



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 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

+++ Today we have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's simple feast of the Protection of the Birthgiver of God. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ The weekly Scripture Study classes begin this Tuesday. Please join us at 7:00 PM until 8: 30 PM to grow in faith response and commitment to our Saviour in prayer and study of his revealed word. The

public is invited to learn with us, so please invite a friend to accompany you. Since it is the Pauline Year, we shall begin studies with the Acts of the Apostles and proceed to the epistles. 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: Tithe Offering, ~~5,000.00~~; Candles, ~~5,000.00~~; Food Coupons, ~~5,000.00~~; Holyday, ~~5,000.00~~; Pennies From Heaven, ~~5,000.00~~; Kitchen, ~~5,000.00~~; Christian Fellowship, ~~5,000.00~~, for a total of ~~5,000.00~~. 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, Mary Jaakobs, Maria Garcia, No Name, Kent & Robin Pasquino, Maria Garcia, 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 \$1426.00 from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ Our religious education program takes place each Sunday following the Divine Liturgy. Please be certain your child is present for classes each week.

+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals ~~5,000.00~~. 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 ~~5,000.00~~ denominations. We invite ALL to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized ~~5,000.00~~ on this project to date!

+++ Please see Marilyn Korba to sign up for the Alaskan Cruise next August, 2009 as well as for starting a new Ten Week Club.

+++ This past week we had our monthly Pirohi Sale. We thank all who labored, who secured orders and delivered them and came in preparation for the event. God bless your devoted souls!

+++ 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 Bake Sale.

+++ We are grateful to Eleni Pappas, our good parishioner for her recent donation to the parish kitchen a shredder used in food preparation at various events. For her kind thoughtfulness we pray the Lord continues to bless her and loved ones with good health for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ Today at 9: 15 AM, on the anniversary of her death, we celebrate a Memorial Service for the repose of the soul of +Terry Young, dear mother of our good parishioner, Robin Pasquino whose anniversary of death is observed. We pray the merciful Lord continues to comfort Robin and her loved ones in their loss and that He grants to the soul of +Terry a blessed repose and creates for her Eternal Memory!

+++ We acknowledge with deep gratitude the kind thoughtfulness of George and Maria Idromennos and daughter Sophia with the recent donation of a sacred icon of the Birthgiver of God obtained from Greece in memory of +Niki Saffliolea. It reposes in blessing on the altar table and will be displayed for veneration in a few weeks. We pray the merciful Lord will comfort the family in their loss and grant the soul of +Niki a blessed repose and Eternal Memory! We invoke upon the generous family the grace of heaven and blessing of the Lord. May they enjoy God's blessings for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ If anyone learns of available property with at least six acres, please advise Father immediately so it may be explored. Father checked out several parcels this past week and only one seems promising. Please offer prayers for guidance and success.

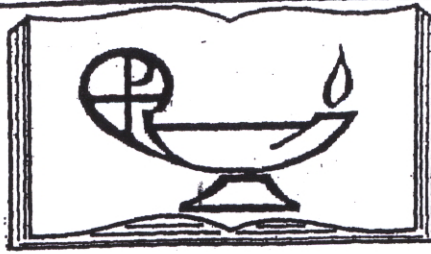
+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!

Choose Carefully

A careless word may kindle strife
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill
A brutal word may smite and kill.

A gracious word may smooth the way
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress
A loving word may heal and bless.

LORD



TEACH
US

Persecution of the Righteous

But all this will be only the beginning of the horrors to come. Then you will be tortured and killed and hated all over the world because you are mine and many of you shall fall back into sin and betray and hate each other Matthew 24: 8.

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.

But if someone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to lose faith, it would be better for that man if a huge millstone were tied around his neck and he were thrown into the sea Mark 9: 42.

But when these things begin to happen, watch out! For you will be in great danger. You will be dragged before the courts and beaten in the synagogues and accused before governors and kings of being my followers. This is your opportunity to tell them the Good News. But when you are arrested and stand trial, do not worry about what to say in your own defense. Just say what God tells you to. Then you will not be speaking but the Holy Spirit will. Brothers will betray each other to death, fathers will betray their own children, and children will betray their parents to be killed. And everyone will hate you because you are mine. But all who endure to the end without renouncing me shall be saved Mark 13: 9 - 13.

