

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2009

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 have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's solemn feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ Marriage Anniversary Celebrants will be honored on Sunday, August 23.

+++ This Saturday is the most solemn feast of the Dormition of the Birthgiver of God. It is one of the twelve major feasts of the Church Year. In anticipation, the vesperal Divine Liturgy is celebrated Friday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please bring flowers to be blessed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

+++ The Dormition Fast concludes Friday night. Please observe the prescriptions of the fast by offering up in devoted sacrifice eating of meat products during this time, particularly for the success of our building program.

+++ We thank all the parents and children of participants in the annual Bible Camp held this week at the home of Joseph & Kyra Choti. We pray the gracious Lord grant to all good health for Many & Blessed Years.

+++ 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, ██████; Candles, ██████; Food Coupons, ██████; Christian Fellowship, ██████; Holyday, ██████ for a total of ██████. 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, +Paul Szmaida, Robert Gorbich, Robin Pasquino and Pani Buletza.

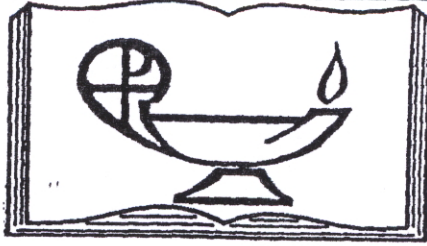
+++ We make a PENNIES FROM HEAVEN Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of ██████ from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals ██████. 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 ██████ on this project to date!

LORD



TEACH
US

Children

A fool hates his father's instruction, but he who respects correction is prudent and wise
Proverbs 15: 5.

Even by his manners the child betrays whether his conduct is innocent and right
Proverbs 20: 11.

He separates the poor from affliction and makes their families like a flock Psalms 107:
41.

These folks have infants numerous as lambs and their children dance Job 21: 11.

Children's children are the crown of old men and the glory of children are their fathers
Proverbs 17:6.

A wise man makes his father glad but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother
Proverbs 10: 1.

*He who keeps the law is a wise son, but he that is a companion of disobedient men shames
his father* Proverbs 28: 7.

*So now, children, listen to me, instruction and wisdom, do not reject! Happy the man who
obeys me and happy those who keep my ways. Happy the man watching daily at my gates,
waiting at my doorposts. For he who finds me finds me life, and wins favor from the Lord,
but he who misses me harms himself and all who hate me love death* Proverbs 8: 32 – 36.

*Write your
Sorrows
in Sand
and your
Blessings
in Stone*

Responding To The Challenge

One reason St. Paul appeals to so many people over the centuries is that he faces with brutal honesty the problem of being a Christian. St. Paul was not a phony, presenting himself to be a perfect Christian. He understood that he would always be at the same time a perfect saint and a perfectly wretched sinner, if one can use such a phrase. St. Paul meant that he was at the same time 100% the saint and 100% the sinner when he wrote in his epistle to the Romans, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death" Romans 8: 2. Believers get into a great deal of trouble when they overlook this profound insight or when they understand St. Paul to mean that today he is 51% saint and 49% Christian while tomorrow he will fluctuate to be 53% saint and 47% sinner.

Like St. Paul, we are always 100% saint. When our heavenly Father looks at us, He always does so through the salvation Jesus his Son merited for us. In a very real sense He sees what Christ has done for us, how we are transformed by salutary grace in baptism, chrismation and eucharistic life. Do not permit anyone to take that grand truth from you or dilute it by being 51% saint today and only 52% the next day. You are 100% potential and full saint today and every day because of what Christ has achieved for us and our cooperation with his salvation.

Because we know ourselves to be 100% saint, we are able to do what St. Paul said, to face realistically and honestly the fact that we are indeed a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, that there can be an ugly side to each of us that we often do not control or sublimate, that we do things of which we are shamed, that we are in fact 100% sinner and certainly always 100% the forgiven sinner if we but seek the forgiveness fruit of redemption which is offered in the life of the Body of Christ. That is why we come to church so much because we want and need that reconciliation, with each other and with our heavenly Father.

If we follow our Saviour as believers, committed Orthodox Christians, there is no question but that we must be changed people. Scripture teaches us: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old one is gone, the new one has come" 2 Corinthians 5: 17. So, what is it that make us followers of Christ "new"?

Ninth Sunday

Walking on water! What a remarkable thing this is. Of course we are not surprised that Jesus was able to accomplish this, for after all, He is God and is Master of all nature. But the Apostle Peter walked over the sea, too, and he is just a human person as we are.

