





# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sunday of the Paralytic

May 6, 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.*

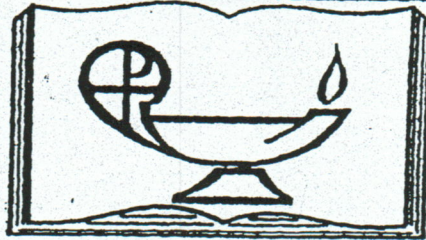
## GLAD TIDINGS

+++ The next Pirohi Sale will be this **Saturday, May 12**. Please secure orders to assure its success. We will also be having a Memorial Day Bake Sale on **Friday, May 25** at which all the rolls will be available as well as some specialty cookies. The final Pirohi Sale for this season will be **Saturday, June 1**.

+++ We acknowledge with deep gratitude the offering to our parish of the new Trinity Candle, first at the Resurrection by Eleni Pallas in memory of her beloved husband, +Paul Peter. A Memorial Service is celebrated today for the repose of his soul at 9: 15 AM. We pray the gracious Lord continues to comfort Eleni and her loved



LORD



TEACH  
US

### He is Risen

*O Lord, my God, I cried out to you and you healed me. O Lord, you brought me up from the nether world; you preserved me from among those going down into the pit* Psalms 30: 3, 4.

*But your dead shall live; their corpses shall rise awake and sing, you who lie in the dust* Isaiah 26: 19.

*...come, O Spirit, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life...they came alive and stood upright, a vast army* Ezekiel 37: 9.

*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awaken; some shall live forever; others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace* Daniel 12: 21

*He will revive us after two days; on the third day, he will raise us up, to live in his presence* Hosea 6: 2.

*Shall I deliver you from the power of the nether world, shall I redeem them from death? Where are your plagues, O death! Where is your sting, o nether world* Hosea 13: 14?

*God is not God of the dead, but of the living* Matthew 22: 32.

*He is not here; He is risen* Luke 24: 6!

*All you who are in the graves shall hear his voice* John 5: 28.



## ALL FOR LOVE

+++ No one can practice brotherly love very long unless it is firmly anchored in the love of God. +++ When every fiber of your heart is sworn to the service of God, the driving force of love will push you up to the front line into battle for the salvation of souls. +++ Real love is lacking with a mentality lacking missionary zeal. +++ There is a shortage of saints, a shortage of apostles only because there is a shortage of souls loving God. +++ God is concerned not with the amount of works we do, but with the amount of love that inspires our works. +++ Those men only will know the secret of true concern for souls who are volcanoes of love. +++ Feed in your heart the flame of desire for more and more love for God. +++ There should be no gift for which in your prayers you beg more insistently than love. +++ The man who is burning with the desire of love will soon be burning with love. +++ The time when you strive with all your might to become a soul filled with the intimate love of God can only be a time of grace. +++ We learn to write by writing and we learn to love by loving. +++ Regular worship of God at the Divine Liturgy and receiving His Body and Blood worthily is the graduate school of divine love. +++ The more determined we are in expecting from God the gift of love and the more untiring in begging Him for it throughout our life on earth, the more certain we shall be to receive it. +++ Many of those who think that repentance inspired by love is not true repentance are wrong. +++ Born as it is of love, genuine lasting sorrow for sins in repentance has countless benefits. +++ Our love for God is deepest when we are shaken to the bottom of our souls by the extent of the suffering we inflicted on Christ. +++ That prayer is best which contains the most love. +++ When everything appears so dark and hopeless, we should never doubt the love of God. +++ A real and profound love of God has no need for mere words while praying. +++ The more mature our prayer, the larger the place love occupies in it with an invincible spontaneity, until it finally becomes the only master. +++ Better than loving God with your last breath on earth is loving Him forever. +++ Silent, simple love for God is the best kind of prayer, for it makes the soul receptive to the soundless inspiring speech of the Holy Spirit. +++ The prayerful person is the one who is convinced He is loved by God. +++ If you love God above all else, your soul is a dwelling place of the Holy Trinity. +++



