



**MOTHER'S DAY**

# **Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church**

**24 BURKE ROAD**

**FREEHOLD, NJ 07728**

**Sunday of the Man Born Blind**

**May 9, 2010**

**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**

**+++ We joyously greet all our beloved mothers today as we participate in the national recognition of their exalted vocation and place in our daily lives. A very blessed, holy and joyous celebration as we honor our beloved Mothers today and every day and raise a heart-felt prayer to heaven they continue to accept and utilize heavenly grace for Many & Blessed Years, Christ Is Risen!**

**+++ Today we remember our living Mothers with prayerful petitions during the Divine Liturgy and afterwards, we intercede for our departed Mothers as we celebrate the Memorial Service for the repose of**

their souls. We pray the Lord continues to comfort us and our loved ones in their loss and that He grants a blessed repose to their souls and creates for them Eternal Memory, Christ Is Risen!

+++ Please join us Monday evening as we praise our God during the celebration of Healing Services through the intercession of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker at 7: 30 PM.

+++ This coming Thursday is the most solemn feast of the Ascension of our Lord. In anticipation, the vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please come in prayer and praise to join us in glorifying our God.

+++ We remind our faithful that at the last Diocesan Council this past summer, the Diocesan Dues were raised, due to inflation and need, from the past \$50.00 per adult individual, eighteen years and older, to \$60.00 per year. Our envelope offering system still has the old amount on it, so please disregard that figure and make your offering according to the new mandated amount. If this offering was made in the old amount, please correct it by submitting the additional amount with a notation on the envelope because the parish must send the entire amount to the diocesan chancery.

+++ We will have Bake Sale on Friday, May 28 in time for the Memorial Day celebration. Please secure orders for Nut Rolls, Poppyseed, Lekvar and Apricot Rolls at \$12.00 each. The next and last Pirohi Sale for the season will be on Saturday, June 12.

+++ The offering for flowers for the coming feast of Pentecost will be taken next Sunday, May 16. Please plan on being generous for the beautification of our church as we celebrate its birthday.

+++ 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-end: Tithe Offering, ~~\$516.00~~; Candles, ~~\$49.00~~; Kitchen, ~~\$139.00~~; Food Coupons, ~~\$320.00~~; Christian Fellowship, ~~\$2.00~~, for a total of ~~\$1026.00~~. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offered their God-given treasure for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 41 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, +Paul Szmaida, Debra Szmaida, Maria Idromenos, Robert Gorbich, Kent Pasquino, Kyle Pasquino, 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 ~~\$1572.00~~ 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 **\$103,715.00**. 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 check the Sign-Up-Sheet for the weekly Christian Fellowship for the coming weeks. Simple foods without need for preparation are the best. Marilyn Korba coordinates this vital apostolate. Please assist her in making it a success by bringing your donation early so that all are present at the worship of our God.

+++ Be certain your child attends the spiritual formation classes held each Sunday following the Divine Liturgy. We make a serious attempt to share the love of our Lord with all.

+++ Please be certain to see **Helen Karpiak** or 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 **\$5100.00** on this project to date!

+++ We remind our faithful only those who are present for the entire Divine Liturgy should come forward to receive Communion. The entire Liturgy means "Amen" to "Amen."

+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!

LORD



TEACH  
US

## Eternal Life

*For we know that when this tent we live in now is taken down, when we die and leave these bodies, we will have wonderful new bodies in heaven, homes that will be ours forever, made for us by God himself and not by human hands 2 Corinthians 5: 1.*

*If the dead will not come back to life again, then what point is there in people being baptized for those who are gone? Why do it unless you believe that the dead will some day rise again? And why should we ourselves be continually risking our lives, facing death by the hour. For it is a fact that we face death daily; that is as true as my pride in your growth in the Lord. And what value was there in fighting wild beasts, those men of Ephesus, if it was only for what I gain in this life down here? If we will never again live again after we die, then we might as well go and have ourselves a good time; let us drink, eat and be merry. What is the difference? For tomorrow we die and that ends everything! Do not be fooled by those who say such things. If you listen to them you will start acting like them. Get some sense and quit your sinning. For to your shame I say it, some of you are not even Christians at all and have never really known God. But some may ask, how will the dead be brought back to life again? What kind of bodies will they have? What a foolish question. You will find the answer in your own garden! When you put a seed into the ground it does not grow into a plant unless it dies first. And when the green shoot comes up out of the seed, it is very different from the seed you first planted. For all you put into the ground is a dry little seed of wheat, or whatever it is you are planting. Then God gives it a beautiful new body, just the kind he wants it to have, a different kind of plant grows from each kind of seed. And just as there are different kinds of seeds, and plants, so also there are different kinds of flesh 1 Corinthians 15: 29 - 39.*

