

to you: "The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life."

"By your Nativity, O Most-Pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed



from barrenness; Adam and Eve are loosed from the corruption of death. And we,

your people, are freed from the guilt of sin as we celebrate and sing

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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

+++ Tuesday we have the most solemn feast of the Nativity of the Birthgiver of God. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated that day at 7: 30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise. Confessions are heard prior to the celebration.

+++ The first *Pirohi Sale* of the season was held yesterday. We sincerely thank all who secured orders and labored for the betterment of our parish. God bless you faithful souls!

+++ 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, [REDACTED]; Candles, [REDACTED]; Food Coupons, [REDACTED]; Christian Fellowship, [REDACTED]; Kitchen, [REDACTED]; Holyday, [REDACTED], for a total of [REDACTED]. Sunday, August 23: Tithe Offering, [REDACTED]; Holyday, [REDACTED]; Candles, [REDACTED]; Christian Fellowship, [REDACTED]; Alaska Raffle, [REDACTED]0, Pennies From Heaven [REDACTED], for a total of [REDACTED]. Sunday, August 16: Tithe Offering, [REDACTED]; Christian Fellowship, [REDACTED] Candles, [REDACTED]; Holyday, [REDACTED], Food Coupons, [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 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, Debra 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 [REDACTED]0 from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

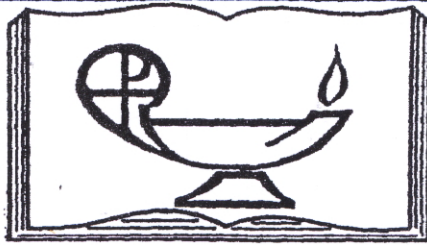
+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals [REDACTED]. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite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

+++ 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

All We Need

And he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for strength is made perfect in weakness' 2 Corinthians 12: 9.

It is not that we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success comes from God 2 Corinthians 3: 5.

And my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Jesus Christ Philippians 4: 19.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17.

As we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness 2 Peter 1: 3.

I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of contentment in every situation, whether it be a full stomach or hunger, plenty or want; for I can do everything God asks me to do with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power Philippians 4: 12, 13.

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord of hosts Zechariah 4: 6.

THE LIVING BIBLE



ENCOURAGING

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He is brilliant. Kind of esoteric and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair. The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat. The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat.

By now, people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Gill gets closer and closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realized there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet.

By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the priest realizes that from way at the back of the church, his deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill.

Now the deacon is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts waling toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do.

How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor ?

It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The priest can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone.

Everyone chokes up with; emotion. When the priest gins control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you hve just seen, you will never forget."

"Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read."

I asked the Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today. To guide you and protect you as you go along your way.

His love is always with you. His promises are true, and when we give Him all our cares, you know He will see us through.



God's might to direct me,
God's power to protect me,
God's wisdom for learning,
God's eye for discerning,
God's ear for my hearing,
God's word for my clearing.

Don't Worry

Do not worry...your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things

Matthew 6: 31, 32.

A young family man's job was soon to be eliminated as is so often the case in our precarious economic condition. When news arrived he had just accepted an offer for a new position, all were elated. In an e-mail to friends, his wife said, "We prayed, I worried and he was determined to get another job." She was exasperated over the journey they were confronted with for a few months.

It is so easy for us to panic when we face serious concerns, the loss of a job, a family member with cancer, or a wayward child. So we pray. And we get busy. We start doing everything we can think of to move forward in a positive way to overcome the difficulties encountered in life's continuing trials and tribulations.

And of course we worry. We do know it is a waste of time. Yet a lot of us find ourselves in this dilemma even though we know we should trust our God, but we cannot help thinking about just what He is going to do for us.

That is when we can turn to his revelation to us; the past history of what has happened to others in our same situation. We turn to the trustworthiness of his Word and the teaching of the Church to remind us that He is walking with us and inviting us to hand over to him our worries, our burdens and follow the prescriptions He offered others in the past who finally believed what He reveals and became successful amid life's vicissitudes. St. Peter has a particular insight that is relevant. "Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you. Stay sober and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" 1 Peter 5: 7. It is the enemy of man who introduces obstacles to detour us from the road to salvation. We so often forget "The God of all grace who called you to his everlasting glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish those who have suffered a little while" 1 Peter 5: 10.

We must always be confirmed in faith response to God's first shown love. Times of difficulty are times of intensive prayer and trust. Are we not confirmed in reality by the Philippian epistle which echoes, "My God will in turn supply your needs fully, in a way worthy of his magnificent riches in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4: 19?

When our minds turns to anxious thoughts about he future, always bring to mind that "...your heavenly Father knows" Matthew 6: 32, and will provide for the faithful expectant soul all that we need.