# The Truth of the Resurrection

*No one makes up a story like this. No one ever has, or ever will.*

The New Testament, given a fair hearing does not need anyone to defend it. It has the proper ring for anyone who has not lost his ear for truth. But because in these days it has been compromised in the eyes of many people by those who should know better, it is incumbent on Orthodox believers to so live that our honesty and fidelity will not contradict the revealed teaching of Christ. In the Scriptural stories of the Resurrection, there is a concentration on that area of inner truth which is fundamental and ageless, which is why millions of people have heard the voice of God speaking to them through its pages.

In reading the story of the young Church in action, the full weight of Christian evidence, centered as it must be in the Resurrection, falls upon us with renewed force. St. Luke's account of the beginning of the young Church is strangely moving. This mere handful of early believers, who deserted their Master the moment real danger threatened, and who had apparently taken so long to realize that He had really and demonstrably conquered death, are bidden to wait. They are convinced; they are full of joy. But they lack the power to breach the defenses of an unbelieving world. The story, all too familiar to many of us who have been believers for years, is told with extraordinary simplicity and economy of words. There must be some God-given power offered to that tiny band, charged with the alarming and seemingly impossible task to "proclaim the kingdom of God" Luke 9: 60. And there was, for the living Spirit of God came upon these men in a way no one could have anticipated.

The emphasis of the entire New Testament is basically that of Jesus and the Resurrection. The great point to the early Church was that God had become a human being, had been publicly executed, and then had conquered death. He had shown Himself to them alive "...in many convincing ways..." Acts of the Apostles 1: 3, and had even eaten and drunk with them, "...by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead" Acts of the Apostles 10: 41. Naturally they could never forget this, and, as the gospel was preached to the then known world, Jesus the risen Lord was the heart and core of their message. The Resurrection of Jesus is a historic fact. Even after studying seriously the relevant documents, commentaries and attempts to controvert the whole story, each right-thinking man is convinced the Resurrection actually happened. We can be grateful to St. Luke for showing us that it was







the Resurrection from the dead of a man, the God-Man, God's Son, Jesus Christ, which gives the early Church its enormous drive, vitality, courage and hope, as it does to us today.

### **The Resurrection In The Gospels**

This emphasis on the Resurrection impels us to restudy the gospel records. The stories of the Resurrection from the dead of Jesus are not mounted or arranged as evidence for any court of law or, for that matter, for any critic. We would be highly suspicious of them if they were. People who are frightened and despairing, suddenly confronted with evidence which contradicts all their previous experience of life can hardly be considered to be ideal witnesses. Wouldn't you be shaken to the marrow of your inner bones if a young man, whom you had seen die publicly and in terrible agony on Friday, greet you with a cheerful upbeat triumphant and victorious greeting on the following Sunday?

Does it matter whether there as one "...man in dazzling garments..." Luke 24: 4, or two who spoke to the bewildered women at the opened sepulcher? Can we not understand that a woman half-crazy with grief and with eyes nearly blind with weeping should mistake a male figure in the early morning light for a gardener? Have we never been so overwhelmed with grief or disappointment or both, that we literally do not see anything else? We are therefore not in the least worried by the story of the walk to Emmaus, recorded only in St. Luke's gospel, and possibly recorded by him in his patient researches.

There is no difficulty in believing that the minds of Cleopas and his companion were so utterly preoccupied with the collapse of their hopes and dreams that they did not recognize Jesus. Obviously, all the time that they had been walking with Him their despair was coming back to life. But the psychological and dynamic moment came when they were relaxed at a friendly table, and a familiar gesture brought instant recognition. It all "clicked into place" as they say in modern slang, or, as St. Luke records, "...their eyes were opened and they recognized him..." Luke 24: 31. Now no one makes up a story like this. No one ever has, or ever will. This rings true, this certainly happened. "Were not our hearts burning inside us as he talked to us and explained the Scripture to us" Luke 24:32?

