



# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

May 13, 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

+++ 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 thank all who made the monthly Pirohi Sale a success. God bless you devoted souls with a continued good health for Many Years, Christ Is Risen!

+++ 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: Tithe Offering, \$517.00; Candles, \$12.00; Food Coupons, \$240.00; Diocesan Dues, \$65.00, for a total of \$834.00. 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, Anna Zacharyczuk, Eleni Pallas, Debra Szmaida, Paul Szmaida, Eleanor 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 \$165.00 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 \$111,000.00. 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 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 \$5100.00 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.**

+++ **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!**



## God Is Incomprehensible

*"The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit" John 3: 8.*

*What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him 1 Corinthians 2: 9.*

*My thoughts are completely different from yours says the Lord. And my ways are far beyond anything you can imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts Isaiah 55: 8, 9.*

*No one has knowledge of the things of God 1 Corinthians 2: 11.*

*Because my heart was embittered and my soul was pierced, I was stupid and understood not. I was like a brute beast in your presence Psalms 74: 21, 22.*

*My watchmen are blind, all of them unaware; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming as they lie there, loving their sleep. They are relentless dogs; they know not when they have enough. These are the shepherds who know no discretion; each of them goes his own way, everyone of them to his own gain. Come, I will fetch some wine; let us carouse with strong drink, and tomorrow will be like today, and even greater Psalms 56: 10 - 12.*

*I pray that you...may have power...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge. To him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... Ephesians 3: 17 - 20.*

## Certain of God's Love

**I am the resurrection and the life; he that believes in me, though he be dead,  
yet shall he live; and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die  
John 11: 25, 26.**

These thrilling words come to us singing their way across the centuries to sustain and strengthen as they have comforted millions since Jesus spoke them. Because we can be sure of God' love for us, when we eagerly give ourselves to Him, we begin to understand what the poet had in mind when he exclaimed,

So, the All-Great is the All-Loving too,  
So, through the thunder comes a human voice  
saying, 'O heart I made, a heart beats here!  
face, my hands fashioned, see it in myself!  
You have no power nor may conceive of mine,  
but love I give you with myself to love.

This is heaven's truth upon which we depend in life's crisis. Because there is a God as described by the poet, we can meet any emergency with fearless confidence. We feel our hearts throb in unison with the protest of the man who spontaneously shouts his imagined disapproval at the condemnation of Christ. But this is the vital and all important emphasis; if one accepts and approves of Christ's character, as did the faithful defendant in the crowd; he must have the same confidence in the friendly character of the universe as Jesus himself had. The universe cannot produce something greater or finer than it itself is.

Jesus says quite plainly that He represents the character and fullness of the Father. He insists that when a soul is allied with him, it begins to know the power of the world, the real power, not blind force because it is not cold, harsh, impersonal; it can be none of these. It is friendliness and goodness and truth. It is righteousness that cares. It is all these gathered together in One Person, Jesus Christ Who trusted the Father Who did not betray His confidence. This is the glorious truth which sustains and strengthens us today. The Holy Spirit of God did not betray His confidence! The glorious Resurrection is

the Holy Trinity operating, working in concert. Understanding this, we know that neither chance nor fate rules the world, but the wise love of God which is seen in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This truth makes all the difference in the world at a time like this. We cannot explain *what* has happened nor can we fully understand *why* it has happened, but we can place our confidence in Christ. It is not what we believe as much as Whom we believe. "He that sees me has seen the Father" John 14: 9.

There is no need of closing our eyes or minds to unanswered questions. They are too numerous; they keep forever besieging us. But there are some things of which we can be sure.

I know not where I am going, but I do know my Guide.  
And with child-like faith, I give my hand to the Friend that is at my side.  
The only thing I ask of him as he takes it is, 'Hold it fast;  
suffer me not to lose my way, but bring me home at last.'

So, again we hear words in solemn procession of divine comfort, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any pain; for the former things are passed away" Revelation 21: 4. In spite of our lack of detailed information concerning the future, we have enough assurances from our Saviour to be comfortable with His promises. We may not know the geography of tomorrow's world, but we know Him Who will lead us into tomorrow and certainly beyond!

With all the confidence that has come to us in Christ, tens of thousands of men, women and children have refused even to permit their trust to be called faith; they insist it is a personal experience. So happily then they joined another in saying:

When I go down to the sea by ship  
and death unfurls her sail,  
weep not for me, for there will be  
a living host on another coast  
to beckon and cry, "All hail"!