While it is true we do not know about tomorrow and whether it will impose poverty, the one who faithfully feeds the birds of the sky is the one who provides even more for us who "...are more important than they" Matthew 6: 26!

The Other Side of Thank You

Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil
1 Corinthians 13: 5.

A baby gift came to a young couple who were new excited parents. They were certainly grateful for the present, so the mother picked up a thank-you card, wrote a nice heartfelt note, and got it ready to send, but she had no stamp.

Somehow it got buried in an avalanche of paperwork and was never mailed and the thank-you was forgotten. The gift-givers waited, but no acknowledgment ever came.

A rift developed as one family thought the thank-you had been extended and sent, while the other thought the lack of a thank-you was an inconsiderate and actual snub. This inadvertent failure to send an acknowledging card left the gift-giver feeling slighted, unappreciated and neglected as well as taken for granted.

Among the most important words we can speak are two: "Thank You." And while it is vital to be grateful, there is another side of thank you. If we bestow a gift on another, we should do so out of a motive that does not expect anything in return, not even a thank-you. A true disinterested genuine love gives with no expectations.

Love, as described by the Apostle to the Gentiles "...suffers long and is kind" 1 Corinthians 13: 4, and is never self-seeking. Love does not keep a record of wrongs, even if someone forgets to thank us for a kindness. The other side of Thank-You is pure heart that reflects God's perfect love for us.

We should all pray for and be vehicles through which our heavenly Father chooses to send the message of sweet innocent love, the kind that patiently endures the wrongs which many times come from enemy or friend because true love has no strings or conditions attached.

