



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

May 25, 2008

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;
Father John Cmur; Deacon Kenneth E. Ellis and
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 we remember those who serve our nation in its defense and particularly those who sacrificed their lives to protect our liberty and freedom. We celebrate a Memorial Service for the repose of the souls of all who paid the supreme price in protecting our great nation. Living veterans and soldiers are remembered during the Divine Liturgy.

+++ The annual Summer Bible Camp of our parish will be held the week of August 18 to 22.

+++ **We wish all of our parish faithful a happy celebration of this first holiday week-end of the summer, Memorial Day, much joy with loved ones.**

+++ The First Confession Class will be celebrated on Sunday, June 1 at the Divine Liturgy. Children of the class will meet each with Father for further instruction and practice on Saturday, May 31 from 10: 30 AM to Noon. Those children who did not come this past Saturday will also meet with Father from 9:00 AM to 10: 30 AM. Parents, upon picking up the children, will also have their confessions heard at Noon. Our parish practice is for the parents as an example to their children and in unity with them to receive both sacramental Mysteries together, Reconciliation and Eucharist. Father John will be available to assist in hearing confessions. All are invited to join in the congratulatory reception following the Divine Liturgy that Sunday. All of our faithful are invited to attend the reception following the Divine Liturgy next Sunday in honor of our First Confession Class.

+++ **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, \$589.00; Candles, \$19.00; Food Coupons, \$320.00; Kitchen, \$157.00; Christian Fellowship, \$9.00; Pennies From Heaven, \$3.00; Utilities, \$136.00, for a total of \$1223.00. 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 38 adults and 14 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: Pani Lucas, Father Lucas, Paul Szmaida, Kyle Pasquino, Christ Hambling, Louis Pasquino, Mary Jaakobs, 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 **\$1318.00** 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 \$93, 405. 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.

+++ Today, 9: 15 A M, a Memorial Service is be celebrated for the repose of the soul of her beloved father, +Michael Wanca, requested by Debra Szmaida. As we ask the merciful Lord to continue comforting Debra and her loved ones in their loss, we pray He grants blessed repose to +Michael and creates for him Eternal Memory, Christ Is Risen!

+++ 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 \$4250.00 on this project to date!

+++ On Sunday, June 8, the offering for flowers for the coming feast of Pentecost will be taken after the homily.. Please be generous so our parish church is beautified for the birthday of the Body of Christ.

+++ **Please see Marilyn Korba to sign up for the Alaskan Cruise next August, 2009.**

+++ **We have some remaining rolls and pirohi available from the recent sales. Please see the woman in the kitchen to secure yours if you had no order.**

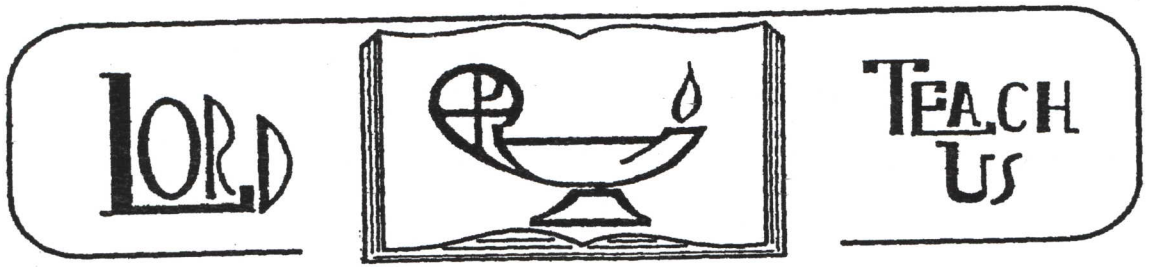
+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!

**Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death
and to those in the graves, bestowing life.**

Web Site Address

Parish:

Father's address:



Doubts

And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart Galatians 6: 9.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so it is with my word that goes out from my mouth. It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it Isaiah 55: 10.

