

ΟΙ ΑΓΙΟΙ
ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΣ
ΑΡΜΕΝΙΑΣ



ΡΥΨΙΜΙΑ



ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΣ



ΚΑΤΣΙΚΗ

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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 prior to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we have a Memorial Service for the repose of the soul of +Bishop John of thrice-blessed memory, whose twenty-fifth anniversary of repose we celebrate. Please join us in prayer, particularly as he is the founder of our parish. May our gracious Lord grant the soul of +Bishop John a blessed repose and create for him Eternal Memory!

+++ Thursday is the simple feast of the Protection of the Mother of God. In anticipation, we celebrate a vesperal Divine Liturgy Wednesday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise that evening.

+++ This Saturday we will have our monthly Pirohi Sale. Please secure orders from friends and neighbors. At 7: 30 AM on Thursday, we will make preparations in the hall. Helping hands are needed for both days.

+++ 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, Kitchen, Holyday, Pennies From Heaven, Christian Fellowship, Web Site, 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, Debra Szmaida, 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!

+++ 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

Persecution of the Righteous

But Peter and the apostles replied, we must obey God rather than men. The Council accepted his advice, called in the apostles and had them beaten and then told them never again to speak in the name of Jesus and finally let them go. They left the Council chamber rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer dishonor for his name. And every day in the temple and in their assembly, they continued to teach and preach that Jesus is the Messiah Acts of the Apostles 5: 29, 40 - 42.

Name one prophet your ancestors did not persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One, the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered Acts of the Apostles 7: 52.

But the believers who had fled Jerusalem went everywhere preaching the Good News about Jesus Acts of the Apostles 8: 4.

But we want to hear what you believe, for the only thing we know about these Christians is that they are denounced everywhere Acts of the Apostles 28: 22.

If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who offer their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it really means to live Mark 8: 35.

So we who are born of the Holy Spirit are persecuted now by those who want us to keep the Jewish laws, just as was Isaac, the child of promise was persecuted by Ishmael, the slave wife's son Galatians 4: 29.

ANYWAY

People are unreasonable, illogical
and self centered. Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you
of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful you win false
friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be
forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you
vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only
top dogs. Fight for some underdogs anyway.

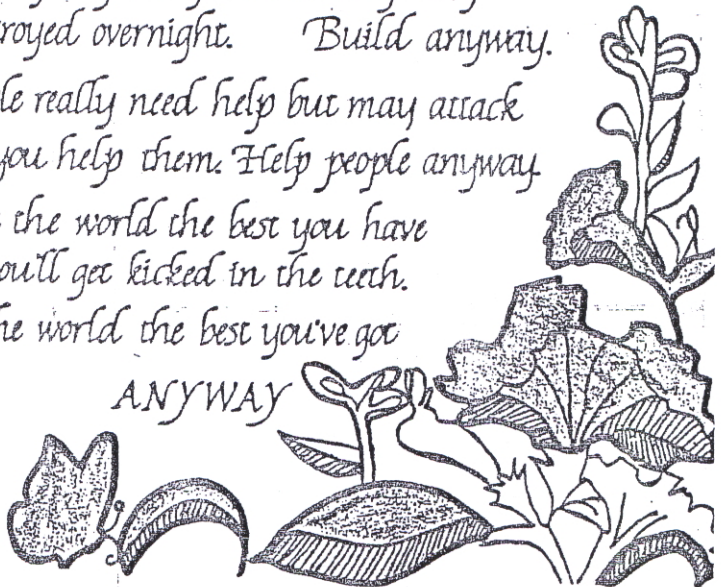
What you spend years building may
be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack
you if you help them. Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have
and you'll get kicked in the teeth.

Give the world the best you've got

ANYWAY



INCARNATE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

One feature that occurs over and again in the Creed is its dependence on Sacred Scripture. We might even describe it as a hymn of glorification of the Word of God. Our faith truly arises from divine revelation, from what God himself has told us about himself.

The statement of the creed that Jesus Christ “is incarnate from the Holy Spirit,” is found explicitly in the gospel according to the holy apostle Luke. Here he describes the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary, who is to become the mother of the Lord. In response to Mary’s question about how this could be so, since she had no relations with a man, the angel answers, “...the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” Luke 1: 35.