For you get enough hate from the world. But then, it hated me before it hated you. The world would love you if you belonged to it; but you do not; for I chose you to come out of the world and so it hates you John 15: 18.



Having
someone
to love is
Family;
Having
somewhere
to go is
Home;
Having both
is
heaven's blessing!

A
Family
is a little world
created by
love.

All Things To All Men

...I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some 1 Corinthians 9: 22.

So fervent and earnest and zealous was the Apostle Paul in his love for souls that he was willing to make any sacrifice necessary to win them to Christ. He was even willing to give up his own legitimate pleasures and desires and wants and deny himself privileges for the good of others. He was willing to abstain from meats which he evidently relished, if eating them would offend someone and hinder his testimony for the cause of the Lord. He said that he could wish himself to be accursed from Christ for his brethren, the Chosen People, the Jews, who persecuted him with a vehemence because he finally succumbed to God's grace and became a devoted follower of the Lord! If one would be a real witness and disciple for Christ, one must subject everything else to this one aim and purpose. That is probably why there are so few really earnest soul winners for the cause of salvation.

To become all things to all men does not, however, mean compromise which takes place so often today. It means that we are willing to employ every legitimate and honorable means to interest people in the gospel of salvation. St. Paul could only say, "I caught you with guile" 2 Corinthians 12: 16. An old missionary in the African jungle offers this insight. He was offered a soup by the natives made of slimy green worms. It actually turned his stomach but he knew if he refused their kind (?) offer of hospitality, they would be offended. Said he, "I swallowed those worms some six times before they actually stayed down." He was finally able to win them for Orthodoxy in the end. That is why we build mission hospitals, not *primarily* to heal men in the flesh, but to *save* them. The hospital is but a merciful measure to reach their soul!

A catechism teacher told her pupils one Sunday of a poor native who having broken his arm, was taken to the mission hospital where he learned about the loving and concerned charity of Christ Jesus. Then the teacher asked, "Now, how could he learn more about the Lord?" One little girl quickly answered, "He could break the other arm!" Our conduct and our conversation among people should always provide openings to tell them about what faith in Christ means to us.

The reason some Christians do not carry the Living Water of Christ to others is that they are so shallow they dry up in summer and freeze over in winter!

In what ways can you implement the spirituality of St. Paul being all things to all men in your own life?

Servants at the altar of the Lord were always distinguished from the lay faithful not only by the implication of their divine vocation, but also in their distinct attire at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and other services. Our Lord himself in the Old Covenant established through Moses for his personally chosen servant-priests garb particularly appropriate at the glorification of God which not only was a sign of their ability and vocation in the priesthood, but also a sign of the awesome dignity of the worshipping tasks they were called upon to celebrate and perform.

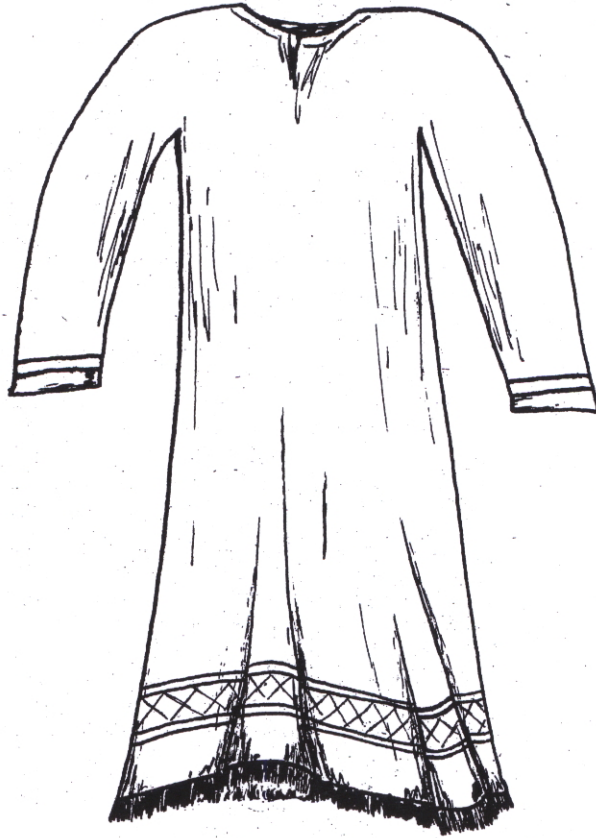
In addition, since ours is the God-revealed manner of worship, that is, that we participate in the eternal glorification of the Holy Trinity in heaven, not only the setting, that is the church, but the vesture of its vitally necessary celebrants must reflect heavenly and never-ending glory. If they do eternal, heavenly work, if they perform Godly tasks, they must appear as such, and must be attired as citizen/servants of the eternal kingdom. The priest then is a particular person, consecrated by the grace of God to offer to the Eternal Father and make proximate the very same only-begotten Son Jesus Christ in a bloodless manner. The priesthood of the New Covenant because it proceeds from its very source in the person of the Saviour who is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, has far greater importance than that of the Old Covenant. Through the person of the priest Christ himself becomes contemporary and serves among us, offering himself for the salvation and life of the world.