Jesus answered them 'Have faith in God. I assure you whoever tells this hill to get up and throw itself into the sea and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. For this reason I tell you, when you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for' Mark 11: 22 – 24.

He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God 2 Corinthians 1: 4.

If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to the sycamore tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea" and it will obey you Luke 17: 6.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see Hebrews 11: 1.

Samaritan Woman

Just about everyone has experienced the exhilarating joy of drinking a cold glass of water to quench the thirst on a hot summer day. Regardless of what else you may imbibe, nothing satisfies the thirsty body like a good refreshing glass of water. God's revelation to us in Scripture tells us that our Lord once experienced precisely such a compelling thirst. He had been traveling some time with the disciples when they came to well near a Samaritan city of Sichem. Christ sent the disciples into town to buy some food and in the meantime He sat down by Jacob's well, hoping to imbibe of its cool tasty and refreshing water.

Soon enough a Samaritan woman approaches the well carrying a traditional jug used at the time to transport water from well to home. The well was deep and Jesus was happy to see her come with the proper equipment to fetch water. "Let me have a drink," He says. The woman hesitates because his attention startles her. She is a conspicuous Samaritan and He is obviously a Jew in her territory; neither speak to each for centuries and hold each other in enmity and disdain. Christ then tells her, "If only you knew who was speaking with you, you would ask of him and He would give you living water...whoever drinks of this water in the well will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I give will never thirst...it shall be in him a well springing up to everlasting life."

Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again." How true this is. A person drinks and drinks and in an hour is thirsty once again. We eat a hearty meal for breakfast but before we know it, lunchtime arrives and we need to refuel ourselves. People save some money over a specified period of time, but are not satisfied, they would like to have saved more. A rich man is not satisfied with a million dollars; he desires at least another million! There is an old saying that says, "Enough is a little more than what I have." That is why our Lord says whoever drinks of this physical, earthly, temporal water is going to thirst again; he is not going to be satisfied forever. The world with all its goods, riches, delights, physical joys is not able to satisfy the deep longings of the human soul. Some of the world's saddest people are those who have

everything the world has to offer. Conversely some of the world's happiest and fulfilled people are those who have very little of the world's riches. We are not made for this world alone, because we are citizens not of the world, but made for eternity. St. Augustine teaches us, "O Lord you created us for yourself and we are not satisfied until we belong wholly to you" *De Cathedizandis Rudibus*.

When our Lord said, "...whoever drinks of the living water that I give shall never thirst..." He is telling us the grace of God, the grace of the Holy Spirit refreshes us, renews us, forgives us, fortifies us, uplifts us, provides for all our needs because it is life-giving.

Notice how similar God's blessed grace is to water: water is used to clean things; God's forgiving grace cleanses us from the burden of sin. Water is used to put out fires; God's grace puts out the recurring fires of temptation to sin that well up in our human nature. Water is necessary to life; God's grace is necessary to keep us spiritually alive.