We thus see that; our heavenly Father always acts in our behalf, his creatures, as the Holy Trinity. The Most High, overshadowing Mary, acts in the power of his Holy Spirit, so that she gives birth to the Word of God, the Son of God. The Church, understanding the significance of

this event, made it a part of its proclamation of faith.

From the beginning, the Church, as the community of believers, felt the uniqueness of Jesus. Though, as we have seen, our faith is that He took on himself all that is essential to our human nature, particularly the mind, the soul, the body, the will, and though He was born of human flesh as we are, as Scripture again affirms, "...born of a woman, born under the law" Galatians 4: 4, yet in one way He is quite different from us. This difference is revealed to John the Forerunner as he baptized this human man who came to him, for he saw the Holy Spirit descend on the Lord in the waters of the Jordan, the very same Holy Spirit who overshadowed Mary to make her pregnant with her holy Son, and he heard the voice of God the Father, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased..." Mark 1: 11.

The father of Jesus is God the Father, for at the age of twelve He tells Mary and Joseph in the temple, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Luke 2: 49.

The uniqueness of Jesus, that his father is the Eternal Father, was certainly expressed explicitly in the stories of his birth and in the Gospels of SS. Matthew and Luke, and in the theological terms in the Gospel of St. John the Theologian, who describes the experience of the Lord by first believers: “And the Word became flesh, and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth” John 1: 14.

This reality is also expressed implicitly, as in the gospel of St. Luke, “Jesus was the son, as was thought, (but not according to the flesh) of Joseph, the son of Heli.” Luke 3: 23.

Not having a human father might tempt someone to say that Jesus was not human as we are. This tendency has always existed in the Church and it has sometimes led to heresy. The struggle to define who Jesus is was the center of ideological battles from the first Council of Nicea to the struggle against iconoclasm. This tendency remains a temptation for us, and the danger in it is that we will make Jesus so wholly other that He is no longer the model of humanity whom we can follow.

This teaching about Christ, however, is important for us. God is the father of Jesus, but God the Father is the model of all fatherhood, as St. Paul taught. “That is why I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name and I pray that he will bestow on

you gifts in keeping with the riches of his glory” Ephesians 3: 14, 15.

If this is so, then the salvation of Jesus Christ is precisely that He became a human being so that we might become in turn, adopted children of God, as St. John taught, “...to those who did accept him he gave the power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name” John 1: 12.

The incarnation of Jesus by the Holy Spirit, then is the foundation of our faith in deification. Because Jesus has accepted completely our humanity, by accepting him in faith, we become children of God, and God-like. The difference is that Jesus is the Son of God by nature, while we are children of God by adoption.

There is something more involved in this article of faith. That Jesus is incarnate by the Holy Spirit makes the Mystery of the Eucharist possible. After his Resurrection, our Lord told his followers, “I am with you always until the end of the world” Matthew 28: 20. This is so through the power of God, one in the Holy Trinity, manifested in the Spirit of the Son. This is the “Promise of the Father,” the “power from on high” revealed to the disciples at the time of the Ascension (Luke 24: 49).

In revealing the Eucharist to his apostles, Jesus tells them, “Do this in memory of me” Luke 22: 19; and St. Paul further instructs us, “...as often as you eat this

bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes” I Corinthians 11: 26.

The Mystery of the Eucharist is the real presence of our Lord among us, acting again for our salvation through death to sin and Resurrection to eternal life. This, too, happens in the power of the Holy Spirit, God’s power working in the Church today, in our present faith communities.

Therefore, in the anaphora, the priestly celebrant prays to the Eternal Father, “Send down your Holy Spirit upon us and on these gifts before us,” that they might become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the fullness of his kingdom.

St. John Damascene explains this present mystery by comparing it to the incarnation of our Lord by the Holy Spirit “...so also now the energy of the Spirit performs those things that are above nature and which it is not possible to comprehend unless by faith alone. ‘How shall this be,’ said the holy Virgin, ‘seeing I know not man?’ And the archangel Gabriel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit shall come upon you and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you.’ And now you ask, how the bread becomes Christ’s body and the wine and water Christ’s blood. And I say to you, ‘The Holy Spirit is present and does these things which surpass reason and thought’” On the Orthodox Faith 4: 13.