Today we hear of this marvelous occurrence. After feeding thousands of souls, Jesus told his disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. In the meantime, He goes up the mountain by himself to pray and commune with the Father. This is the first great lesson of this narrative. Christ provides us with a personal example of private prayer. He always had a special place, a private place, a place apart where He liked and needed to commune with our heavenly Father. We know Jesus attended the Jewish temple and local synagogues every Lord's day and holyday, so we see in his life the two forms of prayer, both public and private. He went to church to worship and sanctify the Lord's day and He had a personal place and integral need for private prayer. So we, too, are in church on Sundays and holydays "...where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I among them..." is the promise of Jesus. If we pray publicly, we will also pray privately. If we are faithful to the Lord on Sundays and holydays, we will also be faithful to him during the other days of the week. Christ gives us good advice about private personal prayer: He said: "When you pray, enter into your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father...in secret." How great is the need today for people to learn how to pray which takes time and effort to cultivate.

While Jesus is at prayer in private, the Apostles are at war with the stormy waves. A storm has brewed and the wind is tossing the boat about the sea. Try as they might, they could not reach the opposite shore. The Lord does not forget them and is not separated from them. He knows what trouble they are in. Early in the morning He set out on foot, walking on the water as if on dry land. Nothing is impossible to him. When the disciples see him, they are frightened and cry out hopelessly: "It is a ghost!" But immediately Jesus reassures them, saying, "It is I, do not be afraid." Initially, they had not recognized him. One of the greetings we often use is "Christ Is Among Us!" Indeed He is, but we often go through life's joys and sorrows without

recognizing his presence. That is why we respond and remind ourselves, "He Is And Shall Be!"

Now the Apostle Peter comes to the forefront. When he hears the Lord's comforting voice, he cries out, "Lord if it is you, invite me to come to you on the water." Christ immediately invites him and Peter gets out of the boat, carefully sets foot on the water and remarkably, starts to walk towards the Lord atop the water. Imagine how Peter feels as he walks over the sea. He cannot believe it! As long as his heart is filled with faith and is centered on the Lord, as long as his eyes remain fixed on the Lord, as long as his ears are tuned into the voice of the Lord, Peter walks successfully on the sea. But the moment his faith grows faint and he begins to think of himself, the moment he removes his gaze from the Lord and begins to look at the water, the moment his ears ceased hearing the voice of Christ and begins to listen to the howl of the winds, at that moment Peter begins to sink. It always happens...even to us.

During the Second World War a saying grew popular among the soldiers at the front. It was: "There are no atheists in fox-holes." That is, in times of danger, men, instinctively turn to God. Thus did Peter, almost instinctively, knowingly from the depth of his soul howl out in desperation: "Lord, save me!" as he was being swallowed by the angry and churning sea. And Jesus, who never turns away from a sincere plea, immediately stretches out his saving hand and grasps the hand of Peter. Peter the great fisherman is himself caught just as surely as a fish! Christ turns to him immediately and says, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" In other words, why didn't you remain strong and resolute and firm in your faith and trust and conviction, even under difficult circumstances?

How many wonderful things can we accomplish with his help, if only we believed as firmly as we ought and had a steadfast faith? Do you recall the time a man brought his sick child to Christ and said, "Lord, if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus answered "If you believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Peter's faith failed and so did his miracle of walking on the surface of the sea. He started with faith, but ended in disbelief.

Notice how the disciples react to the moving events described in the gospel narrative. They come to Christ and worship him, acknowledging him to be the Son of God, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Let us repeatedly acknowledge the effectiveness of these words and pray them often that our heart and soul is filled with their truth which will lead us to living and believing their eternal truth.

The word PANDEMONIUM, first used by John Milton in *Paradise Lost*, means the place of all demons. Other words for hell:

Abaddon
abyss
Apollyon
barathrum
blazes
everlasting fire
exterior darkness
furnace of fire
Gehenna
Hades
Hell
infernal region
inferno
netherworld
the pit
perdition
place of torments
pool of fire
Scheol
Tophet
underworld
unquenchable fire

The Five Rivers of Hell

Acheron—River of Woe
Cocytus—River of Lament
Lethes—River of Forgetfulness
Phlegethon—River of Fire
Styx—River of Oath

FEELING FRIGHTENED?

Seems Like Everybody's Afraid of Something

**There is only one
solution to
literally obliterating
all these fears:**

“Fear of the Lord is
wisdom” Job 28: 28.

“Fear of the Lord is
the beginning of wisdom”
Psalms 111: 10.