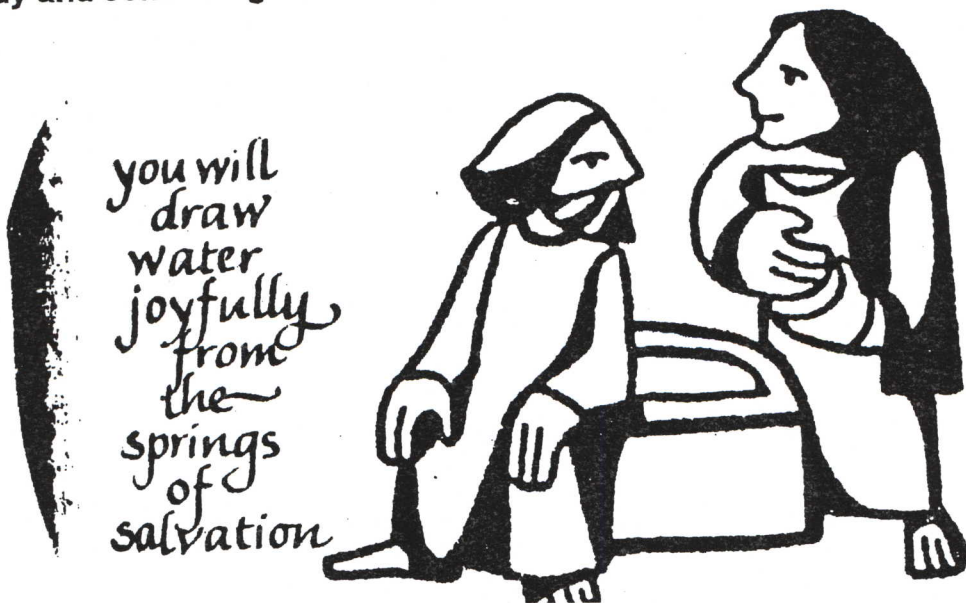
So how can one drink of this living water? How can we receive God's grace? It is accessible and free as the air we breathe. On one great feast day, Jesus stood before a multitude of people and said, "If any thirst, let him come to me and drink." By coming to Christ we can receive the fortifying and satisfying grace of the Holy Spirit. In one of today's Church hymns, we call Christ the "Fountain of Life" from whom we can refresh our thirsty souls with the water that satisfies for all eternity. We come to Christ and encounter him in the sacramental Mysteries especially in the Eucharist; in prayer; in fasting. The streams of grace are many that come out of the Fountain of Life.

There is an old story that comes down to us from the early years of the Church which tells about Christ and the grace He eagerly imparts to needy souls. It seems that a pagan prince and his counselor walked along a country road one day. He had all the world holds dear. Coming in the opposite direction on the road was an obviously poor couple. A blind man being led by a faithful and loving wife. They were singing softly a Christian hymn, and there was radiance that shown on their faces, a joy and deep peace that was easy to see. The prince saw them and then turned to his counselor saying, "Look at them, poor miserable creatures. How can they be so happy? They've got nothing and yet they sing with conviction and joy which is written all over their face. How can that be?"

"I'll tell you," said the counselor who was a Christian. "They are not poor; they have Christ the Lord, the treasure of the universe. They have drunk deeply of God's grace and the Holy Spirit dwells in them. They have a peace and a happiness that the world cannot give, nor can it take away from them." All this so impressed the non believer that he expressed a desire to know more about Christ.

Are you, dearly beloved brothers and sisters, drinking of this living water? The grace of God is still being poured out to those who seek it. May we not leave this church today without having drunk deeply from Christ the Fountain of Life.

Of course, there is so much more remarkable spiritual wealth in today's gospel narrative. We see Jesus forget all about bodily thirst when He finds a woman who needs help and salvation, who thirsts after the eternal truth which only He can provide. The disciples return and find out that Christ has already eaten "food" of which they are not aware, that is, that He is doing the will of our heavenly Father as should each of us. Jesus reveals himself to this Samaritan woman as the long promised Saviour. She believes and goes and tells her countrymen and they finally believe in him as well. They invite him to stay with them and He remains and teaches them for two days before coming back to Galilee. This is a gospel narrative which deserves our careful reading, study and continuing consideration.



In Spirit And Truth

When our Lord encountered the Samaritan woman at the well, He told her, "God is Spirit and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth" John 4: 24. On the fiftieth day after the Resurrection, the Holy Spirit came upon the first Christian community, making them into a Church that "...devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and community life, to the breaking of bread and to prayers" Acts of the Apostles 2: 42. The "breaking of bread" is the first description of what we now call the Divine Liturgy, our gathering in prayer to hear the word of God and to share in communion the bread that becomes the Body of Christ, "broken but not divided, ever eaten, yet never consumed, sanctifying those who partake of it" Formula at breaking of bread, Divine Liturgy. It is the Holy Spirit who makes the worship of the Church of Christ living and real, able to transform and deify us, if we are willing in faith.

