



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 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. Please inform Kyra Choti immediately if your child will attend.

+++ We are presently in the Dormition Fast, popularly known as the Fast of the Saviour since the Transfiguration Feast is celebrated in its midst. On Monday evening we will celebrate the praises of the Lord with the Akathist Hymn. Please come and join us in prayer and praise at 7: 30 PM.

+++ Wednesday is the solemn feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. In anticipation, we will celebrate the vespereal Divine Liturgy Tuesday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise and bring with you fruit, particularly grapes, to be blessed following the celebration.

+++ 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]; Candles, [REDACTED]; Food Coupons, [REDACTED]; Christian Fellowship, [REDACTED]; Pennies From Heaven, [REDACTED] for a total of [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 Szmajda, Maria Garcia, Bob Gorbich, Nina, Tatyana and Sarah Harrison 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.

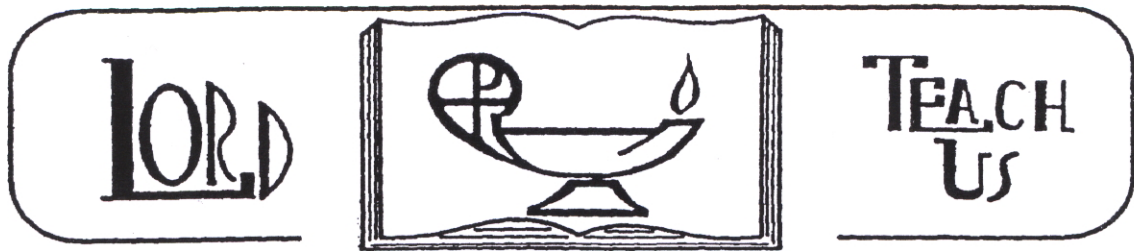
+++ Please check the Sign-Up-Sheet for the weekly Christian Fellowship for the coming weeks. Simple foods without need for preparation are the best. Marilyn Korba coordinates this vital apostolate. Please assist her in making it a success by bringing your donation early so that all are present at the 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 recently. An additional check for [REDACTED] was also sent to the Zoning Board. The Soil Conservation District is planning a visit to our property. The County Planning Board advises it has no jurisdiction since we are not on a county road. A new well will have to be dug for the building program. Prayers are needed as in the past. We were advised we will be invited to the next meeting of the Township Planning Board.



Encouraging Your Spouse

Finally, brothers, aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you 2 Corinthians 13: 11.

Shout for joy, O heavens, rejoice; O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones Isaiah 49: 13.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word 2 Thessalonians 2: 16, 17.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need Hebrews 4: 15, 16.

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble 1 Peter 3: 8.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins 1 Peter 4: 8.

A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense Proverbs 19: 11.

Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; don't fret, it leads only to evil Psalms 37: 8.

○ Lord

Do not allow me to become conceited
if I succeed, nor to despair if I fail, but
remind me that failures are the steps that
precede success.

Lord, teach me that forgiveness is
the highest form of strength and that
revenge is the first sign
of weakness.

Lord, if you do not give me the gift
of health, give me the gift of faith,
and if you do not give me wealth,
give me hope. And if I do wrong
against others, give me the courage
to apologize. And if others do
wrong against me, give me the ability
to forgive.

Lord, if I forget Thee, do not
forget me.

The 100 Year Perspective

In the scheme of things, 100 years isn't all that a long a time. However, one thing's for sure: A hundred years from now we will all be gone from this planet. And when kept in mind, this idea can fill us with needed perspective during times of perceived crisis or stress.

If you have a flat tire or lock yourself out of your house, what's it going to mean 100 years from now? How about if someone acted unkindly toward you or if you had to stay up most of the night working? What if your house didn't get cleaned or your computer breaks down? Suppose you can't afford to go on a much needed vacation, buy a new car, or move to a larger apartment?

Suppose you have the choice of staying at home resting after a touch day at work or being faithful to the Lord and going off to celebrate the holy day at the Divine Liturgy in your parish church? Which is going to have some eternal meaning? Will worship of God have stronger implications than resting at home? All of these things and most others are brought into a deeper perspective when looked at with a hundred year view.

A physician found himself about to get uptight about a mini crisis at work. There was a double booking for appointments and two people showed up at the same time for the same appointment time slot.