*If he sows to please his own wrong desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and he will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death, but if he plants the good things of the Spirit, he will reap the everlasting life which the Holy Spirit gives him Galatians 6: 8*

# WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE!

All you people, clap your hands; shout to God with cries of gladness. Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us! First Antiphon, Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

God ascends His throne amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sound of trumpets. Entrance hymn, Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and You delighted the disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through this blessing, they were assured that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world. Troparion, Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

When You fulfilled the plan of salvation for us and united all things on earth to those in heaven, O Christ our God, You ascended in glory, never leaving us, but remaining ever present. For You proclaim to those who love You: "I am with you, and no one else has power over you." Kontakion, Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

Be exalted above the heavens, O God, and let Your glory be over all the earth. Prokimenon, Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

O my soul, extol the Lord Who in glory ascended bodily into heaven. O you who are the Mother of God in manner beyond understanding and beyond words, who gave birth in time to the Lord Whom time cannot contain; we the faithful magnify you with one accord. Hymn instead of 'It is truly Proper,' Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

God ascended His throne amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sound of trumpets. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Communion Hymn, Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

When You came to the Mount of Olives, O Christ, completing the favorable plan of Your Father, the angels in heaven were moved with wonder, and the demons trembled beneath the earth. The apostles were filled with both fear and joy when You were speaking with them. A cloud was prepared before You as an awaiting throne; heaven opened its gates, shining with beauty; and the earth uncovered its deep abyss to show the fall of Adam and his rising up to You again. As an unseen power raised You from the earth, You gave Your blessing in a loud voice; the cloud carried You away, and heaven opened to receive You. Such is the great work that is beyond words, O Lord, that You accomplished for the salvation of our souls. Vesper Hymn, Ascension of our Lord.

## Sickness

From God's revelation to us in Scripture we understand sickness to be afflicting someone who is under a bodily indisposition as is mentioned and described in the Old Testament and New. "...I fell sick three days ago..." 1 Samuel 30: 31; and its natural, normal, created opposite effect, "...they found the servant in perfect health" Luke 7: 10.

It also describes those who are sensible of the burden of their sins, and earnestly desire to be delivered from them by Christ the great Physician. The very purpose of the coming of Christ among us is to cure disease, both physical and spiritual. "People who are in good health do not need a doctor; sick people do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'It is mercy I desire and not sacrifice. I have come to call not the self-righteous, but sinners'" Matthew 9: 12, 13.

Even emotional problems can overwhelm us so we need to be refreshed as the Song of Songs teaches us, "Strengthen me with raisin cakes, refresh me with apples for I am faint with love" Song of Songs 2: 5. Thus believers who are communicants of the Church, both priests and ordinary laymen are called upon to sustain and affirm in faith commitment and truth other baptized believers who encounter problems in their daily living, supporting, strengthening and comforting the soul by applying and encouraging the promises of Christ found in the gospel message for physical and spiritual release. Man often finds himself in a languishing state for want of full enjoyment and understanding and actual living sense of Christ's love which each person so earnestly desires and needs, the absence of which contributes to sickness and pain and languishing in misery of soul.

Sickness entered the world because we invited it. Sickness is among us because we desire it more than perfect health in creation. Adam and Eve figured life was too boring if enveloped with perfect health. They wanted serious complications and the negative elements they introduce. They wanted the excitement of illness and lusted

after it. Can you imagine, they were bored with good and perfect health? Before hand, they were warned what disobedience would bring about. They very well knew the excitement they were visiting upon themselves in wrong-doing.

Our God told them "But if you do not heed me and do not keep all these commandments, if you reject my precepts and spurn my decrees, refusing to obey all my commandments and breaking my covenant, then I, in turn will give you your just deserts, I will punish you with terrible woes – with wasting and fever to dim the eyes and sap the life. You will sow your seed in vain, for your enemies will consume the crop. I will turn against you, till you are beaten down before your enemies and lorded over by your foes. You will take to flight even though no one pursues you" Leviticus 26: 14 – 17; "The Lord will strike you with Egyptian boils, and with tumors, eczema and the itch until you cannot be cured. And the Lord will strike you with madness, blindness, panic and anxiety so that even at midday you will grope like a blind man in the dark, unable to find your way" Deuteronomy 28: 27 – 29.

