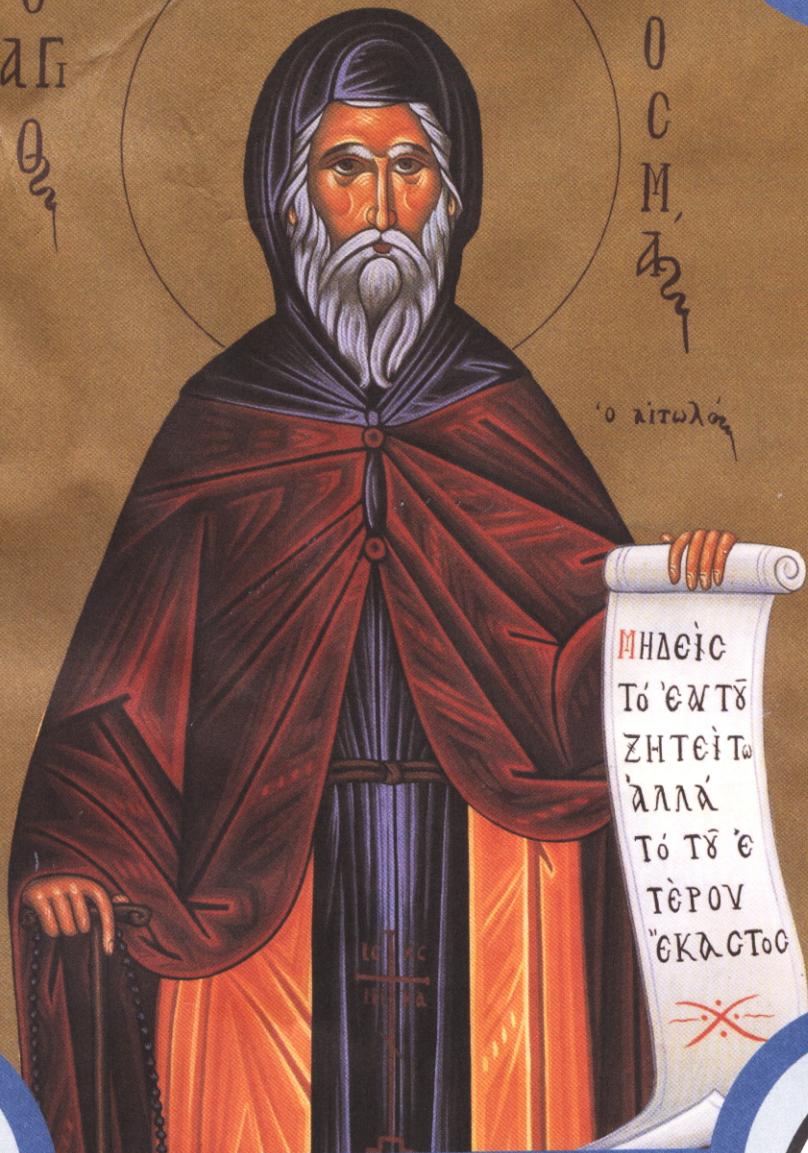




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Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 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 took place this past week. We have twelve of our children enrolled and it turned out to be very successful. We sincerely thank all the parents who wisely invested the time of their beloved children in the program and we raise our hat to the teaching staff and additional helpers who prepared snacks and meals during the week, to the men who helped with the children at the beach. All benefited from the times spent together. We assure everyone involved of our

continued prayers for spiritual success and growth that the gracious Lord continue to bless them with good health, both physical and spiritual for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ This Friday is the simple feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist. In anticipation of the holy day, the vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Thursday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise. This Friday is also a day of strict fast. Please abstain from meat and dairy products in anticipation of God's continued blessing on our parish in spiritual growth and advancement.

+++ A number of people have inquired about Scripture Classes in the fall. There is a signup sheet in the kitchen. Please advise us if you will participate on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM to 8: 30 PM. We will have copies of the new translation of the Orthodox Bible available for our faithful. This is an important apostolate and opportunity for adults to learn more about our precious Orthodox faith. The Bible is the text of our faith and we should be aware of what it teaches and contains. Orthodoxy gave the bible to the world, so others should not outshine us. We urge all to seriously think about this, pray about it and commit to learning together by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

+++ 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: Tith Offering, \$10.00; Candles, \$21.00; Food Coupons, \$10.00; Christian Fellowship, \$10.00; Holyday, \$11.00; Bible Camp, \$10.00; Special Gift, \$10.00; Kitchen, \$10.00; for a total of \$100.00. 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 Szmajda, Maria Garcia, 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 \$1350.00 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 \$1000.00. 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.

