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Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 13, 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

+++ The annual Summer Bible Camp of our parish will be held the week of August 18 to 22. Non-parishioner children are welcome. Subject matter will be The Parables of our Lord.

+++ Next Sunday is the feast of St. Elias and vehicles of travel will be blessed following the Divine Liturgy. Our parishioners are encouraged to invite their friends to worship with us and have their cars blessed afterwards.

+++ 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, [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Candles, [REDACTED]; Food Coupons, [REDACTED]; Kitchen, [REDACTED], Special Gift, [REDACTED] Holyday, [REDACTED] Pennies From Heaven, [REDACTED]; Flowers, [REDACTED] for a total [REDACTED]. 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, Anna Sabo, Robert Gorbich and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of [REDACTED] from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

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

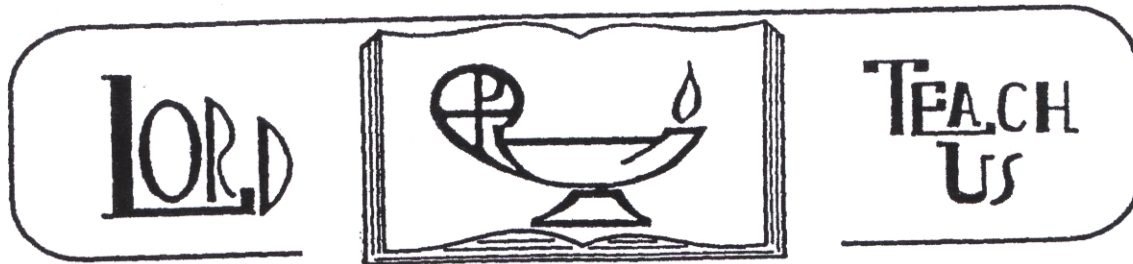
+++ Please check the Sign-Up-Sheet for the weekly Christian Fellowship for the coming weeks. Simple foods without need for preparation are the best. Marilyn Korba coordinates this vital apostolate. Please assist her in making it a success by bringing your donation early so that all are present at the worship of our God.

+++ 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 [REDACTED] on this project to date!

+++ 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.

+++ Accompanied by a parish bank draft amounting to [REDACTED], application was made for Site Plan approval to the Planning Board of the Township of Freehold two weeks ago. An additional check for [REDACTED] was sent to the Zoning Board this past week. Prayers are needed as in the past.



Lying

Stop lying to one another. What you have done is put aside your old self with its past deeds and put on a new man, one who grows in knowledge as he is formed anew in the image of his Creator Colossians 3: 9, 10.

You shall not lie nor speak falsely to one another. You shall not swear falsely by my name, thus profaning the name of your God. I am the Lord Leviticus 19: 12.