The designated prayer which is said by the priest about to celebrate, when he places upon himself the very first vestment, the sticharion, is taken from the Book of Isaiah. It witnesses to the grace which our heavenly Father pours out upon the chosen priest/servant and enumerates the joy which is generated in the heart of the celebrant.

The name of this first vestment has its source in the Greek word of the same spelling and denotes this every day article of clothing was embellished with beauty and decorated design to differentiate it from ordinary every day clothing and render it distinct for celebration at the august sacrifice/oblation. This enhanced article of vesture serves as a reminder to the priestly celebrant adorned in it of his most important task as celebrant of divine mysteries beyond the actual understanding and comprehension of ordinary man. It is a sobering reminder that our God distinguishes him from all others, from half of human creation by infused priestly grace and that in response to this dignity, he must always increase and continue in service to souls for the sake of their salvation while on earth among needy souls.

To the faithful this particular vestment is a reminder of the baptismal robe which is a sign of innocence and divine calling. Thus its color is always pure white and bright as a sign of the work of the Holy Spirit in our souls. It is a reminder both to wearer and those who view it on

the priest that his chosen person is a vehicle of God's grace, that God works through him to affirm and save souls. It is through genuinely lived, seriously accepted priestly life that our God makes known the beauty of Christian effort and never-ending life.



**My soul rejoices in the Lord,
for He has clothed me with the garment of salvation
and with the robe of joy
He has covered me;
As on a bridegroom He has placed on me a crown,
and as a bride, He has adorned me with beauty
Isaiah 61: 10.**



*Wisdom Of
The*

*Byzantine
Fathers*

God wanted us to unite people among ourselves. So He made things in such a way that the good of one is inseparably bound to being useful to others. It is in this way that the world is united St. John Chrysostom.

Deliver...O Lord, every city, and town from...sword, invasion or foreign enemies and civil war St. Basil the Great.

Let us visit Christ, let us care for Christ, let us feed Christ, let us clothe Christ, let us lodge Christ, let us honor Christ St. Gregory the Theologian.

Remember, Lord, those who travel, the sick, suffering and captive, granting them protection and salvation St. John Chrysostom.

Nothing is more honorable or philanthropic to us than to be merciful and to do good, because nothing is more desirable to God St. John Damascene.

Higher Ground

For thus says he who is high and exalted, living eternally, whose name is the Holy One; on high I dwell and in holiness and with the crushed and dejected in spirit, to revive the spirits of the dejected, to revive the hearts of the crushed Isaiah 57: 15, 16.

Our God is not only great, but He is high and holy! When we are saved he takes us up out of the miry clay of sin, raises us to the rock foundation of the narrow way, and establishes our comings and goings. "He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp" Psalms 40: 3. From there our pathway should ever lead us onward and upward toward the city of God. "The path of the just is like a shining light, that grows in brilliance until perfect day" Proverbs 4: 18. Being faithful to Christ places us in the spiritual light of divine favor and blessing, but that is not enough. Our heavenly Father expects us to go from that plateau of salvation to the hills of holiness and sanctification. We are not to be content with just being in the light, but we are to "walk in the light" 1 John 1: 7, until we reach the highlands of victory. Our God dwells in the high and holy place and insists that we "...be holy for I am holy" 1 Peter 1: 16.

