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ΕΝ ΤΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΤΗ ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΓΙΑΝ ΤΡΙΑΔΑ

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2009

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;

Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

Father John Cmur; Deacon Kenneth E. Ellis and

Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris,

Cantors

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

+++ On Monday we celebrate the simple feast of St. Elias the Prophet. The Divine Liturgy is celebrated at 7: 30 PM for the intention of all operators of vehicles of travel and for safe journeying, particularly in this vacation season. Please come and join us in prayer and praise.

+++ The annual blessing of vehicles of travel will take place next Sunday, July 26 following the Divine Liturgy which is celebrated for the safety of operators of vehicles of travel. Invite your friends, relatives and neighbors to bring their vehicles to our church next Sunday and join us in prayer and blessing.

+++ 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, ~~431.00~~; Candles, ~~25.00~~; Food Coupons, ~~3400.00~~; Christian Fellowship, ~~5.00~~; Pennies From Heaven, ~~83.00~~; Kitchen, ~~1341~~, for a total of ~~5205.00~~. 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 15 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, Debra Szmaida, +Paul Szmaida, Robin 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 ~~1503.00~~ from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

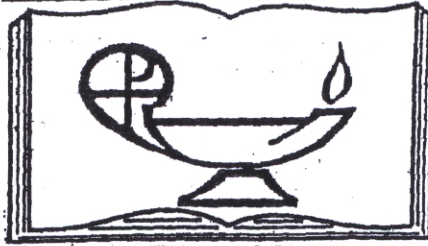
+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals ~~5100, 415. 00~~. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially 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.

+++ 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 ~~34750.00~~ on this project to date!

+++ 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**

Faith Necessary

Turn from your sins and act on this glorious news Mark 1: 15.

In reply Jesus said to the disciples, "If only you have faith in God" Mark,11: 22.

So do not be afraid little flock, for it gives your Father great happiness to give you the kingdom Luke 12: 32.

Do not be afraid, for the Lord will go before you and will be with you; he will not fail nor forsake you Deuteronomy 31: 8.

If your faith were only the size of a mustard seed, Jesus answered, it would be large enough to uproot that mulberry tree over there and send it hurling into the sea. Your command would bring immediate results Luke 17: 6!

Keep your eyes open for spiritual danger; stand true to the Lord, act like men, be strong 1 Corinthians 16: 13.

Cling tightly to your faith in Christ and always keep your conscience clear, doing what you know to be right. For some people have disobeyed their consciences and have deliberately done what they knew was wrong. It is not surprising that soon they lost their faith in Christ after defying God like that 1 Timothy 1: 19.

Do not let anyone think little of you because you are young. Be their ideal; let them follow the way you teach and live; be a pattern for them in your love, your faith, and your clean thoughts 1 Timothy 4: 12.

Departure Time Unknown

Boast not of tomorrow for you know not what any day may bring forth Proverbs 27: 1.

Little do we know how a seemingly insignificant turn of events may drastically change the entire course of our lives.

A few years ago a newspaper account contained information of a plane crash in the North Carolina mountains. There were no survivors. From the altimeter found in the wreckage and from other pieces of evidence it was determined that the plane had exploded and disintegrated in flight. In an instant, 34 people left this life and were thrust into eternity. That crew of five and twenty-nine passengers had no idea that a last minute change of aircraft, a normal procedure when difficulty is encountered in equipment, would seal their destiny.

Today is going to be that eventful eternity-entering day for some of us. How fragile is the strand upon which life hangs! The brevity of our earthly existence is captured in this urgent appeal: "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we shall go to such and such a town, spend a year there, trade and come off with a profit!' You have no idea what kind of life will be yours tomorrow. You are a vapor that appears briefly and vanishes. Instead of saying, 'If the Lord wills it, we shall live to do this or that,' all you can do is make arrogant and pretentious claims. All such boasting is reprehensible. When a man knows the right thing to do and does not do it, he sins'" James 4: 13 - 17.