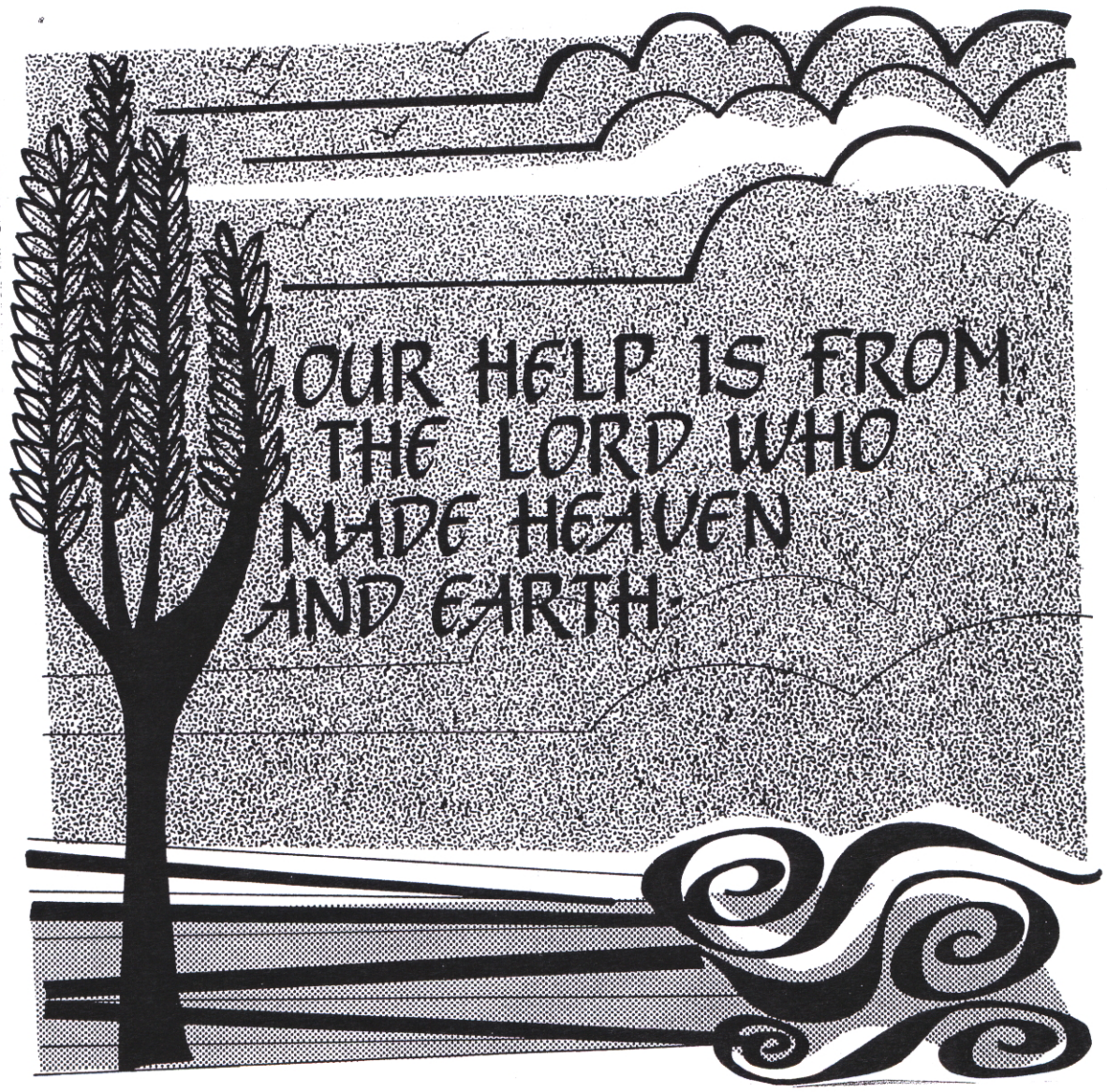
Like a club or a sword, or sharp arrow is the man who bears false witness against his neighbor Proverbs 25: 18.

A truthful witness does not lie, but a false witness utters lies Proverbs 13: 5.

How many times must I adjure you in the name of the Lord to tell me nothing but the truth 1 Kings 22: 16?

A false witness shall not go unpunished and he that speaks lies shall not escape Proverbs 19: 5.

If an unjust man takes the stand against a man to accuse him of defection from the law, the two parties in the dispute shall appear before the Lord in the presence of the priest or judges in office at that time; and if after a thorough investigation the judges find that the witness is a false witness and has accused his kinsman falsely, you shall do him as he planned to do to his kinsman. Thus shall you purge the evil from your midst. The rest, on hearing of it, shall fear and never again do a thing so evil among you. Do not look on such a man with pity. Life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, and foot for foot! Deuteronomy 19: 16 – 21.



OUR HELP IS FROM
THE LORD WHO
MADE HEAVEN
AND EARTH

Try Thanksgiving

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to your name Psalms 92: 1.

Giving earnest and heartfelt thanks to God is one aspect of prayer that believers sometimes hurry over or neglect completely. This is especially true when we go through a difficult time and do not feel particularly grateful. Yet, even in periods of suffering and fear, we should thank God for his abundant promises and unfailing goodness. When we do express our gratitude to him, a wonderful change takes place within us.

Nothing so pleases God in connection with our prayer as praise...and nothing so blesses the man who prays as the praise which He offers. One man speaks of the terrible and ferocious abuse and betrayal he suffered from one he considered a dear friend. In his pain he went to God in prayer. But he felt no relief. Finally, after a while, he began to recognize why God was turning this series of events into a blessing. He realized God was sparing him from greater pain and disaster at the hands of this so-called unworthy friend. His friend was not worthy of his attention and love. So he began to bless and thank the Lord for his loving kindness in sparing him greater affliction and pain.

