



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2010

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor; 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

+++ Friday is the simple feast of the Protection of the Birthgiver of God. In anticipation, the vespereal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Thursday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise.

+++ We remind our faithful that at the last Diocesan Council this past summer, the Diocesan Dues were raised, due to inflation and need, from the past \$50.00 per adult individual, eighteen years and older, to \$60.00 per year. Our envelope offering system still has the old amount on it, so please disregard that figure

and make your offering according to the new mandated amount. If this offering was made in the old amount, please correct it by submitting the additional amount with a notation on the envelope because the parish must send the entire amount to the diocesan chancery.

+++ 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, \$515.00; Candles, \$28.00; Food Coupons, \$320.00; Holyday, \$25.00; Christian Fellowship, \$2.00; Kitchen, \$36.00; Web Site, \$45.00; Building Fund, \$1000.00 for a total of \$1971.00. 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 your good and faithful souls! The attendance was 41 adults and 13 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, Louis Pasquino, +Paul Szmaida, Debra Szmaida, George Idromenos, Kent Pasquino, Kyle 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 \$1578.00 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 \$103,815.00. 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 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 \$5100.00 on this project to date!

+++ *The Clothing Drive is a permanent project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing and fabrics.*

+++ We remind our faithful only those who are present for the entire Divine Liturgy should come forward to receive Communion. The entire Liturgy means "Amen" to "Amen."

+++ 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

King Of Kings

Then I saw the heavens opened and a white horse standing there; and the one sitting on the horse was named "Faithful and True"...On his robe and thigh was written this title, "King of kings and Lord of lords" Revelation 19: 11, 16.

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever 1 Timothy 1: 17.

He who is the blessed and only sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion 1 Timothy 6: 15, 16.

God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding Job 37: 5.

Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for he alone has all wisdom and all power...He gives wise men their wisdom and scholars their intelligence. He reveals profound mysteries beyond man's understanding. He knows all hidden things, for he is light and darkness is no obstacle to him Daniel 2: 20 - 22.

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great god, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality or takes a bribe Deuteronomy 10: 17.

The best kept

SECRET

in our area is **NOT** that we are
excellent cooks
and superb bakers.

Why doesn't everyone know
we pray hard,
we work hard
and we praise and glorify our God
in heavenly worship?

What are
YOU
doing to change this
misconception?

Too Old???

You are the light of the world
Matthew 5: 14.

Our heavenly Father has limitless ways of reaching people. If you do not feel that you have the ability to reach others, think about the 76 year-old woman in western Pennsylvania who still wanted to continue serving the Lord. She was a Protestant woman and in her faith response to Christ, she is an inspiration for Orthodox believers. She only had part of the Christian truth, but was zealous to share it. We have the complete and total revelation of Christ for the sake of our salvation, but we hesitate to share it.

Initially, she asked her pastor if she could teach a Sunday school class. He informed her that he thought she was too old! She went home heavy-hearted and disappointed. Then one day as she was tending her rose garden, a Chinese student from the nearby university stopped to comment on the beauty of her flowers. She invited him in for a cup of tea. As they spoke together, she had the opportunity to tell him about Christ and his love. He returned the next day with another student, so impressed was he with her devotion and sincerity. That was the beginning of her ministry of loving service.

She was delighted to share the gospel message of Christ by her lifestyle, example, even actual teaching because she knew He is the power to change lives. There was no doubt for her that his gospel "...is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" Romans 1: 16. Because she lived what she believed and precisely because of her mature age, Chinese students listened to her with respect and appreciation.

When she died, a group of some 70 Chinese students sat together at her funeral. They had been won to Christ by a woman who was thought to be too old to teach a Sunday school class! Would that we who are communicants of the Church of Jesus Christ were as eager and zealous to spread the truth of our faith. How little others have in Protestantism, yet have done great things with that little, while we who have the fullness of faith, carelessly neglect our riches!

Anonymous Has Come

The kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared
Titus 3: 4.

A busy man tells us that sometime ago, he received a cylinder in the mail that turned out to be an exquisite, custom-made Jim Schaff bamboo fly rod and a Bill Ballan classic reel. It was costly fishing gear he could not afford. Along with it came an insightful explanation: "I just wanted to do something for you." To this day he has absolutely no idea who sent it.