The time of our departure from this life is known only to God. The unexpected turn in the road, that split-second decision, that unplanned for delay, may be our exit from time and our entrance into eternity. How important it is to be ready at all times and how few bother to prepare!

Till time for us is past we do not know how long we have, so it is incumbent to live as if we knew which day is going to be our last.

Neglect

...how shall we escape if we neglect a salvation as great as ours Hebrews 2: 3?

Old decaying buildings are always intriguing. Thus people do spend time investigating abandoned or neglected buildings. A concerned and interested man went to explore an abandoned farmhouse located on a plot of ground not far from the new development in which he now lived. As he explored, he tried to reconstruct in his mind the past of this aging homestead. He thought this old house was probably the home of a happy and productive family. What devoted toil and loving work must have gone into operating the farm that was now a new development! But now the building which itself was such a beehive of activity in the past, was in disrepair, windows were all broken, doors were off the hinges with floors aging and kitchen built-in cabinets gnawed away by porcupines.

Outside the back and kitchen entrance was visible a weed-choked remnant of a garden. A few asparagus plants had managed to survive the encroachment of tall grass and a single lilac bush still clung tenaciously to life amid long and narrow furrows of earth where life was nurtured by food emerging after tender care and concern of hard-working hands.

The observer cannot but wonder what was the tragedy that befell the once happy occupants who lived here. That will probably never be known, but what can be discerned with certainty is that now the place is in a shambles because of neglect. That alone led to its dilapidated condition.

St. Paul warns us of much greater neglect, one that can mean ruin for the believer. A person very well may have been baptized and then fail to go on with Christ and to grow in grace. Elsewhere the Apostle to the Gentiles tells us we should work out our own salvation. "Work with anxious concern to achieve your salvation...It is God who, in his good will toward you, begets in you any measure of desire or achievement" Philippians 2: 12, 13. He does not say we must work *for* salvation, but that we must work *out* the new life that our heavenly Father has already bestowed on us. Unquestionably we must keep up our daily walk with the Lord. If we become careless about growing in faith, we will atrophy in neglect. Inevitably we will come to resemble that old homestead, fruitless and useless! The devoted soul labors to keep his spiritual house in order!

Liturgical Books

Book of Hours *Orologion* in Greek or *Casoslov* in Old Slavonic, is a book composed of prayers to be recited at specific times or hours of the day. In addition to the hours, it contains a) Morning prayers, Compline, Matins, Vespers with the standing prayers and blessing of the wine, wheat, oil and, altar bread gifts, Midnight services with the Hymn of Praise in honor of the Birthgiver of God; b). Services for Sunday and the departed; c). Prayers before and after Holy Communion, evening prayers; d). Troparia for Sundays and weekdays and for each day and saint of the year.

Psalter is a book containing the 150 Psalms of King David. They are divided into 20 subdivisions known in Greek and Old Slavonic as *Kafisma*, each of which contains three antiphons with Troparia and prayers. It also contains a). Nine canticles of Moses; b). Extolling Hymns for the feast days of our Lord, the Birthgiver of God and the great saints; c). Canon prayers for the departure of the soul.

Fast Triodion contains services of the movable days which constitute the preparation for the Great Fast and the remaining entire Great Fast period. It is so called, with numerical "three" included because the canon hymns have only three verses instead of the customary nine. This book includes the Sunday and weekday services beginning with the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee until Holy and Great Saturday.

Bright Triodion also called the Pentecostarion which contains the order of services to be celebrated during the fifty day period beginning with the Resurrection matins and ending with the Descent of the Holy Spirit, or Pentecost.

Book of Eight Tones known in Greek and Old Slavonic as *Oktoich* and begins on the evening of the Sunday of All Saints until the Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican. This is a collection of hymns for each week which are alternated after a period of eight weeks. It contains all the daily services and hymnology from the eight tones: canons, particular and specific hymns, every day services of Vespers, Compline, Matins, liturgical changes, the short and long Memorial services known in Old Slavonic as *Panachida* and *Parastas*.