**Christ Is Risen!**

**Indeed He Is Risen!**

**Remove the lower part of this page to create a "Thank You" note to give to someone who has done a kindness for you. It is particularly appropriate for someone who has no church. After praying, place it in an envelope and entrust it to the grace of the Holy Spirit.**

# **Thanks!**

**I wanted to leave this with you to thank you for the good service you gave me. Since we might not meet again, will you take a minute to read this?**

**Jesus told him: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life;  
no one comes to the Father  
but through me'**

**John 14: 6.**

**I leave this little**

**Thank You**

**note with you because**

**I appreciate very much that you followed the  
prompting of a generous and kind heart when you  
helped me recently.**

**Perhaps you are not aware our God inspired your  
goodness of soul.**

**He loves you so much He sent His only-begotten  
Son to earth to be a sacrifice for our sins.**

**He can be your Saviour too, in the life of His Body,  
the  
Orthodox Church.**



## Equal Access

*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace  
to help in time of need*

Hebrews 4: 16.

An insightful believer tells of a conversation he had with an acquaintance who frequently flies his small private plane in and out of a huge international airport. He asked the pilot if he ever encountered problems taking off and landing a small craft at an airport that was dominated by so many large jets. The friend responded, "My plane may be small, but I have the same rights, the same privileges, and the same access to that airport as anyone else, even jumbo jets!

The insightful man then made this spiritual application: It is precisely the same with prayer, in the believer's approach to the throne of grace. No matter who we are or how small we are in comparison with others or how low our supposed station in life, we take back seat to no one. No one is given priority treatment as we all have an equal right to approach our God.

In a world that offers preferential treatment to the wealthy, the famous and the supposedly influential, it is encouraging to know that every child of God has equal access to our Father in heaven. The psalmist said, "The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth" Psalms 145: 18.

With that assurance we can confidently come to God in prayer knowing we will never be turned away and always be heard. Prayer is an open line to heaven.

There is never a night or day  
that our heavenly Father can't hear us when we pray;  
There is no time, there is no place  
that God withholds his love and grace.

## Are You Ready?

*And when they went to buy, the bridegroom came and they who were ready went in with him to the marriage and the door was shut*  
Matthew 25:10.

Some travelers were waiting at the Miami Airport when they observed the boarding of a flight to Dallas, Texas. The door of the plane was shut and the ramp was pushed back when suddenly an anxious and overwhelmed mother and son came running. The mother was puffing and trying to talk and finally broke down upset and crying. This is what she said: "Oh! My husband and I got separated while going through security. Now I have his boarding pass and they won't let him through security. I asked them to page him, but they would not. What are we going to do?" She felt and looked totally defeated. Her husband was not with her, the plane's door was locked shut and was heading in the direction of a runway as she realized she missed her flight.

The airport staff permitted her to pour out her troubles, then kindly and calmly said, "We are sorry for the confusion and inconvenience, but we will get you all on the next flight to Dallas." She found renewed hope after all. There was another flight soon afterwards. What an astounding relief!

We are thus reminded dramatically of the day of judgment, the heavenly flight. If we do not have our tickets ready and are not there on time under the proper conditions, the door will also be forever shut. There will be no succeeding flight. We will be told, "Depart from me, you cursed one, I never knew you." We only have one opportunity for flight to heaven. If we miss it, it is missed forever! If we miss it is because our earthly activity does not invite us to embark on it.

Let us heed what God's revelation to us in Scripture and in the life of his Body teaches us. Let us always have our sins confessed and repented of, all our soul matters in order and our tickets ready for the last heavenly flight. Then we can hear, "Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" Matthew 25: 34. To be sure be certain your itinerary of traveling grace!

# Did You Know That ...

- ...to escape criticism, do nothing, say nothing and be nothing?
- ...anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength?
- ...civility is a basic form of spirituality because it recognizes every one of us deserves respect and attention?
- ...there are myriad kinds of lunacy, but only one kind of common sense?
- ...our lives are not trivial because they can lead us to eternal salvation?
- ...instead of complaining, change your attitude?
- ...if you do not like something, work to change it?
- ...*if* is at the center of *life*?
- ...the greatest weakness of most humans is their hesitancy to tell others how much they love them while still alive?
- ...love and time are the only two things in life that cannot be bought, only spent?
- ...we ought be careful of anger because it is just one letter away from *danger*?
- ...creativity comes from the instincts we trust because they are God-given?
- ...worry is a darkroom where negatives develop?
- ...the way to faith in God is a voyage that never ends?
- ...sometimes one can exist for years and then life comes crowding into one single hour?
- ...youth would be ideal if it came at a later stage in life?
- ...if youth did not matter so much to itself, it would not have the heart to go on?