We have heard of others who apparently had anonymous friends who sent gifts to them but never revealed their name. We might sum up these matters by saying "Anonymous has come." How many are really grateful to an unnamed or unidentified benefactor-friend and the kindness and love extended generously?

All through our lives our heavenly Father showers us with his goodness - gifts of truth, beauty, grace, friendship, love and laughter, to name but a few - and we continue to behave as if we don't know their source. God is always our not so anonymous friend.

Why is it then that we wish to keep him anonymous when He desires to be known, loved and understood? If we wish to learn more about a dear and supportive non-intrusive secret Friend, we can read the gospels ourselves and pay more attention to what He does for us when the record is read at the Sunday and holyday Divine Liturgies. Listen carefully to the hymnology of the Church. Think about his revelation to us in all of Scripture. Absorb the instructive words of the homily. Take in the color of the icons and see how imbued we can become with the reality of faith response.

See the love of God for us in a not-so-secrete way expressed by the life of Jesus Christ among us. See the heart of God the Father exposed and revealed in the Lord. With the coming of Christ, the love of God appeared in actual form, plain for all to see. God is revealed in Jesus Christ as our kind and merciful as well as generous Friend. Acknowledge the generosity of our God toward us and thank him today! Our dearest friend is but a shadow compared to Jesus Christ!

We Are Made To Be Gift

Looking at the world, it can sometimes seem and appear that contemporary culture is based on opposition and contention, not communion. In the seventeenth century, the English political philosopher, Thomas Hobbes made a point of emphasizing that in its so-called natural state, human life is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short." He wholesaley rejected the idea that man naturally finds himself in community. In his twisted view man gives up something of his personal freedom and individuality to enter a social contract for the sake of self-preservation.

In recent times, some influential thinkers have attempted to make it their goal to rid the world of charity altogether. Rather than acknowledging that every person receives his being from, with and for the sake of others, the 19th century German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche saw man as inescapably alone. He vehemently opposed Christian values such as generosity and mercy, attributing them to a slave morality that espoused weakness and rejected power. He likewise denied that loving relationships are fundamental to human nature, to man as created in the image of God. Rather, he insisted, most basic relationships are those of competition. In his text, *On the Genealogy of Morality* in 1877, he contends that "the oldest and most primitive personal relationship" is "the relationship of buyer and seller, creditor and debtor; here person met person for the first time and measured himself person against person."

Ayn Rand, the 20th century novelist is one of the heirs of Nietzsche's ideas. In her most notable work, *Atlas Shrugged*, the protagonist summarizes the author's philosophy with these words: "I swear – by my life and my love of it – that I will never live for the sake of another man, nor ask another man to live for mine."

From the perspective of Christ, however, the lack of communion we observe around us is a sign that the world is desperately still in need of redemption. A one-sided emphasis on individual rights and identity, over and against communal duties, worsens rather than answers this crisis. Man today, perhaps more than ever before has forgotten that man is created to be a gift, made for gift since the tendency of modern man to believe he is radically independent from others seems to continually assert itself. It follows from being selfishly closed in upon himself and it is a consequence, to express it in terms of faith, the actual result of the original sin of Adam and Eve who sought separation from the source of life and love.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we know that sin does not have the last word. And in the face of a world too often marked by antagonism and division, Orthodoxy exemplifies the principles of charity and unity since its very beginning.

We are continually reminded by the voice of the Church that through acts of charity and service, we help to recover an understanding of human nature based on gift and work ceaselessly to build a true civilization of love in our midst.