Deep shadows do cover the soul. We pray, but the darkness only deepens. Then our heavenly Father gives us a sign, "Try Thanksgiving." If we follow the directive, in a moment every shadow is gone, not to return. The psalmist is right; it is good to give thanks to the Lord.

Perhaps you have a shadow come over your spiritual life recently. Or maybe you struggle under heavy burdens that seem unbearable. Bow your head and thank the Lord for all He does for you. Tell him you know He loves you and has not abandoned you, but is exposing you to realities which will change your life. Express your gratitude for the gift of salvation in which He sustains you along with all the good things around you. Then you will experience for yourself the gift of thanksgiving.

Right Quick!

*Abraham rose up early in the morning...and went to the place which God told him to go
Genesis 22: 13.*

Everyone seems to be amazed at Abraham's immediate response to the Lord's command to go to Mount Moriah and offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Even though Abraham dearly loved his son, he did not find excuses to delay his departure; rather, he arose "early in the morning" to do God's will as distasteful it might have been. He trusted the Lord more than he trusted his own senses. Unquestionably, he loved God more than anything else, even his own flesh, bone and blood. Likewise, when we sense God's call in our own life, we should respond right away and do as He directs. Faith must be pre-eminent in our life.

How many children hear the summons from the lips of their parents, "Come right now, quickly!" How many times are children irritated, not so much because of the command to "come," but "the right now, quickly," seems to stiffen their spine into disobedience, even deafness and indifference altogether. At such a summons, the parent does not mean "Take your time, think it over, come if you feel like it." How many children are taught to feel like it, to change their priorities and dispose themselves to the will of their parent? Parents are the heads of the household and children ought to be taught to agree and accept with this fundamental truth.

The big and important word with our heavenly Father is "now." If we are going to get anything done for him, we have to get to it now! He is the I AM, the Eternal Contemporary and wishes we be disposed to listening and responding to him when He invites. There may not be another opportunity to accomplish what He expects us to do. He is providing an opportunity that can take place at that moment, not before, not later. It is his eternal wisdom which decides when it is best for us to act. He sees the entire picture; we only have a fleeting glimpse of the circumstances, if that.

Is there is an area of your life you have not yet yielded to the will of our heavenly Father? Are there things you know God wants you to do, but you have been holding

back? Are you making up reasons in your mind to delay, even to ignore him completely?

Because parents are so many times negligent in fulfilling God's will in their lives, they become surprised their children imitate their behavior in relation to parental commands. Children only reason within themselves if parents can ignore God, why can't children ignore parents, who are representatives of God in the world? Thus begins and is introduced into society not a submissive soul, but a rebellious and questioning one.

For the glory of the Lord and for individual personal blessing, the example of Abraham should be considered and imitated. Do what He expects you to do as a believer in Christ. Permit the grace He blesses you with to find root in your soul and grow into a beautiful blossom of good works. Do what He wants you to do and what baptismal grace inspires you to pursue instead of the varied inane activities you would rather fill your life with.

Abraham "rose early in the morning" to obey the Lord, to fulfill his will. He did not know where it would lead, but trusted in his providence. When God calls, He expects us to come "right now, quickly." There ought be no hesitation, only immediate response.

The same God who created us for himself, desires our salvation and does not neglect to teach and provide the means to attain it. Submission to the will of God is foremost if we wish to describe ourselves as being serious citizens of heaven. Because he trusted God, Abraham became the progenitor of an entire race of people who would call themselves God's faithful children. Through him and them, the world learned to know of the only true, eternal God in heaven. Perhaps our Creator has just as astounding task for us to fulfill if we make ourselves usable and susceptible to his grace!

Lord, when we sense your invitation to serve, help us to come quickly and respond, to start without hesitation. Do not permit us to stand idly aside, but come forward with an eager heart. Genuine obedience to the will of God never procrastinates, nor questions because it is taught to trust.

Right, But All Wrong!