The Church always recognized the role of the Holy Spirit in worship. The worship of the Church is a celebration mediated by the Holy Spirit of the mystery of our salvation which is fulfilled in the Passover of the Lord Jesus, in obedience to the eternal will of the heavenly Father. During the Eucharistic prayer, the priestly celebrant calls upon the Father to "...send down the Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts lying before us, and make this bread the precious body of Christ and that which is in the chalice the precious blood of your Christ, changing them by your Holy Spirit" Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

This is called the *epiclesis*, the invocation, the calling down of the Holy Spirit. The role of the priestly celebrant is to so pronounce the epiclesis that the Holy Spirit might lead his priestly, prophetic and royal people into the presence of the divine mystery. The epiclesis is described as the invocation of the Holy Spirit who fulfills and perfects all the realities of the Church and the eternal kingdom.

Baptism is our rebirth as children of God, in which we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the believer who accepts the eschatological gift of the Spirit of the Risen One allows the same Spirit to effect his own personal assimilation to Christ the Lord.

The Lord did not command his followers to offer a dead and formal sacrifice of worship. He taught, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice" Matthew 9: 13; 12: 7. The Divine Liturgy that we celebrate as a community of faith is a true sacrifice because it is filled with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we are able to sing that our prayer of thanksgiving is "...mercy, peace, a sacrifice of praise." During the Eucharistic prayer the priestly celebrant asks the eternal Father to send the Holy Spirit upon us and the gifts "...for the purification of soul, for remission of sin, for communion in your Holy Spirit, for the fullness of the heavenly kingdom, for confidence in you, and not for judgment or condemnation." Our offering of bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. To show this, before the gifts are distributed in Holy Communion, the priest takes a portion of the Body of Christ and unites it to the chalice with the words, "...the fullness of the faith of the Holy Spirit." At Communion, therefore, we receive the Body and Blood of the Saviour, as revealed by the words of Jesus, "This is my body," and "This is my blood," and we also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, singing immediately afterward, "We have received the heavenly Spirit." The Divine Liturgy is both our Passover and our Pentecost, for we are alive in the Holy Trinity.

St. John Chrysostom described the coming of the Holy Spirit in the Divine Liturgy as divine fire from heaven. St. John the Baptist foretold, "One mightier than I is coming. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" Luke 3: 16. This was the baptism of Christ, which is renewed every time we receive Holy Communion. Because of the reality of the action of the Holy Spirit, our baptism and our Communion in God continually heals and transforms us. During the period between Passover and Pentecost, we hear the gospels of the paralytic man, the Samaritan woman and the man born blind; all stories of people who were healed, cured and transformed by Christ, returned to the original way they were created perfectly by God in paradise. It is Christ who promises to send "...the Spirit of truth, who would lead us to all truth" John 16: 13. St. John Chrysostom once proclaimed that we are constantly in the presence of God's salvation, for the risen Lord is always with us. He said, "It is always Passover." This is likewise true of the Holy Spirit, the "the treasury of blessings and giver of life." We may equally say, "It is always Pentecost, it is always the time of the Holy Spirit."

A decorative floral border with intricate scrollwork and small flowers, framing the text on the top, right, and bottom sides of the page.

The Promise of the Resurrection

“Because he lives we too shall live”

We need these seven words above
to help us endure
the changing world around us
that is dark and insecure,
to help us view the present
as a passing episode,
a troubled brief encounter
on life's short and troubled road.
For knowing life's eternal
because our Saviour died
and triumphed at the Resurrection
after He was crucified
makes this uncertain present
in a world of sin and strife
nothing but a stepping stone
to a new and better life!

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

The joyful message of the Resurrection was heard by the faithful women from the angel. And being freed from the ancestral curse, they boasted to the apostles: "Dead and despoiled is death; Christ our God is risen, giving great mercy to the world." Troparion, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman.

When the Samaritan woman came to the well with faith, she beheld You, O Water of Wisdom; You allowed her to drink abundantly, and glorified her eternally, for she inherited the eternal kingdom. Kontakion, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman.

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 be to You! Troparion, Mid-Pentecost Feast.

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, Mid-Pentecost Feast.