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalms 1

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8

Mark 9:30-37

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalms 19

James 3:1-12

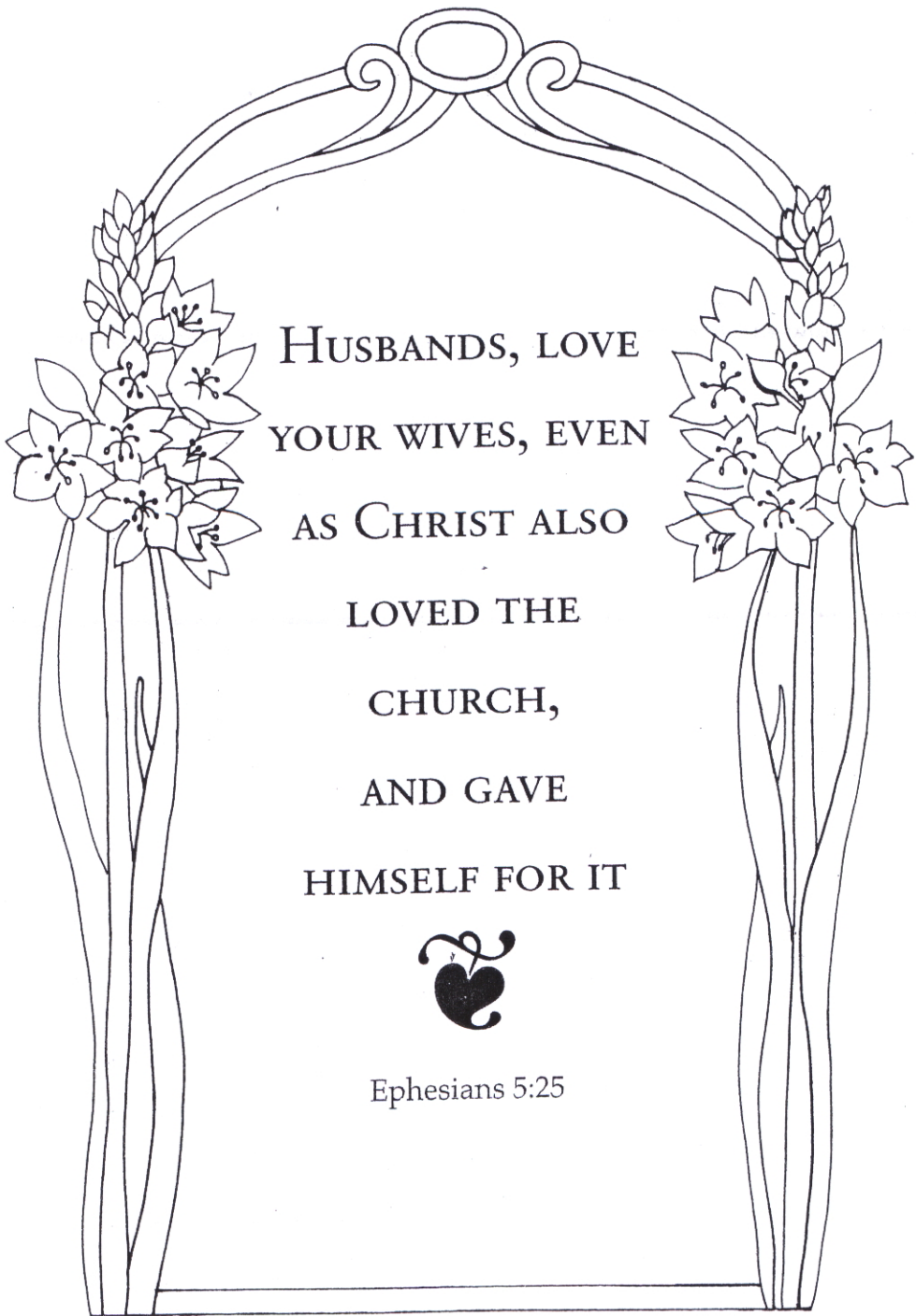
Mark 8:27-38



*Child-like God:
As we
welcome children
in your name,
make us more
like them:
more trusting,
more hopeful,
more loving, and
less judgmental.
Amen.*



*Crucified one,
as we take up
the cross,
lead us
to see your
vulnerability
as our source
of power
and our path
to glory.
Amen.*



HUSBANDS, LOVE
YOUR WIVES, EVEN
AS CHRIST ALSO
LOVED THE
CHURCH,
AND GAVE
HIMSELF FOR IT



Ephesians 5:25

Did You Know That ...

...the risks all Americans take is that anyone can become president?

...there is altogether too much month left at the end of our money?

...business is a game in which you keep score with your money?

...more people would be alive today if there were an enforced death penalty?

...no one is young enough to know everything?

...those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber?

...death is just a distant rumor to the young?

...it's too bad the only people who know how to run the country are busy driving cabs and cutting hair?

...the trouble with heart disease is that it is most difficult to deal with: sudden death?

...idealism is what precedes experience; while cynicism is often what follows?

...the honest politician is the one who when bought will stay bought?

...the price of purity is purists?

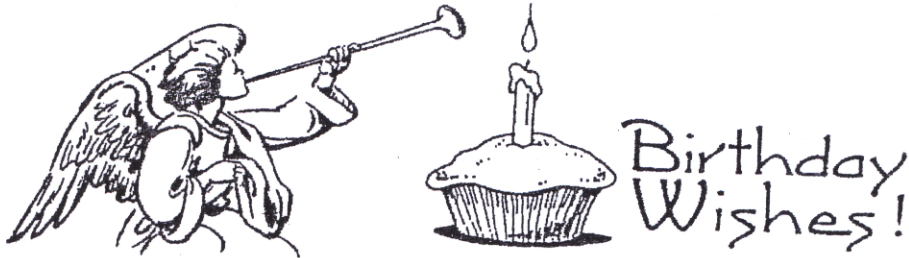
...we are what we eat, so Eucharistic reception is absolutely vital?

...statistics show that of those who contract the habit of overeating, very few survive?

...we should never mistake endurance for hospitality?

...horsepower is a wonderful thing when only horses had it?

...television permits you to be entertained in your home by people you would never permit in your home?



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 May.

September 19 Deacon Kenneth Ellis

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

A PRAYER IS ANSWERED

The first major holy day on our church calendar is the Feast Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos, which is observed on September 8/21. It is a tale of sorrow turning to joy - a story of God's ability to answer prayers, no matter how preposterous they may seem.

This is a story of a righteous elderly couple: Joachim & Anna. They had lived a long & fruitful life of obedience to God. Alas, however, they lived alone. In an age when childlessness was viewed as a punishment from God for some unknown sin, Joachim & Anna had no sons or daughters. One can only imagine the gossip & whispering that went on behind the backs of Joachim & Anna. Their reproach among men reached its breaking point when the High Priest in the Temple in Jerusalem refused to accept Joachim's sacrifice on a feast day, considering it an unworthy offering since he had no children. A distraught Joachim retired to the wilderness, tearfully beseeching God to bless them with a child; an equally troubled Anna did the same from their Nazareth home, imploring God to be merciful to them.

Finally, their prayers were answered. They were blessed with a child, Mary, who would be destined to become the "Living Temple of God," for she would one day give birth herself in a miraculous way to mankind's Savior. Early on, Mary's saintly parents vowed to dedicate their child to a life of service to the Lord in the Temple.

It is important for us to note that Joachim was from the tribe of Judah & from the house of David - the ROYAL tribe, while Anna was from the PRIESTLY tribe of Aaron. Thus in the birth of the Virgin Mary, two significant "branches" of Israel were united, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Messiah.