+++ **The Thanksgiving Bake Sale will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15 while that for the Nativity of our Lord will be held Thursday and Friday, December 12 and 13. Cookies will be available at the Nativity Bakesale.**

+++ 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

Disagreements / Arguments

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.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge but the mouth of the fool gushes folly Proverbs 15: 1, 2.

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

Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? Amos 3: 3.

My dear brothers, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. For man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires James 1: 19, 20.

Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools Ecclesiastes 7: 9.

A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless. A quick tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated Proverbs 14: 16, 17.

Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city Proverbs 16: 32.

A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel Proverbs 15: 18.

Did You Know That ...

- ...the best security blanket a child can have is parents who respect each other?
- ...parents are the first teachers of children?
- ...resentments are burdens we don't need to carry?
- ...if you accept defeat as an inspiration to try again, success will only be a matter of time?
- ...you will never leave where you are until you decide where you would rather be?
- ...when you are unsuccessful, it is because you are being controlled?
- ...you cannot shrink your way to greatness?
- ...if God cushioned every blow, you would never learn to grow?
- ...once you have experienced the joy of heaven, you will walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward?
- ...what we hope to do with ease, we must first do with diligence?
- ...every great and commanding moment in the annals of the world is the triumph of an eager and ambitious enthusiasm?
- ...what many call genius is simply the fruit of labor and profound thought?
- ...failure is not falling down, but staying down?
- ...the proof of desire is pursuit?
- ...when you stop giving, when you stop offering of yourself, it is time to turn out the lights?
- ...wise words spoken in jest do not compare with the number of stupid words spoken in earnest?
- ...the reason most people fail instead of succeed is that they trade what they want most for what they want at the moment?

A Problem???

“Let me explain the problem science has with Jesus Christ.”

The atheist professor of philosophy pauses before his class and then asks one of his new students to stand.

“You’re a Christian aren’t you, son?”

“Yes sir,” the student replies.

“So, you believe in God?”

“Absolutely.”

“Is God good?”

“Sure, God’s good”

“Is God all-powerful? Can God do anything?”

“Yes.”

“Are you good or evil?”

“My sinfulness at times makes me evil.”

The professor grins knowingly. **“Aha! The Bible!”**

He considers for a moment, **“Here’s one for you. Let’s say there is a sick person over here and you can cure him. You can do it. Would you help them? Would you try?”**

“Yes sir, I would.”

“So you’re good...”

“I would not say that..”

“But why not say that? If you would help a sick and maimed person if you could...”

“Most of us would if we could. But God doesn’t.”

The student does not answer, so the professor continues. “He doesn’t, does he? My brother was a Christian who died of cancer even though he prayed to Jesus to heal him. So, how is this Jesus good? Hmmm? Can you answer that one?”

The student remains silent.

“No, you can’t, can you?” the professor says. He takes a sip of water from a glass on his desk to give the student time to relax and think somewhat. “Let’s start all over again, young fella. Is God good?”

“Er...Yes,” the student says.

“Is satan good?”

The student doesn’t hesitate on this one. “No.”

“Then where does satan come from?”

The student falters. “like all things, from God.”

“That’s right. God made satan, didn’t he? Tell me, son. Is there evil in this world?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Evil’s everywhere, isn’t it? And God did make everything, correct?”

“Yes.”

“So, who created evil?”

Again the student has no answer.

“Is there sickness? immorality? hatred? ugliness. All these terrible things, do they exist in this world?”

The student squirms on his feet. “Yes.”

“So, who created them?”

There is still no answer. Suddenly the lecturer breaks away to pace in front of the classroom. The class is mesmerized.

“Tell me,” he continues. “Do you believe in Jesus Christ, son?”

The student’s voice betrays him and cracks, “Yes, professor, I do.”

The old man stops pacing. “Science says you have five senses you use to identify and observe the world around you. Have you ever seen Jesus?”

“No sir, I’ve never seen Him.”

“Then tell us if you’ve ever heard your Jesus?”

“No sir, I have not.”

“Have you ever felt your Jesus, tasted your Jesus or smelled your Jesus? Have you ever had any sensory perception of Jesus Christ? Or God for that matter?”

“No sir, I’m afraid I haven’t.”

“Yet you still believe in him?”

“Yes.”

“According to the rules of empirical testable, demonstrable protocol, science says your God doesn’t exist. What do you say to that, son?”

“Nothing,” the student replies. “I only have my faith.”

“Yes, faith,” the professor repeats, “And that is the problem science has with God. There is no evidence, only faith.”

The student stands quietly for a moment, before asking a question of his own.

“Professor, is there such a thing as heat?”

“Yes,” the professor replies. “there’s heat.”

“And is there such a thing as cold?”