THE PROPHECIES

IN THE PENTATEUCH AND HISTORICAL BOOKS

| Text | The Prophecy | Fulfilment |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Gen. xv. 5, 6..... | Concerning the Number of Abraham's Seed..... | 1 Chron. xxi. 5, 6 |
| Gen. xv. 13..... | Concerning Abraham's going into Egypt and the Bondage of his descendants..... | Gen. xli. 3-7 |
| Gen. xv. 14-16..... | Concerning the Deliverance from Egypt..... | Exod. xii. 34-37 |
| Gen. xviii. 10..... | Concerning Isaac..... | Gen. xxi. 1 |
| Gen. xxxvii. 5..... | Of Joseph's Advancement..... | Gen. xlii. 6 |
| Josh. vi. 26..... | Of the Builder of Jericho..... | 1 Kings xvi. 34 |
| 1 Sam. ii. 34..... | Of the Death of Eli's Son..... | 1 Sam. iv. 11 |
| 1 Sam. xxviii. 19... | Of the Death of Saul..... | 1 Sam. xxxi. 2 |
| 1 Kings xiii. 2..... | Of the Birth of Josiah..... | 2 Kings xlii. 15 |
| 1 Kings xiii. 22..... | Of the Death of a Prophet..... | 1 Kings xlii. 30 |
| 1 Kings xiv. 10..... | Of the Destruction of the House of Jeroboam..... | 1 Kings xv. 29 |
| 1 Kings xiv. 12..... | Of the Death of Jeroboam's Son..... | 1 Kings xiv. 17 |
| 1 Kings xvi. 3..... | Of the Destruction of Baasha's House..... | 1 Kings xvi. 11 |
| 1 Kings xvii. 1..... | Of the Great Drought in the Reign of Ahab..... | 1 Kings xvii. 41 |
| 1 Kings xx. 22..... | Of the Syrian Invasion..... | 1 Kings xx. 26 |
| 1 Kings xxi. 19..... | Of the Punishment for the Murder of Naboth..... | 1 Kings xxi. 38 |
| 1 Kings xxi. 21..... | Of the Destruction of the House of Ahab..... | 2 Kings x. 11 |
| 1 Kings xxi. 23..... | Of the Death of Jezebel..... | 2 Kings ix. 36 |
| 2 Kings iii. 17..... | Of the Miraculous Supply of Water..... | 2 Kings iii. 20 |
| 2 Kings vii. 1..... | Of a Plentiful Supply of Food..... | 2 Kings vii. 18 |
| 2 Kings vii. 2..... | Of the Death of the Unbelieving Lord..... | 2 Kings vii. 17-20 |
| 2 Kings x. 30..... | Of the Reign of Jehu's Sons to the Fourth Generation..... | 2 Kings xv. 12 |
| 2 Kings xix. 7..... | Of the Death of the King of Assyria..... | 2 Kings xix. 35, 37 |
| 2 Kings xx. 17..... | Of the Babylonish Captivity..... | 2 Kings xxiv. 10-16 |

PROPHECIES LITERALLY FULFILLED.

| TEXT | THE FULFILMENT | TEXT | THE FULFILMENT |
|------------------|--|---------------|---|
| Gen. ix. 25, 27. | The descendants of Shem and Japheth are "ruling" and "enlarged," but the descendants of Ham are still "the servants of servants." | | the kingdoms of the earth," "scattered among the heathen," "among all people," "sifted among all nations," have "become a proverb," have found "among these nations no ease, and the sole of their foot had no rest," have "been many days without a king and without a sacrifice." |
| Gen. xvi. 10, 12 | The posterity of Ishmael have "multiplied exceedingly," living like "wild men," "their hand against every man," free in "the presence of all their brethren" and of all their enemies. | Num. xxiii. 9 | The Jews "dwell alone," and are not "reckoned among the nations." |
| Gen. xvii. 20 | | | |

Gen. xlix. 10

Lev. xxvi. 38, 39
Deut. xxviii. 62, 67
Ezek. v. 10, 15.
Hos. iii. 4.

Jer. xlix. 17, etc.
Ezek. xxv. 12, etc.
Joel iii. 19
Amos 1. 11, etc.
Obad. x. 18, etc.

Nah. 1., iii

Isa. xlii., xiv.

Ezek. xxvi. 4, 5

Ezek. xxix. 14, 15

"The sceptre had departed from Judah."

The Jews have been "led away into all nations," "Jerusalem has been trodden down by the Gentiles," the people have been "plucked from off their own land," "removed into all "from the rising of the sun, even to the going down of the same, his name shall be great among the Gentiles."