Monthly Book or *Mineon* in Greek and *Mineja* in Old Slavonic composed overall of twelve volumes, one for each calendar month beginning with the liturgical new year on September 1. These contain the order of services for the fixed days in the year, celebrated according to immovable feasts which occur each year on the same date. Each feast or holy day along with saint or saints day has its own individual services, extolling and explaining the celebration. Included are prayers for Vespers and Matins along with special prayers for the Hours, Liturgies, Compline and the Midnight services, containing in total, some 800 different devotions and services.

Festal Book or *Anthologion* in Greek or *Prazdnicnaja Mineja* or *Cvitoslov* in Old Slavonic, this volume contains the services for the great Twelve Holydays of our Lord and the Birthgiver of God along with the major saints with all the prescribed variable verses, extolling hymns and antiphonal verses and troparia as well as kontakia.

Lives of the Saints *Synaxarion* in Greek or *Zit'a Svjatych* in Old Slavonic is a set of twelve volumes, one for each calendar month which contains a biography of each saints recalled each particular day for the entire twelve months. A biography of the saint, according to old custom, particularly in monasteries, should be read at Matins. This practice has long fallen into disuse.

Epistle Book known as *Apostolos* in Greek and *Apostol* in Old Slavonic, is a book which contains the Acts of the Apostles and all the Epistles of St. Paul, Peter, James, John and Jude. Translated it literally means work of the apostles. At the conclusion of the text there are regulations stating when and how the epistles are to be read.

Gospel Book *Jevanheliija* in Old Slavonic or *Evangelos* in Greek which literally means Good News, this book contains the life and teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ from the hand of four evangelists: St. Matthew in 116 chapters; St. Mark in 71 chapters; St. Luke in 114 chapters and St. John in 67 chapters. At the end of the book there is a prescribed order to be followed in reading of the gospels which begins with the movable feast of the Resurrection and then the immovable feasts starting with the month of September. In addition the combined twelve readings of the Passion are included separately as well as the Resurrection gospels for Sunday matins celebration.

Liturgy Book In Greek known as the *Liturgikon*, and in Old Slavonic as *Sluzebnik*, this book contains the text of the Divine Liturgies of St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil the Great along with the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. In many instances it also contains the services of the immovable feasts of the Lord, the Birthgiver of God and of the saints. In a separate section are included the litanies and prayers of Vespers and Matins for all intentions. It includes the antiphonal hymns, Troparia, Kondakia, prokimenena, epistles, gospels of all the Sundays and holydays, plus daily services starting with the day of the Resurrection and proceeding throughout the year.

Book of Needs *Trebnik* in Old Slavonic and *Euchlogion* in Greek, this text contains all the services of the sacramental Mysteries and their ceremonies, a). Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick, Ordination to subdiaconate, deaconate, priesthood and consecration to episcopacy, elevation to archbishop and metropolitan; b). services of blessings and consecrations in the church including blessings of various items in the life of the Church; c). funeral, memorial and commitment services; d). different public and private prayers; e). reception of converts and profession of faith.

Hierarchal Service Book Known as the *Archieraticon* in both Greek and Old Slavonic, this text includes the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy together with all the offices of Ordination and Consecration conducted by hierarchs .

Rule Book Identified as the *Tipikon* in Greek and Old Slavonic as well as *Ustav*, it is the text of liturgical regulations and systematic collection of rules and regulations for all possible contingencies in services that are to be conducted during the ecclesiastical year. It is divided into the following subdivisions; a). Ecclesiastical regulations in general about celebration of services; b). rules to be observed in different services such as Vespers, Matins, Complines, etc; c). Regulations for immovable feasts; d). regulations for movable feasts; e). Church martyrology or calendar.