## Just For Mom

When I was a tiny tot,  
a problem, this I know,  
I brought you many headaches  
and I caused you grief and woe.  
For years you cared for me, but now  
my baby days are through  
and turn about is fair play, dear Mom,  
for now I will take care of you.  
It always makes me happy when  
I find some little thing  
that perhaps may make you happy,  
make you laugh and want to sing.  
But no matter what I do for you,  
I know it will never be  
enough to ever pay you back  
for what you have done for me.  
The years are swiftly rolling by  
and gray is in your hair.  
Do not think that I don't know, Mom,  
that I helped put it there.  
But as long as God permits me  
to stay beneath the blue,  
I will do my best to show you, Mom,  
how much I really care for you.

## **Influence of a Mother**

“When I was a little boy,” said a grown man, “My mother used to invite me kneel beside her and place her hand on my head while she prayed, invoking the grace of the Holy Spirit into my daily life. Before I was old enough to know and appreciate her worth, she went to her eternal reward and I was left to my own guidance. Like others I was inclined to evil passions, but often felt myself checked, as if drawn back by a soft hand on my head. When a young man, I traveled in foreign lands and was exposed to so many temptations. But when I would otherwise have yielded, that same hand was felt upon my head. I felt its gentle pressure as in days of happier childhood; and sometimes there came with it a solemn and serious voice admonishing: “Do not do this great wickedness, my son, nor sin against God.”

## **Drudgery of Housework for Mothers**

A busy and overworked mother was one day regretting that she could do so little genuinely Christian work. “I shall have only a life of house-work to show in the end,” she said rather sadly to her good friend one day. “Why mother,” exclaimed her little daughter who overheard the conversation, “all we children will stand up and witness what you have done for us; we will enumerate everything! I cannot suppose they would want anything better than good mothers in heaven!”

The friend then observed, “Your child is right. Birth will send to heaven no better saints than true Christian mothers who have done their best.”

## **Fractions and Mothers**

A teacher put this question to little Alexander in arithmetic class. “Alex, suppose your mother made peach pie and there were ten of you at the table – your mother and father and eight children – how much of the pie would you get?” “A ninth, Maam,” was the immediate and prompt answer. “No James, Now pay attention,” said the teacher. “There are ten of you. Ten, remember. Don’t you know your fractions?” “Yes, Maam,” was the equally swift reply of bright-eyed Alexander. “I know my fractions, but I know my mother too. She would say that she didn’t want any pie!”

## Teach Children

The heathen mother faithfully takes her baby to the pagan temple and teaches it to clasp the fingers of the statue god. She shows it how to place its hands before its forehead in an attitude of prayer, long before the child can utter a word. As soon as the child can walk, he is taught to gather a few flowers, even fruit, or place some grains of rice on a banana leaf and lay them upon the altar before an idol god. As soon as he can utter the names of his parents, the child is taught to offer up petitions and supplications before the temple images. We are told very few see and witness a heathen child that can speak and not pray to its pagan idol gods!

Christian mothers, why is it that so many of our baptized children grow up in our land of so-called Christian enlightenment and do not learn to pray? Why do so many in our time and place not teach little ones to pray before they can even speak so that words of prayer will be the first to gently drop from their lips when they can speak?

*One celebration of Mothers' Day, a parish priest  
ascended the pulpit and announced:*

*"My mother practices what I preach."*

*It was the greatest tribute he could pay to his pious mother!*

## *Selfless Motherhood*

A woman was calling on her friend whose children were playing around her. The caller observed, evidently with no thought of the meaning of her words, "Oh, I would give my life to have two such children." To which the mother with subdued earnestness replied readily, "That is exactly and precisely what it costs!"

Gospel according to Mother: "We make a living by what we get; but we make a life by what we give!"

## Children Reflect The Quality Of Motherhood

The mother of Sir Walter Scott was superior woman, well educated, and a great lover of poetry and painting and learning.

Byron's mother was proud, ill-tempered and violent. Byron became a drunk, a capable poet with a profligate lifestyle.

The mother of Napoleon Bonaparte was noted for her beauty and energy. Her son became a great Frenchman and warrior.

Lord Bacon's mother was woman of superior mind and deep piety.

The mother of Nero was a murderess. Although he ascended to the position of emperor, he also followed in her footsteps and murdered ravishly.

The mother of George Washington was pious, pure and true.

The mother of Abraham Lincoln endowed him with remarkable personal skills and moral insightful gifts.

The mother of Patrick Henry was marked by her superior conversational gifts and communicative powers.

The mother of Blessed Augustine, St. Monica prayed for the conversion of her son for some three decades.

The Mother of God was a pious, devoted, faithful believer. Is it any wonder our Saviour was given to her care and earthly formation?