What saved him from getting overly stressed and too uptight was remembering that 100 years from now, no one will remember this moment and no one will care, nor will it have enduring implications or repercussions. He calmly took responsibility for the error and one of the people was happy to reschedule. As usual, this was "small stuff" that could easily have been turned into insignificant "big stuff."

In Spite Of

The relationship between commitment and doubt is by no means an antagonistic one. Commitment is healthiest and strongest when it is not without doubt, but in spite of doubt. There are many things we cannot understand in salvation history and its inclusive process, but we still keep alive our faith in Christ as our Saviour.

Advice

The most important quality noticed in successful people is that they have a dream. They want to be someone or something. They want to go somewhere. They think and work toward that dream every day.

In speaking with people we can ask them to reveal their hopes, their dreams. "What did you do today to move closer to achieving your dream?" Eighty five percent didn't do anything. They are planning to do something next week;

they're too busy, too preoccupied with other things today. These 85 per cent will probably never see their dream come true.

Ask yourself the same question: "What have I done today to make my dream come true? What have I done to complement the grace, the heavenly help God gives me to save me my soul? How have I labored this day to assure the salvation of my soul?" If the answer is "nothing specific," then you will never make it unless you change your ways.

Observation

A naval aviator once made an observation by stating far too many pilots have died because they stayed with their disabled aircraft too long. They preferred the familiarity of the cockpit to the unfamiliarity of the parachute, even though the cockpit had become a death trap.

Many people have seen their careers crash because they preferred the familiar but deadly old ways to the risky but rewarding new ways. They never learned that to stand pat in many instances is to go to pot. They failed to grasp what our Lord taught us all; to place our faith in Him because with His grace we can do all things and without Him we can do nothing! An investment of our eagerness, our zeal and devotion with Christ will reap great dividends and rich benefits and bring myriad blessings.

Business Advice

A company executive, in giving a pep talk to some subordinates told them, "Hire and promote first on the basis of integrity; second, on motivation; third, capacity; fourth, understanding; fifth, knowledge; and last and least, experience." Without knowing it, he was enunciating the values of our Lord. Without integrity, motivation is dangerous; without motivation, capacity is unimportant; without capacity, understanding is limited; without understanding, knowledge is meaningless; without knowledge, experience is blind.

Experience is easy to provide and quickly put to use by people with all the other qualities.

Right Back

A curious mouse visited a carnival that was in town. There were tents that contained attractions the likes of which he had never seen. The mouse entered one tent that was filled with thousands of mirrors in various shapes and sizes. He ran from one to another – fascinated by all of the curious mice smiling back at him. He thought to himself, "This is a wonderful place, full of many happy mice. I will come here as often as possible."

As he left the tent, he came upon another mouse. "Guess what?" he exclaimed. "I'm not guessin' anything. Whadda you want?" the other mouse snapped back.

Change The World

A man given to introspection wrote, "When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn't change my nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family.

Now as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is *myself*, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family and this could have made an impact on the town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world!"

Possibility Creed

When faced with a mountain, I will not quit! I will keep on striving until I climb over, find a pass through, tunnel underneath, or simply stay and turn the mountain into a goldmine with God's help!

Sweet Lesson

Years ago, a ten year old boy approached the counter of a soda shop and climbed on a stool. "What does an ice cream sundae cost?" he asked the waitress.

The youngster reached deep in his pockets and pulled out an assortment of change, counting it carefully as the

waitress grew impatient. She had "bigger" customers to wait on.

"Well, how much would just *plain* ice cream be?" the boy asked.

The waitress responded with noticeable irritation in her voice. "Thirty-five cents."

Again the boy counted his money slowly. "May I have some plain ice cream in a dish, then, please?" he gave the waitress the correct amount and she brought him the ice cream.

Later, the waitress returned to clear the boy's dish and when she picked it up, she felt a lump in her throat. There on the counter the boy had left two nickels and five pennies. She realized that he actually had enough money for the sundae, but sacrificed it so that he could leave her a tip.

Before drawing conclusions or passing judgment, treat others with courtesy, dignity and respect. That is what the Lord has taught us to do.

Decisions

William McKinley, the 25th president of the United States, once had to choose between two equally qualified men for a key job. He puzzled over the choice until he remembered a long-ago incident.