Aerophobia: Fear of swallowing air

Anemophobia: Fear of wind

Anthrophobia: Fear of flowers

Arachibutyrophobia: Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof
of the mouth

Aulophobia: Fear of flutes

Barophobia: Fear of gravity

Bibliophobia: Fear of books

Blennophobia: Fear of slime

Chaetophobia: Fear of hair

Chronophobia: Fear of time

Clinicophobia: Fear of going to bed

Deciophobia: Fear of making decisions

Dendrophobia: Fear of trees

Eleutherophobia: Fear of freedom

Eosophobia: Fear of daylight

Epistemophobia: Fear of knowledge

Ergophobia: Fear of work

Geliophobia: Fear of laughter

Geniophobia: Fear of chins

Genuphobia: Fear of knees

Geumaphobia: Fear of taste

Helmintophobia: Fear of being infested with worms

Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia: Fear of long words

Linonophobia: Fear of string

Melophobia: Fear of music

Metrophobia: Fear of poetry

Nebulaphobia: Fear of fog

Ophthalmophobia: Fear of opening one's eyes

Ostracophobia: Fear of shellfish

Papyrophobia: Fear of paper

Pentheraphobia: Fear of mothers-in-law

Phobophobia: Fear of fear

Phronemophobia: Fear of thinking

Sophophobia: Fear of learning

Stasibasiphobia: Fear of walking

Thaasophobia: Fear of sitting

Triskadekaphobia: Fear of the number 13

Xanthophobia: Fear of the color yellow



WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

You came down from on high, O merciful Lord. You accepted the grave for three days to deliver us from our passions. O Lord, our Resurrection and our life, glory be to You! Troparion, Resurrection Tone Eight.

Rising from the dead, You raised the dead. You lifted up Adam. Eve rejoices in Your Resurrection. The world acclaims Your rising from the dead, O most merciful Lord Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Eight.

Make vows to the Lord Your God, and fulfill them. Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Eight.

In the fullness of time and by His own free will, the Word born of God the Father before all ages, became incarnate of the Virgin. He endured crucifixion and death. By His Resurrection, He saved man, dead from the beginning Vesper Hymn, Tone Eight.

We glorify You, O Lord; You freely endured the Cross for us. We worship You, Almighty Saviour; do not turn us from Your presence; hear and save us because of Your Resurrection; You alone love mankind Vesper Hymn, Tone Eight.

Because of His love for mankind, the King of heaven appeared on earth. He became incarnate of a pure Virgin and lived among men,. He was seen in the body He received from her. He is the One and only Son, having two natures but not two persons. Therefore we profess Christ to be our true God, proclaiming Him to be really perfect God and perfect man. O Virgin Mother: intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls Vesper Hymn, Tone Eight.

O Lord of all, Creator of heaven and earth. Suffering on the Cross, You became a fountain of immortality. You endured burial and rose in glory. By Your powerful hand, You raised Adam with You. Glory to Your Resurrection on the third day. Through it, You gave us eternal life and the forgiveness of sins. You alone are the gracious Lord Vesper Hymn, Tone Eight.

REFLECTIONS ON THE DORMITION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

This feast day holds great theological significance for all Orthodox Christians. Holy Tradition goes into great detail about the Virgin Mary's death and the ensuing events that occurred immediately after her burial. With the exception of St. Thomas, all of the Apostles were at her side when she reposed. When St. Thomas arrived in Jerusalem three days later and was taken to her tomb, the body of the Theotokos was nowhere to be found!

The writings of St. Gregory Palamas put this matter into proper perspective for us. Here are some of his spiritual insights into the falling asleep of the Mother of God:

"If the death of His saints is precious in the sight of the Lord and the memory of the just is praised, then how much more should we praise the memory of the holiest of the saints, the Ever-Virgin Mary, through whom all holiness has been accorded?

The death of the Theotokos is a joyous feast, for into the hands of her Son was her spirit delivered. Indeed, a short while afterwards, her body was translated by Him into the eternal habitation of heaven."

"Heaven is a fitting place for her. She stands at the right side of the Almighty, 'adorned in golden robes and arrayed in diverse colors' as the Prophet David said of her. She was taken directly there from the grave, and now she shines with a resplendent radiance, illuminating the earth. Who could be closer to God than His Mother? Moreover, she will pray for all creatures throughout the ages, for she has been deemed worthy to be heard by her Divine Son. The Virgin is incomparably superior to all. It is through her that all partake of God. All who praise God praise her together with Him."

*Icon: Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Ellwood City, PA
Photography: Chapel Studios, Rochester, PA*