Because we are made in the image and likeness of our God, He respects what He created. Because we desire sickness, He permits it to afflict us at our own invitation and desire. Because we make an independent, so – called intelligent choice, it is permitted us. As long as man alienates himself from the heartfelt desires of our Creator/Maker, he alienates himself with sickness, limitations and less than perfection. Man was created to be perfect and strive after even greater perfection in paradise, but his choices identify him as being very careless for his own needs. But God allows less than perfection to man because it can turn him around, because it can remind him of the totality of his creation, the perfection in which he was made, so that he turns around and forsakes sin, brokenness, and sickness and chooses instead always to glorify our God with perfect love and praise. Because our heavenly Father allows and recognizes our choices does not mean He approves it; He merely consents to our self chosen reality, our self-imposed alienation because He respects his own creation and its supreme gift of rational mind.

The meritorious cause of sin and alienation is the devil himself with whom man cooperates in introducing sickness and brokenness in our midst. Thus it was with Adam and Eve, thus it continues in our time and place. So when we do whatever is opposite of God's will, we submit to that of the devil and his minions. When we sin, we ally ourselves with the fallen bodiless powers and the enemies of God our

Father. When we do things that encourage sickness and separation, we become friends of the devil and champion his cause.

Thus because of our silly deadly choices, our heavenly Father permits us to fall if we so choose because we have that freedom beyond our understanding. And the end of illness and sickness is to punish us for our bad choices as in the case of the Old Testament king Hezekiah. It also manifests the glory of our God as in the case of righteous Job. But above all else it is an opportunity to magnify and extol our God and glorify his name as in the case of the man born blind from birth. Our Lord's disciples asked him if it was due to his parents' sin or his own personal sin that he was punished with blindness. Christ is emphatic when He says, "It was no sin, either of this man or of his parents, rather it was to let God's works be made manifest in him. We must do the deeds of him who sent me" John 9: 3, 4.

So we are here today and every month, to seek the intercession of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker in our shortcomings, including our bad choices in sin, in health issues, in our negative feelings and predispositions.

We come over and again because our God invites us, insists we desire relief and invest our prayers and time. We come because we have the faith to know and believe only God can bring about change in our lives. Whether we consciously desire it or not, we introduce sin and illness in our lives. We are called upon at these services to become more conscious of our choices, to pick and choose only those things which will enable us to follow nobly in the path of the Saviour, so that all illness, fragmentation and brokenness is removed from our lives because Christ has conquered all for our sake. To his all holy name and to that of the Father and Holy Spirit, be ascribed glory, praise and honor, now and ever and forever. Amen.

**Stress Less  
Pray More**

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## Half-Hearted Prayer

I love your church, O God;  
her walls before me stand,  
but please excuse my absence, Lord,  
this bed is simply grand.

A charge to keep I have;  
a God to glorify,  
but Lord, no cash from me;  
your glory comes too high.

Am I a soldier of the cross,  
a follower of the Lamb?  
Yes! though I seldom pray or pay,  
I still insist I am.

