

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 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

Birthgiver of God with the Akathist Hymn. Please come and join us in prayer and praise at 7: 30 PM. Services will conclude with anointing of the Oil of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker. The Dormition Fast is concluded Friday with the celebration of the feast.

+++ Friday is the solemn feast of the Dormition of the Birthgiver of God. In anticipation, we will celebrate the vesperal Divine Liturgy Thursday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise and bring with you flowers to be blessed following the celebration.

+++ Today at 9: 15 AM we celebrate a six month anniversary Memorial Service for the repose of the soul of her beloved mother, +Eleni, at the prayerful request of Maria & George Ippomenos. We pray our gracious and merciful Lord continues to comfort Maria, George and Sophia in their loss and that He grants a blessed repose to the soul of +Eleni and creates for her Eternal Memory!

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

+++ 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, \$11.00; Candles, \$20.00; Food Coupons, \$20.00; Christian Fellowship, \$20.00; Pennies From Heaven, \$20.00; Rental, \$200.00; Holyday, \$20.00; Building Fund, \$1000.00; Special Gift, \$20.00 for a total of \$1371.00. 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, Debra Szmaida, Bob Gorbich, Elizabeth Simon, Kyra Choti and Pani Buletza.

+++ The first Pirohi Sale of the season will be on Saturday, September 6, with preparations being made Thursday, September 4. Please begin securing orders so it will be a success.

+++ 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 \$200.00 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 \$200.00. 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 [REDACTED] on this project to date!

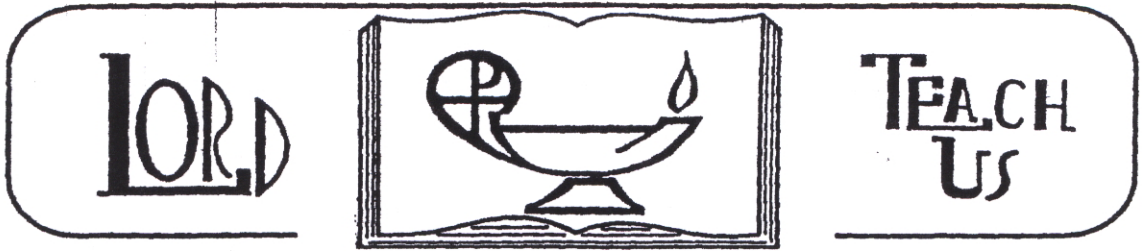
+++ Please see **Marilyn Korba** to sign up for the **Alaskan Cruise next August, 2009**.

+++ 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.

+++ On Sunday, September 21, we will have our Parish Picnic in the Picnic grove of the property. We will have a listing for donated foods in the near future. Please plan on being with us on that day.

+++ 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. This past week we dispatched a check for [REDACTED] to the Freehold Township District Soil Conservation Board which plans a visit to our property. A [REDACTED] check was sent to the State of N, J. for recording our agreement not to build anything else on the property but the church and parish center. 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.

+++ 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!



Children's Duties

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.

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.

My son if your heart is wise my own heart will rejoice; and my inmost being will exult when your lips speak what is right. Let not your heart emulate sinners but be zealous for the fear of the Lord always; for you will surely have a future, and your hope will not be cut off. Hear my son and be wise, and guide your heart in the right way...Listen to your father who begot you and despise not your mother when she is old. Get the truth and sell it not – wisdom, instruction and understanding. The father of a just man will exult with glee; he who begets a wise son will have joy in him. Let your father and mother have joy; let her who bore you rejoice. My son, give me your heart and keep your eyes on my ways
Proverbs 23: 24 - 26.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

You have destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened paradise to the thief. The sorrow of the women You turned to joy. You commanded Your apostles to proclaim to all: "Christ our God is risen, granting great mercy to the world" Troparion, Resurrection Tone Seven.

No longer can the might of death rule over men; Christ has come destroying and crushing its power. The Abyss is now in chains. The prophets with joy unite in proclaiming "The Saviour has appeared saying to those who believe: 'Come forth, you faithful, to the Resurrection'" Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Seven.

May the Lord give strength to His people; may the Lord bless His people with peace Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Seven.

The Apostles saw the Resurrection of the Creator. They were amazed and sang the angelic hymn of praise. This is the glory of the Church; the devil has been defeated. This is the wealth of the kingdom. O Lord, You suffered for us; glory be to You! Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

Christ fulfilled the prophecies of David. On Sion He manifested His greatness to His disciples. He showed Himself praised and glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, first as the Word before He became man; now incarnate He died for us as man. He rose by His own power. He is the Lord and Lover of mankind Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

Mother of God, you became a mother outside the law of nature. In birthing you remained a virgin. This is beyond understanding and human speech. Words cannot describe the wonder of your birthing. More glorious is the nature of conceiving, O Pure One! The manner of your birthing is beyond our understanding. For when God wills, the laws of nature are broken. We firmly believe you to be the Mother of God. We hasten to you in prayer: Intercede for the salvation of our souls Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

O Christ, You descended into the Abyss; You despoiled death and arose on the third day; You raised us with you; We glorify Your all powerful Resurrection. O Lord, You alone love mankind Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.