You fought the good fight with faith, O Martyr of Christ, George. You exposed the perversion of the persecutors and offered an acceptable sacrifice to God. Therefore, you also received a crown of victory and through your prayers, O holy one, obtained the forgiveness of sins for all. Troparion, Feast of St. George the Martyr.

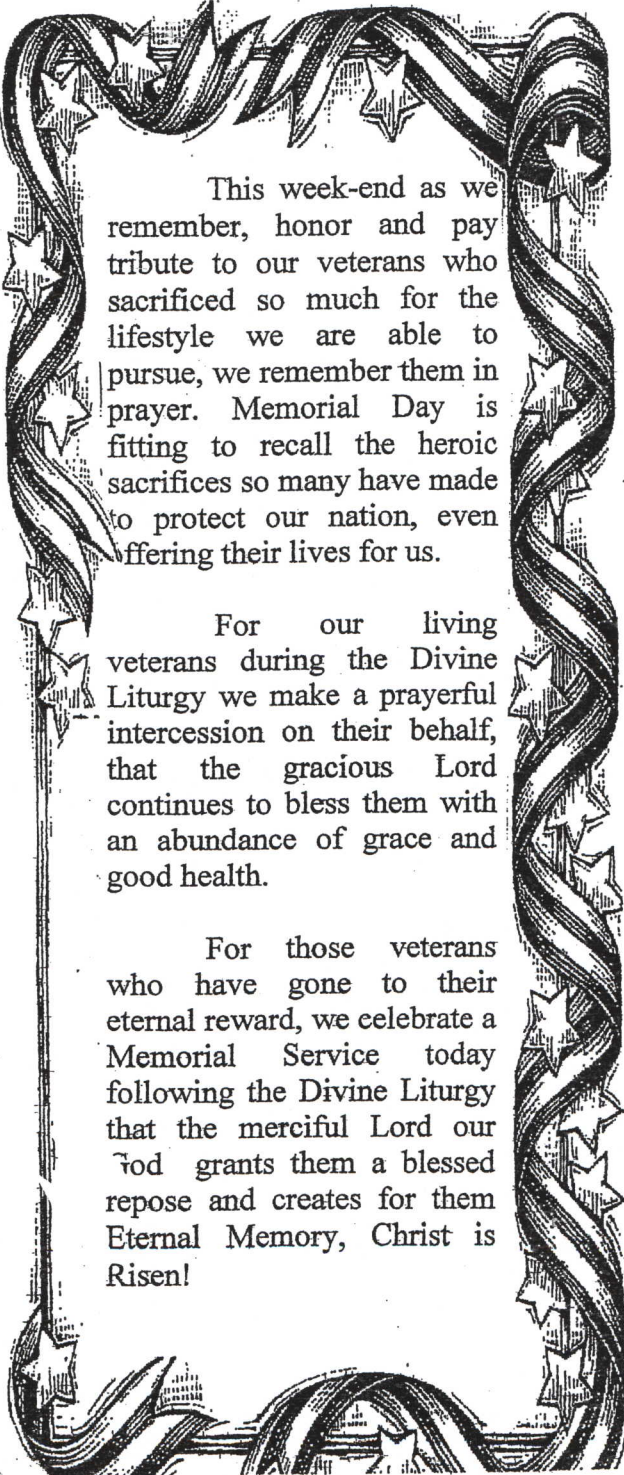
Inspired by God, you sowed the seeds of piety, harvesting sheaves of virtue. You sowed in tears but reaped in joy; and having honorably fought and given your blood, you were received by Christ. Through your prayers, O holy one, obtain the forgiveness of sins for all. Kontakion, Feast of St. George the Martyr.



Memorial Day

Established as a national observance after the Civil War to remember those who defended the nation in rebellious war strife, this holiday continues to remind us particularly of those who went off to war and offered their lives, who did not return to benefit from their own heroic efforts. It is named after the Latin root word for *remember* which calls upon us to never overlook or take for granted their noble efforts.