On a rainy night, McKinley had boarded a crowded streetcar. One of the men he

was now considering had also been aboard, though he didn't see McKinley. Then an old woman carrying a basket of laundry struggled into the car, looking in vain for a seat. The job candidate pretended not to see her and kept his seat. McKinley gave up his seat to help her.

Remembering the episode, which he called "this little omission of kindness," McKinley decided against the man on the streetcar. Our decisions – even small, fleeting ones – tell a lot about us.

Test Kitchen

A young woman was complaining to her father about how difficult her life had become. He said nothing, but took her to the kitchen and set three pans of water to boiling. To the first pan, he added carrots; to the second, eggs; and to the third, ground coffee. After all three had cooked, he put their contents into separate bowls and asked his daughter to cut into the eggs and carrots and smell the coffee. "What does all this mean?" she asked impatiently.

"Each food" he said, teaches us something about facing adversity, as represented by this boiling water." The carrot went in hard but came out soft and weak. The eggs went in fragile and came out hardened. The coffee, however, changed the water to something better.

"Which will you be like as you face life?" he asked. Will you give up, become hard – or transform adversity into triumph? As the "chef" of your own life, what will you bring to the table?

Mom's Survival Tips

To my children who have left home and are on their own, I pass on a list of life lessons:

Don't sweat your every mistake or faux pas. They make up for the things you got away with that nobody knows about.

Avoid marrying anyone who deliberately flushes the toilet when you're showering.

The value of a dog is its constant reminder of how much fun it is to be idiotic.

If you are lavishly praised, enjoy the taste, but don't swallow it whole.

If someone says, "I know what I mean, but I just can't put it into words," he doesn't know what he means.

When someone tells you what he's about to say is "for your own good," expect the worst.

Don't waste time trying to be your own best friend. You cannot pat yourself on the back and it's unsatisfying to cry on your own shoulder. Find a real friend instead.



Wisdom Of
The

Byzantine
Fathers

For when he considers the universe, can anyone be so simple-minded as not to believe that the divine is present in everything, permeating, embracing, and penetrating it? For all things depend on him who is, and nothing can exist which does not have its being in him who is? St. Gregory Nyssa.

Creation reveals him who formed it...the universal Church has received this tradition from the apostles themselves St. Ireneus of Lyons.

When a visiting philosopher asked how such a wise man as he got along without books, the saint replied, "My book is the nature of created things, and as often as I have a mind to read the words of God, they are at my hand." St. Anthony the Great.

The desert fathers went to wild places to flee the corruption of cities, to wage war with their passions, but especially to encounter the holy St. Jerome.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Angelic powers descended to Your grave, and the guards fell down and appeared dead. Mary came to the grave seeking Your most pure body. You conquered and despoiled the Abyss without being touched by it. You, the Giver of Life, met the Virgin. O Lord, risen from the dead; glory be to You! Troparion, Resurrection Tone Six.

Christ our God, the Life-giver with His life-giving hand raised all the dead from the valley of death, granting Resurrection to all mankind. He is the Saviour, the Resurrection, the Life and the God of all Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Six.

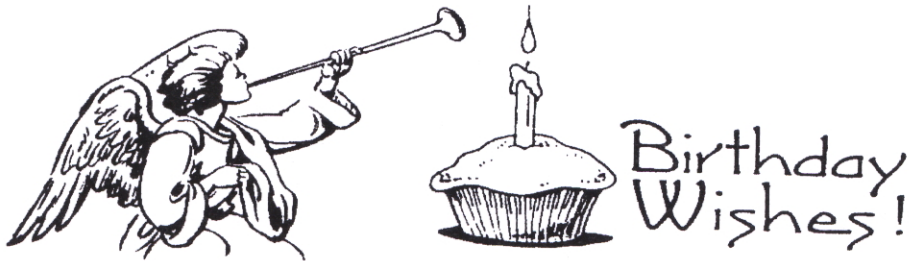
Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Six.

O Lord, You are present everywhere; Where can we poor sinners flee? Heaven is where you dwell; in the Abyss, You conquered death; in the depths of the sea, Your powerful hand is there, O Lord. We come to You, and we worship You saying: "O Lord, risen from the dead, have mercy on us!" Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.

We take pride in Your Cross, O Christ; We praise and glorify Your Resurrection. You are our God and we know no other Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.