DANCE

as if no one were
watching.

SING

as if no one were
listening.

LIVE

as if every day were your
last.

It is
NEVER
too late
to live
happily
ever after!

HOUR OF PRAYER

...I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be offered for all
1 Timothy 2: 1.

Sometimes Sunday is referred to as the Day of Prayer. And the worship service is called the hour of prayer. During the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we are called upon to pray silently before hand in preparation of the mind and soul for the glorification of God which takes place. There are general litanies/prayers of intercession and of course, the final prayers of offering our gifts to the Lord for sanctification and consecration into the Body and Blood of the Saviour, the gifts which enrich us with eternal life.

In preparation for the celebration the priestly celebrant prepares the gifts at the Table of Oblation and prayer remembrances and requests are invited to be made before hand that these might be remembered during this quiet time. A small particle of the altar bread remains is placed on the golden offering plate with each name and its needs. In our parish each individual communicant is remembered in prayer and intercession by Father that the Lord our God provide for the needs of that soul and body.

Before announcing the Word of God, before preaching the explanatory lesson of the gospel and epistle lesson, both the gathered faithful and the prayer of the Church ask for illumination and guidance and understanding that God's message bear fruit among the worshippers and listeners.

During the week as well, there are other prayer periods such as holydays and healing services and devotions for families to attend and receive spiritual benefit. These are all times for praying together as part of a vast company that includes believers throughout the world and beyond the limitations of time. Walls that separate people are broken down when believers come together to blend their voices in thanksgiving and confession of sin. Our prayers flow as a stream and our hurts and hopes are shared. Communion with our Creator God is broadened. Sunday is the perfect day to pray. Let us do it together!

Adam

The very first man, the first person created in the image of God on earth. His wife was Eve and his recorded sons, Cain, Abel, and Seth. He obviously fathered many more children that the world be populated, but God's revelation to us in Scripture only records finds it necessary to mention these names and the circumstances associated with their activities.

He and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden, specifically created for their august dignity. He and his spouse communed daily with the Creator, but were expelled because they disobeyed God's commandment not to eat of the fruit of particular tree. All else was to be enjoyed by them. Only one restriction were they to uphold (Genesis 1, 2). Destined to live forever in his superior physical and spiritual rich station, sinning against God, death was introduced into God's pristine creation of man.

At the temptation of the devil who appeared in the form of a serpent, they succumbed and fell victim to abject failure in upholding the injunction and fast from the fruit of the lone tree. In early accounts of Adam's life he is referred to, not by a specific name, but as "the man" Genesis 3: 8.

Not until his descendants were given (Genesis 4: 25), was the proper noun "Adam" applied to him. Many doctrines in the New Testament are traced back to the life of this first man, notably willfully introducing sin into the world along with the concept of Jesus Christ as the second Adam bringing redemption to the human race. Just as through Adam human life was begun on earth, so through Christ, a permanent life is now introduced. "Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again...Adam the first man, became a living soul; the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit" 1 Corinthians 15: 22, 45.

Having lost and squandered the gift of life, he could not bequeath it to his descendants; thus we too are born in sin, alienated from our heavenly Father, with a need for reconciliation which takes place in the Body of Christ, in the sacramental Mysteries of Initiation, notably, Baptism, Chrismation, and Eucharist.

ANARCHISM

This spurious theory that laws are an invasion of the rights of free, intelligent beings, that individuals have the right to unlimited self-expression; and that the self-interest of the individual, if intelligently pursued, will best serve the common good. The word, descending to us from the Greek original, *anarchos*, means "having no ruler," and is thus repellant to believers because people of faith believe in the overall subjection of the human will voluntarily to the will of God as Creator as well as the necessity for the teaching authority of the Church of Christ which has received a heavenly mandate to "...teach all nations" Matthew 24: 14; Mark 13: 10; Luke 24: 47. In advance our Lord warns, "Let no man deceive you..." Mark 13: 5; "False prophets will arise in great number to deceive many" Matthew 24: 11; "The man who holds out to the end will see salvation" Matthew 24: 13.

Its origins are traceable to the notorious French Revolution and to Pierre Joseph Proudhon (1809 – 1865). Some anarchists are evolutionary, believing that propaganda and the ballot will gradually eliminate or make obsolete most laws. Others are revolutionary, urging the establishment of anarchism by violence. Nihilists are extreme revolutionary anarchists. The basis of anarchism is an unreasoning optimism about the goodness of unrestrained human condition which does not consider the fallen nature of man. Anarchism has continually been condemned by the Church of Jesus Christ.