“Yes son, there’s cold too.”

“No sir, there is not.”

The professor turns to face the student, obviously interested. The room suddenly becomes very quiet. The student explains, **“You can have lots of heat, even more heat, super heat, mega heat, white heat, a little heat or no heat, but we don’t have anything called ‘cold.’ We can hit 458 degrees below zero, which is no heat, but we don’t go any further after that. There is no such thing as cold; otherwise we could be able to go colder than -458 degrees. You see, sir, cold is only a word used to describe this absence of heat. We cannot measure cold. Heat we can measure in thermal units because heat is energy and cold is not the opposite of heat, sir, just the absence of it.”**

Silence across the room. A pen drops somewhere in the classroom, sounding like a hammer.

In another corner, someone begins to nervously cough.

“What about darkness, professor; is there such a thing as darkness?”

“Yes,” the professor replies without hesitation.

“What is night if it isn’t darkness?”

“You’re wrong again sir, darkness is not something; it is the absence of something. You can have low light, normal light, bright light, flashing light...but if you have no light constantly, you have nothing and it’s called darkness, isn’t it?”

“In reality, darkness isn’t. If it were, you would be able to make darkness darker, wouldn’t you?”

The professor begins to smile at the student in front of him. This will be a good semester. “So what is the point you are making, young man?”

“Yes, professor. My point is, your philosophical premise is flawed to start with so your conclusion must also be flawed.”

The professor’s face cannot hide his surprise this time. “Flawed? Can you explain how?”

“You are working on the premise of duality,” the student explains. “You agree there is life and then there is death; a good God and a bad God. You are viewing the concept of God as something finite, something we can measure. Sir, science can’t even explain a thought, so how is it going to comprehend God? It uses electricity and magnetism, but has never seen, much less fully understood either one. To view death as the opposite of life is to be ignorant of the fact that death cannot exist as a substantive thing. Death is not the opposite of life, just the absence of it. Now tell me, professor, do you teach your students that they evolved from a monkey?”

“If you are referring to the natural evolutionary process, young man, yes, of course I do.”

“Have you ever observed evolution with your own eyes, sir?”

The professor begins to shake his head, still smiling, as he realizes where the argument is going. A very good semester, indeed.

“Since no one has ever observed the process of evolution at work and cannot even prove that this process is an on-going endeavor, are you not merely teaching your own personal opinion, sir? Are you now not a scientist, but preacher?”

The class is in uproar. The student remains silent until the commotion has subsided.

“To continue the point you were making earlier to the other student, let me give you an example of what I mean.” The student looks around the room. “Is there anyone here in the class who has ever seen the professor’s brain?”

The class breaks out in laughter.

“Is there anyone here who has ever heard the professor’s brain? Felt the professor’s brain, touched or smelled the professor’s brain?” No one appears to have done so. “So, according to the established rules of empirical, stable, demonstrable protocol, science says that you have no brain, with all due respect, sir. So if science says you have no brain, how can we trust your lectures, sir?”

Now the room is absolutely silent. The professor just stares at the student, his face unreadable. Finally, after what seems an eternity, the old man answers, “I guess you will have to take them on faith.”



The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just. They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold, sweeter than syrup or honey from the comb. Though your servant is careful of them, very diligent in keeping them, yet who can detect failings? Cleanse me from my unknown faults! From wanton sin especially, restrain your servant; let it not rule over me

Psalms 19: 8 – 14.

A MAN WITH THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE!

While scaling a mountain, a climber has two choices: he can look down at where he has been, or he can look up and focus on what lies beyond! As we struggle up the "*hill of life*," the same two choices face us: we can look back with satisfaction at what we may have accomplished, or we can set our goals on a higher level, striving to reach the real "*peak*" of our earthly journey: the Kingdom of Heaven.

ST. KOSMAS OF AITOLIA was certainly a man with the right perspective on life. A relatively recent saint, he was born in 1714, the son of humble, pious parents. The love of Christ they instilled in him was so strong that Kosmas decided at an early age to devote his life to being a missionary. He became a monastic priest and traveled throughout Greece, bringing the Gospel to rugged, remote regions and islands that had been neglected spiritually for years. Over a period of 25 years, Kosmas went about his work, founding over 200 schools, charitable institutions and churches. He started the beautiful practice of planting a cross when he left an area as a reminder to those who passed by that someone, indeed, cared for them, and that God would never forsake them.

A "*Nostradamus*" of sorts, Kosmas foresaw the day that man would devise a means of flying, and that one day, people would be able to converse with each other, even if they were miles apart! In 1779, Kosmas suffered martyrdom at the hands of the Muslims. He was canonized a saint in 1961.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.