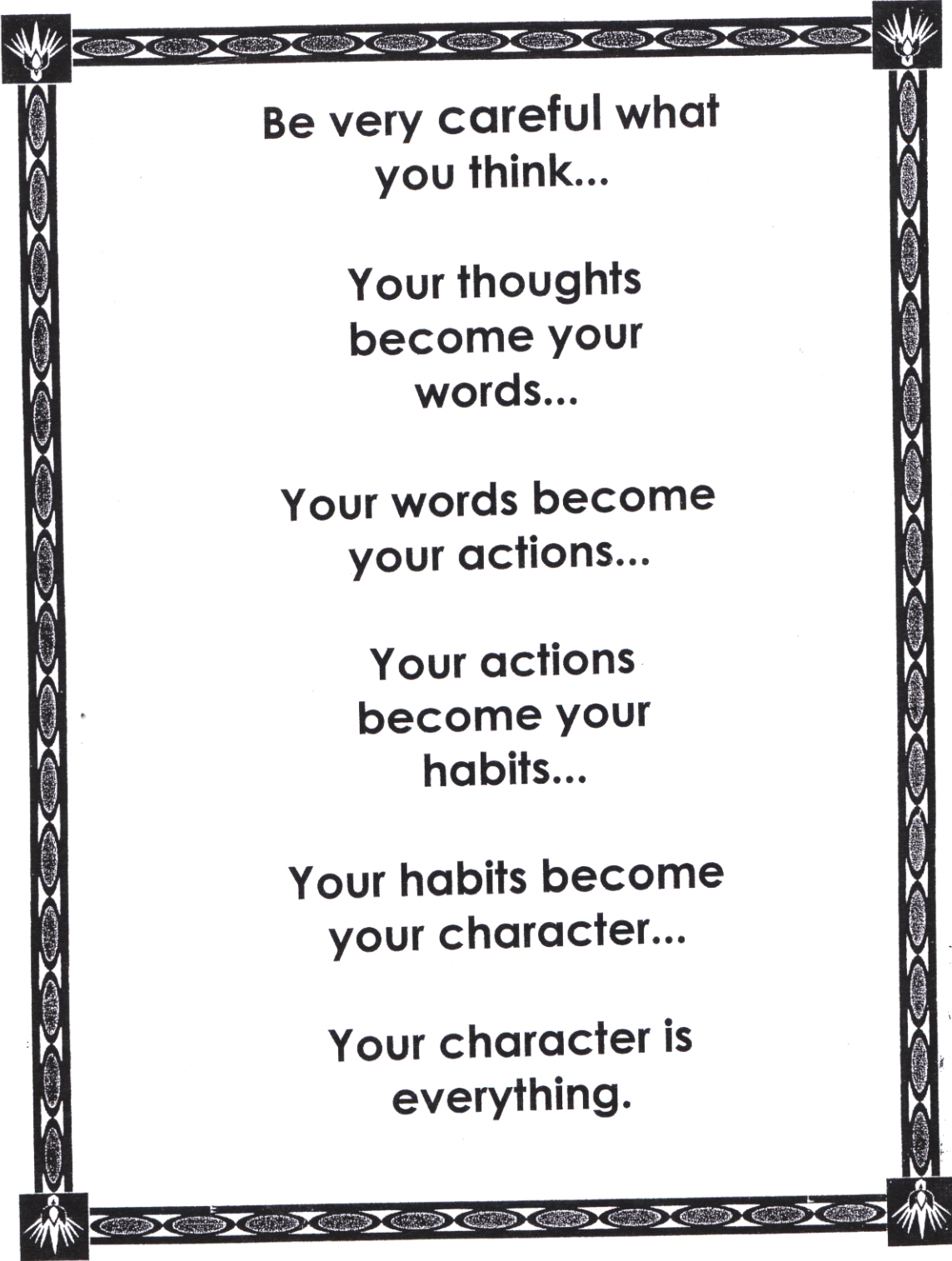
Do not be surprised that I tell you must be born again John 3: 7.

An interesting incident took place in Brooklyn, New York some years ago. A detective who had been looking for a local citizen finally tracked him down in a drugstore. As the man began to make his purchase, the officer laid his hand on the man's shoulder and said, "You're under arrest; come along with me!" Stunned, the man demanded, "What did I do?" The detective calmly replied, "You know what you did. You escaped from the Albany penitentiary several years ago. You went west, got married, and then came back here to live. We have been watching for you since you returned."