Here in America, we suffered for a time after the Russian Revolution before which the Church had a united hierarchy and good canonical order was upheld. For a span of time, all kinds of heretical, divisive paganism was attempted to be introduced into the life of the Body of Christ. In some parishes anarchy reigned, democracy was considered an American right as votes were taken to dismember fundamental teachings of Christ. Ill-educated communicants of European origin were for a time enamored of these so-called insights. By the grace of God, the Church was in time spared the ravages of this cancerous affliction. Believers must be aware always of the insidious attacks the devil attempts to inspire in disgruntled souls and labor to dislodge them from an influential position in the life of the Church.

The Miracles in Mark: What God Does for Us



Christians often find themselves asking a very important question: What does God want of me? Certainly one way to find an answer to that question is through reflection on the Scriptures. But the Bible is more than merely a list of responsibilities to God. It also speaks of *what God wants to do for us!*

In the past, we may have limited our approach to the Word of

God, to what God expects of us; however, the Bible also reveals a God who takes the initiative *in giving* and who always gives more than we could possibly return. Jesus always gave before he ever asked people to respond! He gave freely, simply for love. The miracle stories in the Gospel of Mark are an example of this point.

In Mark 4:35-41, we find the familiar story about the storm

on the Sea of Galilee. While the winds blew, Jesus slept in the boat. His disciples were terrified, and they awakened him. He calmed the winds and quieted the water. It was Jesus' will that the disciples should be protected from catastrophe.

The same holds true for us. When we cry out for the protection we need, God is there for us. Christendom is full of personal experiences of God's protection, often in very unusual circumstances. God wants to protect us. We probably first think of protection from physical danger, as exemplified in this story, but God also wants to protect us from spiritual dangers — the storms that rage in our inner selves. In these perils, too, we can cry out for his protection.

In Mark 6:34-52, we read about Jesus feeding five thousand people with a few loaves and fish. How awed that crowd must have been as they realized they were being fed by so little food. Jesus had compassion on these people simply because they were hungry.

Jesus wants to feed us too! He wants all people to have the basic necessities for bodily life. But Christ wants us to be fully nourished — physically and spiritually.

God wants us to be whole. Everywhere Jesus went, he healed those who asked him.

Wholeness means not only bodily health but also, and perhaps more importantly, spiritual integrity. Christ's healing is available to us, and it is his will that we receive this healing from him. We can ask for this gift as did Bartimaeus in Mark



10:46-52. Bartimaeus was a blind beggar, who wanted Jesus to heal him. When he cried out to Jesus, his friends tried to hush him, but he only yelled louder and more persistently. Jesus heard. Jesus answered. Jesus healed him.

Jesus heals. He *knows* our pains, and he will care for our needs too! The gospels repeat over and over that Jesus heals because he wants us to be whole.

The Gospel of Mark shows Jesus working at his mission on earth. Jesus' mission to us includes the same works: to protect us, to nourish us, to heal us. It is God's will that we accept Jesus' ministry.

Further readings: Mark 4:35-41; 6:34-52; 10:46-52.

“SHINING A FLASHLIGHT” ON CHRIST!

There is a story about a little boy who was suddenly aroused from sleep by a sound in his room. Frightened by the shadowy figure moving about, the lad cried out: “Who is it?” It was his father, who had come in to close the windows because it got cold outside. Wanting to reassure his son that all was well, yet not wanting to waken the others in the room, the father simply shined his flashlight on his own face. “Oh, it’s just you, Dad,” the boy said, and peacefully went back to sleep.

The Transfiguration of our Lord might be described as Christ “shining a flashlight” on Himself. Jesus and His Apostles were on their way to Jerusalem for the final time when He took Peter, James and John with Him up to the top of Mt. Tabor. His mission was nearly over, but His faithful followers, who had spent nearly 3 years with their Master, still were unclear as to Whom they were actually following! On Mt. Tabor, Christ revealed as much of His Glory to His Disciples as they could bear. He was transfigured before the very eyes of those privileged to witness this divine moment when our Lord was joined by Moses and the Prophet Elias on this mysterious mountain. All who read the Gospel account of the Transfiguration are able to “catch a glimpse of God” when we view Christ’s face, which, we are told “shone like the sun.” Like the little boy in our story, we should have no fear when we see the face of the Father.

Christ’s Transfiguration does not, in any way, imply that our Lord was altered in any way. As St. John of Damascus writes: “At the moment He was transfigured, Christ did not assume to be something he was not; nor did He change into something different. He simply allowed His own Disciples to see Him as He really was.”