### **The Appearances Of Jesus**

There is an almost haphazard recording of the appearances of Jesus after His Resurrection, which is extraordinarily convincing. When the two who were walking to Emmaus had rushed back to Jerusalem



to report their astounding experience to the eleven, they found that they already knew that "the Lord is risen indeed and has appeared to Simon" Luke 24: 34. Again, according to St. Luke, while they are still talking excitedly Jesus Himself appears among them. They were, as we might say, scared out of their wits; they thought they were seeing a ghost. But Jesus reassures them and, as was His habit, He asks penetrating questions. "Why are you so worried" Luke 24: 38? "Why do doubts arise in your minds" Luke 24: 38? "Look at my hands and my feet; it is really I myself" Luke 24: 39! "Touch and see; ghosts have no flesh or bones as you can see that I have" Luke 24: 39.

Then St. Luke makes his shrewd comment as a physician and student of human nature. Some things are too good to be true, and the human mind cannot accept them at once because they are so alarmingly astounding. It is entirely natural that St. Luke should record that "...they still could not believe it through sheer joy and were quite bewildered" Luke 24: 41. Then follows this extraordinary and, in a way, amusing test of that Jesus really was there in person. He asks them, "Have you anything here to eat" Luke 24: 41? We can imagine the frantic rush to a shelf or a cupboard where they kept their food and we can imagine that they saw no incongruity in offering Him a piece of broiled fish and part of a honeycomb. But it is interesting that Jesus consumes this rather strange, for us, meal before their eyes without a smile! But this in a way clinched it. Whoever heard of a ghost eating? Again this is the kind of story no man would invent, or could invent, but which any man who was present would remember until his dying day.

St. John the Evangelist and Theologian, writing considerably later, contents himself with remarking, "Many other signs truly Jesus did in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book" John 20 : 30. We cannot help wishing he had in fact written them down.

### **The Resurrection Body Of Jesus**

Although it is clear that Jesus meant His friends to understand that He had truly conquered death and sometimes went to great pains to convince them of the fact. "Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe" John 20: 27! Even a cursory reading of the gospel stories is enough to show that the appearances are not all of the same quality. On one occasion, Jesus now the risen Christ, appears among His astonished disciples when they are met behind closed and locked doors, and sometimes He appears in open air. Apparently His visible presence could disappear instantly, yet apparently, He could also make Himself not only visible but tangible to human senses. In the earliest accounts of the Resurrection appearances, which St. Paul records in his (1 Corinthians 15) epistle, he seems to make no distinction between the different kinds of appearances. His own vision of the Risen Lord is to him as valid as the experience of



# 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.





The fourth Sunday is dedicated to Christ's healing of the **paralytic** (John 5). The man is healed by Christ while waiting to be put down into the pool of water. Through baptism in the church we, too, are healed and saved by Christ for eternal life. Thus, in the church, we are told, together with the paralytic, to sin no more that nothing worse befall you" (John 5:14).

## The Feast of Mid-Pentecost

In the middle of this fourth week, the middle day between the glorious Resurrection and most solemn Pentecost, we celebrate a great mystery. It is called the feast of Mid-Pentecost, at which Christ "...in the middle of the feast" teaches men of his salutary mission and offers to all "the waters of immortality" John 7: 14. Again we are reminded of the Master's presence and his salutary promise: "...if anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink" John 7: 37. We think also once again of our death and resurrection with Christ in our baptism and our reception of the Holy Spirit in our Chrismation. We "look back to one and anticipate the succeeding one," as a hymn for the feast expresses it. We know that we belong to that kingdom of the risen Christ where "...the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price" Revelation 22: 17; Isaiah 55: 1.

In the middle of the feast O Saviour, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as You did cry to all: 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! O Christ God, Fountain of Life, glory to You! Troparion.

Christ, God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law: Come and drink the water of immortality! We fall before You and faithfully cry out, Grant us Your bounties for You are the Fountain of life! Kontakion.





