30, 40-43, 49, 50
Capernaum.....	the Persecutions that should Harass them, with Promise of Deliverance and of final Glory.....	Matt. x. 16-39
Capernaum.....	His Flesh to be the Food of His People, with Promise of Resurrection and Eternal Life.....	John vi. 39, 40, 54-58
Capernaum.....	one of the Twelve a Devil.....	John vi. 70, 71
Reg. of Caes. Philippi...	His Sufferings, Rejection, Death and Resurrection	Matt. xvi. 21; Mark viii. 31; Luke ix. 22 ?
Reg. of Caes. Philippi...	His Coming in Glory to Reward every Man according to his Works.....	Matt. xvi. 27; Mark viii. 38; Luke ix. 26
Reg. of Caes. Philippi...	the Establishment of His Church.....	Mark ix. 1; Luke ix. 27
Jerusalem.....	His Ascension.....	John vii. 24
Jerusalem.....	the Gift of the Holy Ghost.....	John vii. 37-39
Capernaum.....	the Judgment of Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida.....	Luke x. 13-15; see Matt. xi. 20-24
Galilee.....	the Salvation of Gentiles and Rejection of many Jews.....	Luke xiii. 23-30; see Matt. viii. 11, 12
Galilee.....	The Destruction of Jerusalem.....	Luke xiii. 35
Near Scythopolis.....	His Second Coming to be Sudden, and His Disciples' Sufferings before it.....	Luke xvii. 22-36; see Matt. xxiv. 27-44

Jerusalem.....	the Apostles to be Peculiarly Blessed at the Second Coming.....	Matt. xix. 28
Jerusalem.....	the Utter and Total Destruction of Jerusalem..	Luke xix. 41-44; see Matt. xxiii. 34-39
Jerusalem.....	the Manner of His Death, and its Great Object and Result.....	John xii. 32, 33
Jerusalem—Temple....	the Kingdom to be taken from the Jews and given to "a nation bringing forth fruits thereof".....	Matt. xxi. 43
Mt. of Olives.....	the Destruction of the Temple.....	Matt. xxiv. 1, 2; Mark xiii. 1, 2; Luke xxi. 5,6
Mt. of Olives.....	the Coming of False Christs; Commotions and Wars among the Nations, and Active Persecution of the Church.....	Matt. xxiv. 4-25; Mark xiii. 5-23
Mt. of Olives.....	the Second Coming and its Signs.....	Matt. xxiv. 27-44; Mark xiii. 24-37; Luke xxi. 25-36; see Luke xvii. 22-36
Mt. of Olives.....	the Judgment.....	Matt. xxv. 31-46
Jerusalem.....	the Betrayer Pointed Out.....	John xiii. 18-29; Matt. xxvi. 21-25; Mark xiv. 18-21
Jer.—Upper Chamber...	Peter's Denial (two warnings).....	John xiii. 38 and Luke xxii. 34
Jer.—Upper Chamber...	the Holy Ghost (several prophecies).....	John xiv. 16, 17, 26; xv. 26, 27; xvi. 7-14
Jer.—Upper Chamber...	His Ascension.....	John xvi. 28
Jer.—Upper Chamber...	their Forsaking Him.....	John xvi. 32
Jerusalem.....	His sitting on the Right Hand of Power, and Coming in the Clouds of Heaven.....	Matt. xxvi. 64; Mark xiv. 62
On the way to Calvary .	the Desolation of Jerusalem.....	Luke xxiii. 27-31
Calvary.....	"To-day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise" ..	Luke xxiii. 43
Garden of Joseph.....	His Ascension.....	John xx. 17
Sea of Galilee.....	Peter's Crucifixion.....	John xxi. 18, 19
Jerusalem.....	the Sending of the Holy Spirit.....	Luke xxiv. 49; Acts 1.4-8
Bethany.....	the Signs that should Follow the Gift of the Holy Spirit.....	Mark xvi. 17, 18





May
angels lead you into paradise;

May
the martyrs receive you at your coming
and lead you
to the holy and eternal city of Jerusalem.

May a choir of
seraphim and cherubim receive you
and
with Lazarus, who once was poor,
may you have

blessed repose

and

Eternal
Memory!

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

When You will come to earth in glory, O God, and all creatures will tremble before You, the river of fire will flow before Your judgement seat, and the books will be opened and all hidden things revealed; deliver me from the unquenchable fire and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O righteous Judge. Kontakion, Meatfare Sunday.

When You shall come to render just judgement, O righteous Judge, You shall sit upon Your throne of glory. A river of fire shall flow before Your judgement seat; the powers of heaven will be there with You. Filled with fear, all humanity will be judged according to their deeds. At this hour, O Christ, spare us, and because of Your great love, grant that the faithful who pray to You, may be given a place with Your chosen ones. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.

The books will be opened and the secrets laid bare before Your awesome judgement seat; and the whole valley of tears shall resound with a dreadful sigh, when it sees sinners sent to eternal punishment by Your just judgement, and hears them weeping hopelessly. Therefore, O God of mercy, we pray to You: Spare us who sing to You, O only Good One. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.

The trumpets shall sound and the tombs shall be opened; humanity shall come forth trembling. Those who have done good shall rejoice, as they await the reward they shall receive. Those who have done evil shall shriek in terror, as they are sent to punishment and separated from the elect. In Your goodness, spare us, O Lord of glory, and grant that we may enjoy a place with those who love You. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.

I weep and lament when I think of the outer darkness and eternal fire, together with Hades, the worm that consumes, and the gnashing of teeth, the unceasing grief that falls upon those who have sinned without measure, and who have provoked You to anger, O God, most good. Alas, among these sinners, I am the first. But in Your great mercy, O Judge, save me. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.

Alas! O my darkened soul, how long will you persist in sin? How long will you lie in laziness? Why do you not think of the dreadful hour of death? Do you not fear the awesome judgement seat of the Saviour? How will you defend yourself? How will you be vindicated? Your works are there to convict you, and your actions to witness against you. Moreover, time is growing short, O my soul; hasten and cry out in faith: I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned; but I know Your love and Your mercy. O Good Shepherd, in Your goodness, do not deprive me of a place at Your right hand. Vesper Hymn, Meatfare Sunday.

LEARNING ABOUT GOD? NOT SO FAST!

Have you noticed how obsessed we have become in doing things quickly? We have express lines in supermarkets, express lanes at toll booths — you can even find restaurants with express buffets! From morning to night, we find ourselves rushing around, constantly checking our watches so that we aren't late for our next appointment. It has rightly been said that we are all in a hurry to get nowhere!

There is one area of our lives, however, where our pace needs to slow down a bit, and that is in the practicing of our Faith. Practicing our Faith properly takes time. We cannot rush through our morning and evening prayers and expect to derive any benefit from them. There is no "Reader's Digest" version of the Divine Liturgy and other liturgical services of our Holy Orthodox Church. Their lengthy and often repetitious hymns have been so constructed to enable us to "lay aside all

earthly cares" and to transport ourselves to a timeless place.

Nowhere is this need to "take our time" spiritually more important than when we read the Sacred Scriptures. The Bible is not a book that lends well to "speed reading!" Its holy books were written centuries ago, and they reflect the culture and values of another era. In studying the Word of God, it is imperative that we take care that we digest every verse so that we fully understand its intended message. In Psalm 119:15, it is written: "I will meditate on Your precepts and contemplate Your ways." What a perfect way to experience the Scriptures: slowly and deliberately.

It's probably too late for us to quit "living life in the fast lane." But it is NOT too late for us to "drive in the slow lane" as we travel the path that leads to the Kingdom of Heaven.