The Liturgical Books are those texts which are to be used by the Church in public worship. They are public or private and must be approved by the hierarchy of the Church because liturgical life expresses the fundamental faith and belief of what the Church professes and teaches and mirrors its faith to the world.

I Trust In God

I trust in God when there's smooth sailing,
I trust in God when seas grow wild,
I know my Father is the Captain,
He rules the sea and loves His child.

I trust in God for strength in weakness,
I trust in God, my strong support,
God knows the answers to all problems
And by His wisdom we are taught.

I trust in God Who never fails us,
I trust in God Who answers prayer,
I trust in God Who dearly loves us,
I put my troubles in His care.

I trust in God in pain and sorrow
For He bore pain and sorrow, too,
It proved our Saviour really loves us,
I want to love Him back, I do.

I trust in God for His forgiveness
When I've done wrong to One so good,
I try to prove that I still love Him
By doing kindly deeds I should.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Let us the faithful praise the Word eternal with the Father and the Spirit. Let us adore Him Who was born from the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to ascend the cross as a man, and to suffer death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection Troparion, Resurrection Tone Five.

O Saviour, You descended into the Abyss. Being the Almighty, You destroyed its power. Being the Creator, You raised the dead and dulled the sting of death. Adam was delivered from the curse and we all cry out to You: "O Lord, Lover of mankind, save us!" Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Five.

You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Five.

The Lord, Who bestows Resurrection upon the race of men was led like a lamb to the slaughter. The powers of the Abyss trembled; its gates opened. Christ the King of glory entered it. He said to those in chains: "Come out!" To those in darkness, He said, "Let light surround you!" Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

We offer You this evening worship, O Light Who never fadel In the fullness of time You filled the world with light, Your flesh being a mirror of Your splendor. You descended into the Abyss, dispelling its darkness. You revealed the light of Your Resurrection to the world. O Lord, Giver of light, glory be to You! Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

O Virgin most pure, you are a temple, palace, the throne of the King. Through you, Christ the Lord has appeared. He is the Sun of Justice and the Saviour. He willed to enlighten those in darkness, those fashioned in His image by His hand. We beseech you, worthy of our praise, You are His mother. Intercede for the salvation of our souls Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

A symbol of the pure Virgin and bride is revealed in the Red Sea: There, Moses divided the waters; here Gabriel is the minister of a wonder. There, Israel crossed the deep as on dry land; here the Virgin gives birth and remains a Virgin. There, the sea remained uncrossable after Israel passed; here, the immaculate one remains a Virgin after the birth of Immanuel. O immortal and eternal God, have mercy on us! Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.



THE APOSTLE PROCHORUS



Life in the early Church must have been an exhausting time for the Apostles. In addition to fulfilling the Great Commission given to them by Christ to “Go and make disciples of all nations . . .” they were called upon to teach, preach and organize a growing community of believers. This was certainly too much of an undertaking for only 12 men! In the sixth chapter of the Book of Acts, we read about the election and ordination of 7 deacons, chosen to assist the Apostles in the Church’s charitable works. One of these servers was a man named Prochorus. According to Holy Tradition, Prochorus, in addition to his diaconal service, was one of the 70 Disciples sent out by our Lord to be His “forerunners.” As chronicled in the Gospel of St. Luke, their task was to “. . . go to every place and city where He Himself was about to come.” (Luke 10:1)

Prochorus is said to have accompanied the Apostle Peter and assisted him in his missionary labors. In fact, Peter would eventually consecrate him as “Bishop of Nicomedia.” Prochorus is also closely associated with the Apostle and Evangelist John. He was with him in exile on the island of Patmos, writing down the mysterious Book of Revelation that he heard from John's very lips.

After leaving Patmos, Prochorus would return to Nicomedia, where he won over many pagan converts to Christianity. Later, he would suffer martyrdom in Antioch at the hands of unbelievers. Yes, as we sing in the Kontakion hymn for his feast day, Prochorus was truly a “shining star” of the Church!