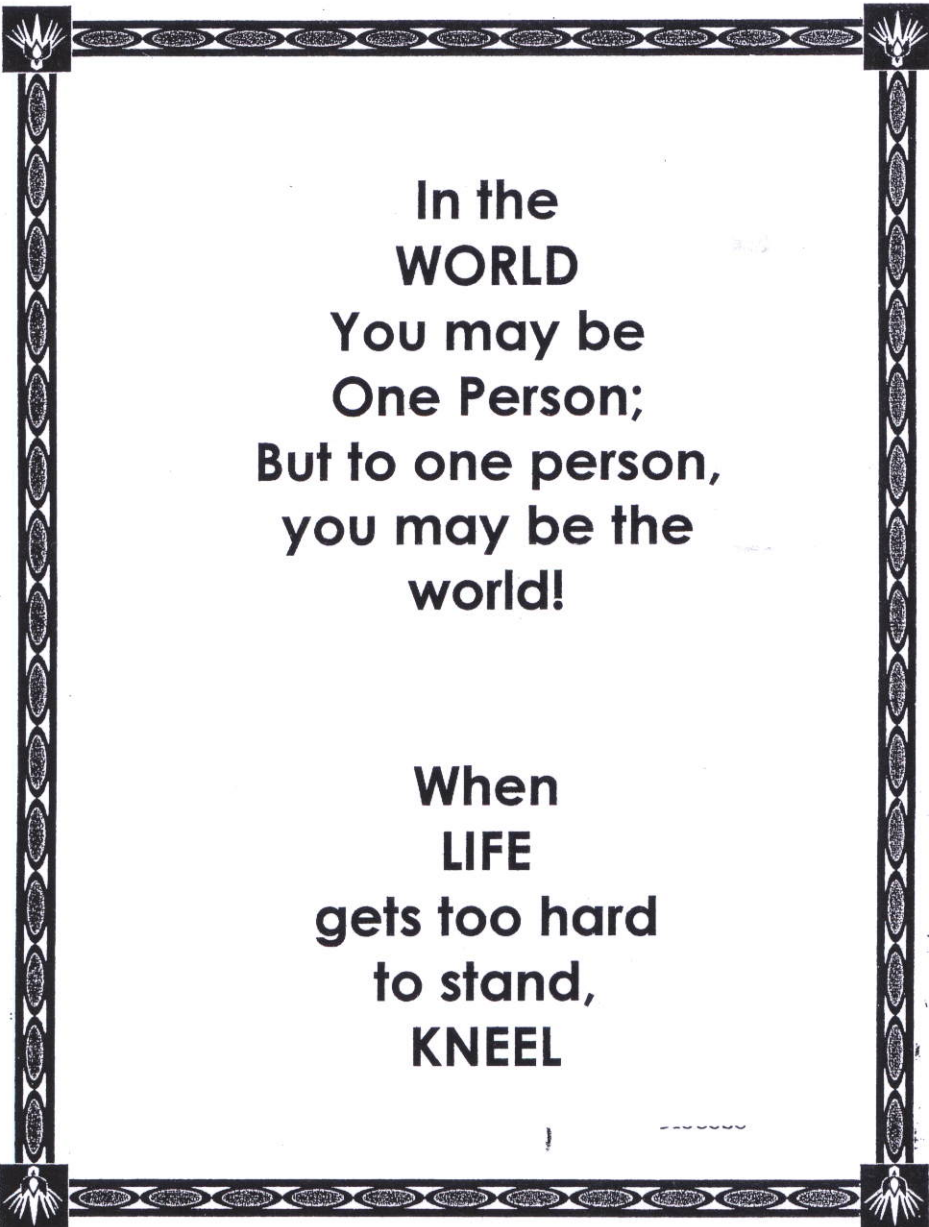
Must Jesus bear the cross alone,  
and all the world go free?  
No! Others, Lord, should do their part,  
but please don't count on me!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below!  
O, loud hymns of praise I bring  
because it doesn't cost a thing to sing!

!



CHRIST REIGNS OVER HIS CHURCH



**In the  
WORLD  
You may be  
One Person;  
But to one person,  
you may be the  
world!**

**When  
LIFE  
gets too hard  
to stand,  
KNEEL**

## WHAT KIND OF MOTHER WAS MARY?

**T**he tradition of the Church pertaining to the age of the Virgin Mary when she gave birth to Christ is that she was extremely young - perhaps not even 16 years old. We have all seen girls who have become mothers - usually unwed ones - who are not capable of taking care of themselves, much less a child! With this thought in mind, we should have a deep appreciation for the awesome responsibility that was suddenly placed upon the Theotokos.

What kind of mother was Mary? We sometimes forget the great dogmatic truth that Christ was both God and Man. As a Child, His needs were much like ours when we were growing up. Mary, no doubt, taught Jesus to pray and to love the Scriptures, as well as the traditions of His people. She probably saw to it that He acted respectfully towards His elders, and knew the value of hard, honest work. I would also think she saw to it that He ate properly and cautiously gave her approval concerning those with whom the young Jesus associated. Yes, there is every indication that Mary was an exemplary mother! Children are known for questioning parental authority, and we can only speculate that our Lord may have had a rebellious thought or two cross His mind. Still, we know that as the Sinless One, His obedience was perfect and complete. He knew that a STRICT, DISCIPLINING mother is really a LOVING mother.

On this Mother' Day, we would be well-served to remember this as well. I'm sure we all grew up wondering and questioning why we had to comply with rules and regulations set down by our mothers that seemingly didn't apply to our friends. How many times were we told that things we were asked to do were "for our own good?" Hopefully as adults, we understand the truth in these words! **MAY GOD BLESS ALL MOTHERS TODAY!**

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