It should be observed that in each of the cited examples, the son inherited the prominent traits of his mother!

# Women

## A Woman's Place

Today, a woman's place in society continues to be a topic of debate in many parts of the world. But in the ancient world, a woman's position in society was pretty much fixed in place. The family household was central to the social structure. In an agricultural society, women were involved in farming, preserving and processing food, making cloth and providing clothing, along with parenting. Proverbs 31:10-31 is a great description of the duties of a woman in biblical times.



Here are some snapshots of several well-known women in the Bible:

## Eve: The Beginning of the End

According to Genesis 2:21-23, Eve was the first woman, created from Adam's rib to be the ideal partner. Her name means "life," and all of human life has come from her. But Eve disobeyed God's first command (Genesis 3:1-8). Contrary to what some say, the Bible does not say that Eve tempted or tricked Adam. Instead, the Bible tells us, "Her husband was there with her, so she gave some to him, and he ate it too" (Genesis 3:6). As punishment for their disobedience, God sent them out of the garden (Genesis 3:23) and said that the man would have to work hard to grow food and that the woman would have pain in childbirth.



## Sarah: Late to Motherhood

God promised that Abram would have a son (Genesis 15:4). Since Abram (later Abraham) and his wife, Sarai, were both old, having a child seemed impossible. As time passed, Sarai grew impatient and suggested that her Egyptian maidservant, Hagar, bear a child that Sarai could call her own. But when Hagar acted proudly toward Sarai, Sarai treated her harshly (Genesis 16:1-6).

Hagar ran away but returned at the prompting of the angel of the Lord and had a son, Ishmael. When Sarai (now Sarah) did have a son—Isaac—she sent Hagar and Ishmael away (Genesis 21:1-21).



## Rebekah:

### Playing Favorites

Like Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah were unable to have children for many years. After Isaac prayed for children, Rebekah became expectant with twin sons, Esau and Jacob. While anticipating their birth, God told Rebekah that her sons would head different nations and that the older would serve the younger (Genesis 25: 19 – 26).

Rebekah and Isaac made the grave mistake of picking favorites. Isaac favored Esau, the firstborn and a hunter (Genesis 25: 28). Rebekah favored Jacob. She helped Jacob trick Isaac into giving him the inheritance and blessing that should have gone to Esau as the first born. Afterwards, because she was terrified Esau would kill Jacob for his lie, Rebekah sent Jacob to her brother Laban in Haran (Genesis 27: 41 – 45).

## Rachel and Leah: Sisters of Destiny

It wasn't exactly a fairy-tale wedding. Laban had promised his beautiful daughter, Rachel, to Jacob if Jacob worked for him for seven years. Madly in love with Rachel, Jacob agreed. However, after seven years, Laban instead gave Jacob his older daughter, Leah (Genesis 29:20-27). Jacob made no secret of his disappointment, and Leah soon realized she was unloved.

Jacob openly favored Rachel and, later, her two sons. But Leah had four sons, naming each after the hope that her husband would love her equally (Genesis 29:31-35). Little did either sister know that their children were just the beginning of the great nation of Israel.

**DID YOU  
KNOW!**

Once a woman was married, she was considered a member of her husband's family. If he died without having children, one of his brothers, or the closest male relative, was required to marry the widow. Any children were considered the children of the dead husband. This was known as a "levirate marriage" (Deuteronomy 25:5-10). Boaz's marriage to Ruth was this kind of marriage (Ruth 4:10).

# MOTHERS AND SONS

ABEL  
AHAZIAH  
ASENATH  
BATHSHEBA  
BENJAMIN  
BOAZ  
EPHRAIM  
EUNICE  
EVE

HANNAH  
ISAAC  
JACOB  
JEZEBEL  
JOCHEBED  
LEAH  
MOSES  
OBED  
RACHEL

RAHAB  
REBEKAH  
RUTH  
SAMUEL  
SARAH  
SIMEON  
SOLOMON  
TIMOTHY





## A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness.

HONORE DE BALZAC (1799-1850)  
Writer

No song or story will bear my mother's name. Yet, so many of the stories I write, that we all write, are my mother's stories.

ALICE WALKER  
Writer

I cannot forget my mother. Though not as sturdy as others, she is my bridge. When I needed to get across, she steadied herself long enough for me to run across safely.

RENITA WEEMS  
Writer and professor

God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.

JEWISH PROVERB

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The vocation of  
*Mother*  
is a love  
like no other . . .

We prayerfully wish

All our Mothers,  
Grandmothers, Godmothers

A Blessed and Happy Mothers' Day!