Birthday  
Wishes!

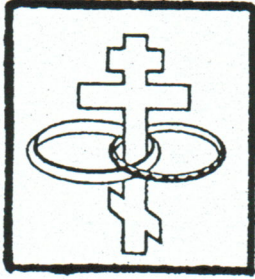
We are pleased to greet those of our faithful communicants who celebrate their birthday this month. Our Lord has offered these souls yet another year of blessed life. The most obvious way He blesses us and participates in our life is by sharing his divine life with us in the Eucharist at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Thus we gather together and offer thanks for yet another year of life blessed by his most gracious hands. Today, we prayerfully remember in the Divine Liturgy the following souls who celebrate their birthday during this month:

**May 3 Betty Samaris**  
**May 9 Rachel Korba**  
**May 11 Melynda Henry**

With a prayerful heart and grateful soul, our parish faith community asks the Lord to continue to bless these birthday celebrants with good spiritual and physical health for the coming year. We invite all to add their personal intercessory prayers so that with one voice and one heart we may also participate in the grace and joy of their celebration. As we wish them a happy and blessed celebration of their birthday, our ardent prayer resounds that the Lord our God will continue to bless them for

**Many and Blessed Years!**





## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The Byzantine Fathers of the Church were wont to emphasize how ancient and how venerable marriage is in the sight of our God because it was established yet in paradise before the fall of Adam and Eve and brought to blessed perfection by Christ in Cana of Galilee. Its grace survived the sin of our first parents and it remains a sign of the presence of the Holy Trinity in our midst. It is a living symbol of the deep and abiding love between Christ and His Bride, our blessed Church. It is characterized in the liturgical life of the Church as a happy martyrdom. And it is precisely for this reason the sacramental Mystery of Marriage is such a joyous event. On the third Sunday of this month, we honor those of our good parishioners who observe their marriage anniversaries this month. They are specially remembered in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and subsequently receive an individual and personal blessing of the Lord at its conclusion. Celebrating this month are:

**May 22 Frank & Maria Pashos**  
**May 24 Robin & Louis Pasquino**

We gratefully give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for having guided and strengthened the marriages of these believers, and their cooperation with sacramental grace to remain faithful to one another over the years. Like all who are faithful to Christ, they recognize the presence and necessity of the Holy Spirit not only in the marriage, but in subsequent family life as well. As we praise our God for their witness in our midst, let us also join them with our prayers and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lord. May they continue to praise His Holy Name by their love and devotion to one another for

**Many and Blessed Years**



## “TROUBLED WATERS” CURE A “TROUBLED MAN”

**A**t the time of Christ, there was a double-basin pool some 100 yards north of a Temple near an area known as the “Sheep Gate” that was said to have miraculous powers. The waters for this pool came from underground springs and were normally used to wash down the sacrificial lambs that were slain according to Jewish ritual. There was a widespread belief among the people that, at an undisclosed time, an angel would come down from heaven and “stir” or “trouble” the waters of the pool. The first to enter the waters after this would be cured of whatever disease afflicted him. It was at this pool that our Lord encounters a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years. His was a seemingly hopeless situation. Without having assistance (which apparently he did not), how could a man unable to walk avail himself of the opportunity to be cured by the healing waters?

Christ provided all of the assistance the paralytic needed. Upon hearing the simple command of “Rise, take up your bed and walk” the man was healed! It is interesting to note where the man formerly paralyzed walked to. We read in the Gospel of St. John that while others may have gone out to do something frivolous, he went to the Temple to give thanks to God for being cured.

The paralytic is an example for us all. Despite his years of suffering, the man never lost hope, and he was rewarded for his remarkable perseverance. In like manner, we should never give up or fall victim to despair — even in the darkest of times or when we are facing the greatest of difficulties. Be patient! Christ knows our needs and hears our prayers. In His time, He will respond to our pleas, just like He did for the paralytic many years ago.