Quietly the man admitted, "That's true, but I was sure you would never find me. Before you take me in, could we stop by my house so I can talk to my family?" The officer agreed. When they got to his home, the man looked at his wife and asked, "Haven't I been a kind husband and a good father? Haven't I worked hard to make a living and provide support for all of you?" His wife answered, "Of course, you have, but why are you asking me these questions?" Her husband then proceeded to explain what happened and that he was now caught and placed under arrest.

He apparently had hoped his record as an exemplary husband and father would impress the officer. Even so, he was still an escaped criminal and he would have to return to prison. Though he was "right" with his family, he was all wrong with the state of New York.

We may be good neighbors, even faithful members of a family, a loving husband or wife, but all wrong with God. Fellow workers may be very fond of you, indulgent acquaintances most accepting of your imperfections, but if you are not right with God, you are a complete failure in the world. You may fool those around you, but you cannot fool God. Being right with God is far more important than being acceptable to worldly friends and acquaintances. But if we are good in the sight of God, we will also be good in the view of worldly friends.



**Be very careful what
you think...**

**Your thoughts
become your
words...**

**Your words become
your actions...**

**Your actions
become your
habits...**

**Your habits become
your character...**

**Your character is
everything.**

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad. With his arm the Lord has won victory. By His death, the Lord has conquered death. He has become the first-born of the dead, He has delivered us from the depths of the Abyss and has granted great mercy to the world Troparion, Resurrection Tone Three.

Today, You arose from the grave, O merciful Lord. You rescued us from the gates of death. Today, Adam sings in exultation and Eve rejoices. With them, the prophets and patriarchs ever praise the might of Your divine power Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Three.

Sing praise to God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Three.

O Christ our Saviour, by Your Cross the might of death has vanished; the deceit of the devil has been broken; the human race saved by faith. Therefore we offer You unceasing praise Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

I glorify the power of the Father; I extol the power of the Son; I sing a hymn to the power of the Holy Spirit, One Divinity, indivisible, uncreated, equal in essence and reigning forever Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

Although unworthy, we stand in Your temple, O Christ our God. We offer our evening hymns of praise; We proclaim loudly: "O Christ our God, Lover of mankind, You have enlightened mankind by Your resurrection; deliver Your people, save them from the hands of Your enemies" Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

By the good pleasure of the Father, by the work of the Holy Spirit, as a Virgin you conceived the Son of God. He was born of the Father before all ages. In you, He became man for us. You gave Him birth without a father; You nourished Him as a child. Never cease to intercede with Him that He save our souls from affliction Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

A PRINCESS BECOMES A SAINT

The story of Princess Olga of Kiev is a fascinating tale of faith intertwined with a certain degree of political intrigue. She did not begin her life as a Christian, nor did she embrace the ideals and virtues that are commonly ascribed to followers of Jesus Christ. Upon the murder of her husband Prince Igor in 945 A.D. Olga assumed the throne, ruling for her young son Sviatoslav. She was to rule for nearly 20 years with a firm and strong hand. It is said that Olga vigorously pursued her husband's enemies, cruelly torturing and executing many of them. Stories are chronicled of how she destroyed entire towns who were opposed to her.

In her governmental position, Princess Olga had numerous contacts with Christians. She began to be impressed with their honest and moral

lives. A shrewd leader, Olga undoubtedly felt that broadening her knowledge of Christianity would also be beneficial to her people. On a visit to Constantinople in 955 A.D., Olga was baptized by the Patriarch and given the name Helen (Elena). Her new-found faith had a profound influence on the way she governed, causing her to perform many acts of charity and mercy. Try as she did, however, the Princess could not persuade her son Sviatoslav to embrace the Christian Faith. Until her dying day, Olga prayed unsuccessfully that her son would become a Christian. She fell asleep in the Lord in 969 A.D. at the age of 75. Princess Olga never attempted to impose Christianity upon her subjects. It would be left to her grandson Vladimir the Great to bring Holy Orthodoxy to the land of Rus in 988 A.D.