The concelebrating priests and deacons say these words to the celebrating priest in the Divine Liturgy even today to show the connection between the mysteries of the incarnation and the Eucharist. The confession of faith we make in the Creed that Jesus is “incarnate of the Holy Spirit,” becomes a profession of our precious faith in the Eucharist, that now our God is truly with us.





*Wisdom Of
The*

*Byzantine
Fathers*

The poor are the treasures of the good things that we look for, the keepers of the gates of the kingdom St. Gregory of Nyssa.

Defend widows, protect orphans, liberate captives, heal the sick St. Basil the Great.

The aim which everyone ought to have in working is to help the needy, more than to provide for oneself....So anyone who works day and night to give relief to the destitute is nearing perfection St. Basil the Great.

For You, O Lord, are the helper of the helpless, hope of the hopeless, saviour of the afflicted, haven of the voyager and physician of the sick St. Basil the Great.

You who fast, come to the help of those in need. Become generous to the unfortunate brethren. That food which you fasted from, give to the hungry. Let the just fear of God equalize all St. Gregory of Nyssa.



**Live
such a way
that those who know
you but do not know
God,
will come to know
God
because they know
you.**

Did You Know That ...

...we always come home to the child, to play and creativity, because the child is promise of what we may yet become?

...all of life sings in us; for we are the voice, the music, the dance, the dream of creation coming true?

...there God is...everywhere and in all people and things ?

...the Child is fulfilled in the universe and the universe is fulfilled in the child, while stars ring out in the heavens?

...God writes the gospel message...on trees, flowers, clouds, stars and the manger straw?

...for the only time in human history we have a cosmic story that is not tied to one cultural tradition, but instead gathers every human group into its meaning?

...in the innermost and deepest aspect of the soul, our God creates the whole cosmos?

...if we remain in the eye of the Holy Spirit, every object is one of radiant beauty?

...the dance of thanksgiving starts with energy, the substance of life, the unrelenting wellspring of pure possibility?

...faith is the spark that extends into a vivid flame, and like a star in the heavens, glows in our soul?

...a vision of the universe tells us undeniably how tiny and insignificant and how rare and special man is?

...having seen earth from space, the things we share in our world are far more valuable than those which artificially divide us?

...our God writes us messages of love on the petals of flowers and leaves of trees?

...each individual life needs its own quiet place in the life of the Body of Christ?

...the smallest space within our soul is as great as the vast universe?

GREGORY ENLIGHTENS A DARKENED NATION

You may be surprised to learn that Armenia, not Byzantium, was the first empire to embrace Christianity as its official religion, doing so near the end of the 3rd century. This, however, was accomplished at a great price, for many Christians suffered greatly at the hands of the pagan King Tiridates. No one endured more cruel treatment than St. Gregory, who would later become the first bishop of Armenia, and is often referred to as their "Illuminator". Gregory was born into the royal family of Armenia during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian - the last great persecutor of Christians. During time of turmoil in his nation, Gregory withdrew to Caesarea in Cappadocia, where he first encountered Christianity. Soon after embracing this new faith, Gregory returned to his native country - a stronghold of paganism - and entered into the service of King Tiridates. When the king discovered that Gregory was a Christian, he subjected him to inhuman torture, ultimately throwing him into a pit that was filled with poisonous reptiles. With God watching over him, this was to be his "home" for 14 years! Tiridates continued his campaign to rid Armenia of all Christians, even attacking a women's monastery, slaying many young women there, including Repsemia and Gaiana, shown with Gregory in our icon. It is said that the king was driven to the brink of insanity by his relentless persecution of Christians. He was healed only after his sister had Gregory released from his captivity, affording the saint the opportunity to offer prayers for her brother's recovery. With his health restored, the king asked Gregory to baptize him, pledging to offer him whatever assistance he needed, to establish Christianity as the faith of his entire nation. Gregory worked tirelessly to make this a reality. Soon all of the temples dedicated to pagan gods were replaced by Christian churches. St. Gregory not only built churches, but established many schools and monasteries as well before falling asleep in the Lord in 335 A.D.

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