The family of Esau has become extinct, "cut off for ever," so that there is "none remaining of the house of Esau." The "palaces of Bozrah" have been "devoured by fire." Fire was "kindled in Rabbah and in the palaces thereof," and Ammon was destroyed as in "the day of the whirlwind."

Ninevah is completely destroyed, and for ages its locality was unknown.

Babylon has been swept with "the besom of destruction," is made "a desolation forever," "a possession for the bittern and pools of water," "a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment and hissing, without an inhabitant."

Tyre has become "like the top of a rock, a place for fishers to spread their nets upon."

Egypt became "a base kingdom," tributary to strangers, and never able to "exalt itself above the nations."

Num. xxiv. 20

Ps. ii. 8
Mal. i. 11

Dan. xi. 37, 39

Luke xxi. 24

I Tim. iv. 1-3

Rev. ii, iii

Rev. xiii.-xvii

"The remembrance of Amalek" is "utterly put out from under heaven."

The Lord has given to the Messiah "the heathen for his inheritance," and the progress of the Gospel is hastening the time when

The fourth and last of the four great kingdoms was divided into ten kingdoms, and among them has arisen a power with a triple crown, "diverse from the first," "with a mouth speaking very great things," "wearing out the saints of the Most High," "changing times and laws," ruling "over many and dividing the land for gain."

The Jews have been led into all nations, and Jerusalem has been trodden down of the Gentiles.

The apostasy here predicted has taken place. The Roman Church has forbidden the priesthood "to marry," and "commanded to abstain from meats."

The decay of the seven Asiatic churches and their fate have been literally foretold.

The rise, power and fury of the mystical Babylon are here set forth, and Rome built on seven hills is pointed out as the seat of this tyranny.

The Omniscient Lord of all, who seeth the end from the beginning, could alone have foretold these events, which have already come to pass.



Did You Know That ...

...the truth that survives is simply the lie that is the most pleasant to believe?

...worship is an inspired natural expression of our love for God?

...if given the luxuries of life, man will dispense with the necessities?

...sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle that fits them all?

...man is a reasoning rather than a reasonable person?

...man is simply the most formidable of all the beasts of prey and indeed, the only one that preys systematically on its own species?

...in all systems of theology, the devil is depicted as a male person?

...man is a rational creature who always loses his temper when he is called upon to act in accordance with the dictates of reason?

...man's good breeding is the best security against other people's ill manners?

...there is no worse lie than a truth misunderstood by those who hear it?

...good manners easily and rapidly mature into good morals?

...man is by no things so well betrayed as by his manners?

...marriage is that relationship between man and woman in which the independence is equal, the dependence mutual, and the obligation reciprocal?

...one sign of maturity is knowing when to ask for help?

...we can work out a good character much faster than anyone can lie us out of it?

...it never troubles the wolf how many sheep there may be?

...man is the only creature created by God who constantly refuses to be what he is?

LIVING IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT BEING OF THE WORLD

Living a proper Orthodox Christian life is not easy in today's world. Sadly, the morals and values that the Church tries to teach us and instill within our hearts are not shared by most of society. Because of this, we are constantly placed in situations where we must dare to be different. Yet we are only human, and the temptation is always there to give in to the pleasure-motivated, material lifestyle that we see exhibited all around us. In such moments of weakness, it is helpful for us to remember that not much has really changed since the days of the early Church. The world in which the Apostles had to preach the Word of God looked remarkably similar to ours. The immoral influence of a pagan culture was, perhaps, even more prevalent in those days than it is today. The temptation to give in to its alluring attraction was a tremendous battle for the members of the early Christian community.

In his 2nd Letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul takes note of this. He reminds the faithful that they are living in a **"spiritual war zone,"** entrenched in patterns of sin that threaten their very souls. He urges them to distance themselves from the unbelievers who are shrouded in darkness and evil, extolling them to **"Come out from among them and be separate."** (2 Cor 6:17) St. Paul also commands them to **"cleanse themselves"** through repentance and to strive to constantly live in a state of holiness.

As we struggle to live in the world and not be of the world, the same advice is given to us. Doing so is difficult, but not impossible. We, too, must confess our sins and seek the holiness in our lives that is pleasing to God. We, too, must separate ourselves from those who would bring us down to a level unbecoming a follower of Jesus.