Who would not call you blessed, Mother of God! Who would not praise your virginal birthgiving? The only-begotten Son, born of the Father before all ages, has become incarnate of you in a manner beyond understanding. God by nature has taken the nature of man for us, not divided into two persons. He has two natures without mixture or confusion. O most pure and holy, intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.

Christ willed to save us from corruption; He was crucified, buried in the tomb. The faithful women sought Him. In tears they said: "O Saviour of all, how did you accept burial? How were you stolen, how taken away? Which place holds Your life-giving body? Appear to us, O Lord, as You promised. Wipe away our tears Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.

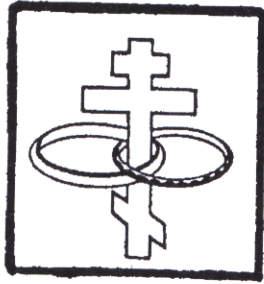


We are pleased to greet those of our faithful communicants who celebrate their birthday this month. Our Lord has offered these souls yet another year of blessed life. The most obvious way He blesses us and participates in our life is by sharing His divine life with us in the Eucharist at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Thus we can gather together and offer thanks to Him for yet another year of life blessed by His most gracious hands. Today, we prayerfully remember in the Divine Liturgy the following souls who celebrate their birthday during the month of August.

August 1 Anna Sabo
August 3 Maria Pashos
August 4 Sean F. Henry
August 9 Kent Pasquino
August 29 Robert Henry
August 30 Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba

With a prayerful heart and grateful soul, our parish faith community asks the Lord to continue to bless these birthday celebrants with good spiritual and physical health for the coming year. We invite all to add their intercessory prayers so that with one voice and one heart we may also participate in the grace and joy of their celebration. As we wish them a happy and blessed celebration of their birthday, our ardent prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless them for

Many and Blessed Years!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The Byzantine Fathers of the Church were wont to emphasize how ancient and how venerable marriage is in the sight of our God because it was established yet in paradise before the fall of Adam and Eve and brought to blessed perfection by Christ in Cana of Galilee. Its grace survived the sin of our first parents and it remains a sign of the presence of the Holy Trinity in our midst. It is a living symbol of the deep and abiding love between Christ and His Bride, our blessed Church. It is characterized in the liturgical life of the Church as a happy martyrdom. And it is precisely for this reason the sacramental Mystery of Marriage is such a joyous event. On the third Sunday of this month, we honor those of our good parishioners who observe their marriage anniversaries this month of August. They are specially remembered in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and subsequently receive an individual and personal blessing of the Lord at its conclusion. Celebrating this month are:

August 14 Subdeacon Daniel J. & Marilyn J. Korba

We gratefully give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for having guided and strengthened the marriages of these believers, and their cooperation with sacramental grace to remain faithful to one another over the years. Like all who are faithful to Christ, they recognize the presence and necessity of the Holy Spirit not only in the marriage, but in subsequent family life as well. As we praise our God for their witness in our midst, let us also join them with our prayers and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lord. May they continue to praise His Holy Name by their love and devotion to one another for

Many and Blessed Years!

ENHANCING OUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Why do we come to church? Perhaps the simplest and most basic answer is that we come to pray, to worship God and to learn more about Him and our precious Faith. We in the Orthodox Church are fortunate that we have 3 invaluable "tools" that are priceless in their ability to enhance what we are expected to experience every time we enter God's House.

ICONS - Even the humblest of churches will have its share of icons in it. They reveal the presence of God, made man through art and color. We who are struggling to achieve our salvation are surrounded in church by a "cloud of witnesses" that have! Their examples serve as an inspiration to us!

HYMNS - The Orthodox Church has a rich repository of hymns that offer a great contribution to our worship experience. Not only do their melodies inspire us, but their words serve to explain some of the most complex doctrines of our Theology. Our hymns have been handed down for centuries, composed and written by saintly monks and Holy Fathers of the Church.

SCRIPTURES - The Prophets wrote the Old Testament while Christ's disciples wrote the New Testament. We hear two readings at every Divine Liturgy, and the service itself is filled with scriptural references in its various prayers.

These 3 elements combine in perfect harmony, for us to experience the richness of our services.

Icon by Nataliya Zharsky from The Prosopon School of Iconology

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