Let us offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their sacrifices as well as an intercessory petition for the repose of their souls. May their memory and valiant efforts never be forgotten!



This week-end as we remember, honor and pay tribute to our veterans who sacrificed so much for the lifestyle we are able to pursue, we remember them in prayer. Memorial Day is fitting to recall the heroic sacrifices so many have made to protect our nation, even offering their lives for us.

For our living veterans during the Divine Liturgy we make a prayerful intercession on their behalf, that the gracious Lord continues to bless them with an abundance of grace and good health.

For those veterans who have gone to their eternal reward, we celebrate a Memorial Service today following the Divine Liturgy that the merciful Lord our God grants them a blessed repose and creates for them Eternal Memory, Christ is Risen!

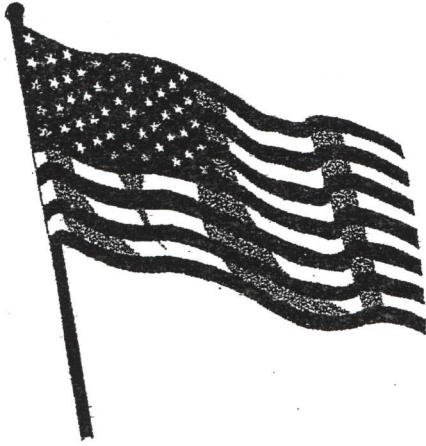
In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row,
that mark our place; and in the sky
the larks, still barely singing, fly
scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
love and were loved, and now we lie in
Flanders Fields.

Take up your quarrel with the foe:
to you from failing hands we throw
the torch; be yours to hold it high.
If you break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.

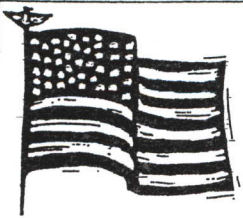
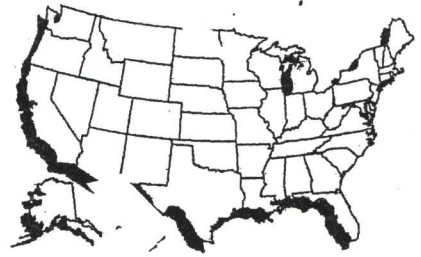
John McCrae



A Prayer for Our Nation

God Bless America
and keep us safe and free..
Safe from all our enemies,
wherever they may be...
Teach us to walk humbly
And closer in Thy ways,
Give us faith and courage
And put purpose in our days,

Make each one of us aware
That each must do his part,
For in the individual
Is where peace must have its start —
For a better world to live in
Where all are safe and free
Must start with faith and hope and love
Deep in the heart of me.



UNITED WE STAND

QUENCHING A "THIRST"

In the largely rainless lands of the Middle East, water is a constant preoccupation. Throughout the Old Testament, much attention is given to wells, and the donors of these sites of refreshment were forever held in high esteem by the local community.

The setting of the Gospel lesson on the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman is Jacob's Well. In Genesis, it is implied that such a well was dug by this venerable Patriarch when he and his family returned to Shechem in Canaan and settled outside the city. The well served as a point of rest and refuge for the numerous caravans that passed through the desert enroute to regions of greater population.

In our Orthodox Christian tradition, Jacob's Well and its surroundings were made famous by the encounter there between Jesus and "Photini", the woman of Samaria. In their lengthy conversation, Christ beautifully uses the symbolism of water to point out that He can provide us with "water" that would quench our thirst eternally. Jacob of the Old Testament provided the Inhabitants of that region with water that took care of their PHYSICAL NEEDS. Christ, the new Jacob, offers all of us LIVING WATER, which satisfies all of our SPIRITUAL NEEDS. Truly, it is through Jesus Christ that we receive what is necessary for eternal life. Let us hope that we too drink from the "well."

As early as the late 4th century, church historians write of an edifice erected over the location of Jacob's Well. The church has been destroyed and rebuilt several times. It is estimated that the well itself measures some 162 feet in depth.