An American flying over the Arabian desert landed at an oasis where gasoline and oil were stored so that he might refuel the plane. After taking to the air once again he was over a mountainous area where there were no airports, when suddenly he heard a scratching sound behind him. It was as if some animal were back in the fuselage. He became quite alarmed for he knew if an animal gnawed away at the insulation it might cause a short circuit and tragedy would result; yet it was impossible to land and investigate in that rough territory. Then he had an idea. Putting on a burst of speed he nosed the plane upward. Higher and higher into the sky he flew until the gnawing ceased. Later when he came to an airport, he found an immense desert rat apparently crawled in unnoticed when he refueled at the oasis. The unwanted stowaway was dead! Accustomed as it was to the desert, it could not live when the plane climbed to higher and much colder altitudes.

So it is too in our spiritual life. As we draw nearer to God, that which is mean, selfish, and unclean flees and dies within us. The old man is mortified and the rodent self is done to death.

Seek those things which are above. The higher we go, the more you will want to leave the emptiness of the world behind. Those who live near to heaven receive early notices of God's purposes.

Did You Know That ...

...Gnosticism is the heresy which believes in one's own unique divine enlightenment with a sense of mission to enlighten others, contrary to the express teachings of Christ and the Church?

...real power is spiritual power; it comes from within and it can transform the world?

...the garden of love is green without limit and yields many fruits other than sorrow or joy?

...love is beyond either condition, without spring, without autumn; it is always fresh?

...we have to make manifest the glory of God that is within us?

...nothing in all creation is like God as stillness?

...each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry and to give back?

...the fire which is in within the sun, in the earth is the same fire in our own heart?

...the fullness of joy is to behold God in everything?

...if you are overflowing with peace and joy you can scatter them wherever you are and wherever you go?

...no one can tell what miracles love has in store for us if only we have to the courage to become one with it?

...God is always at home; it is we who have gone out for a walk?

...the kingdom of God is within you?

...our baptismal vocation calls us to be peacemakers in our time and place?

...now is the time to recognize all you do is sacred?

...the journey to God's love is in the human heart?



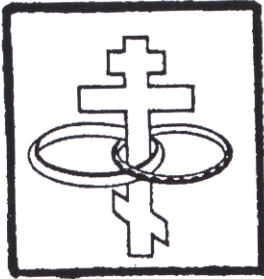
Birthday
Wishes!

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 September.

October 3 Susan M. Sorochnka
October 11 Elizabeth A. Simon
October 15 Elise Velez
October 27 Father John Cmur

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!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The Byzantine Fathers of the Church were wont to emphasize how ancient and how venerable marriage is in the sight of our God because it was established yet in paradise before the fall of Adam and Eve and brought to blessed perfection by Christ in Cana of Galilee. Its grace survived the sin of our first parents and it remains a sign of the presence of the Holy Trinity in our midst. It is a living symbol of the deep and abiding love between Christ and His Bride, our blessed Church. It is characterized in the liturgical life of the Church as a happy martyrdom. And it is precisely for this reason the sacramental Mystery of Marriage is such a joyous event. On the third Sunday of this month, we honor those of our good parishioners who observe their marriage anniversaries this month of October. They are specially remembered in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and subsequently receive an individual and personal blessing of the Lord at its conclusion. Celebrating this month are:

October 7 Paul & Eleni Pallas

We gratefully give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for having guided and strengthened the marriages of these believers, and their cooperation with sacramental grace to remain faithful to one another over the years. Like all who are faithful to Christ, they recognize the presence and necessity of the Holy Spirit not only in the marriage, but in subsequent family life as well. As we praise our God for their witness in our midst, let us also join them with our prayers and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lord. May they continue to praise His Holy Name by their love and devotion to one another for

Many and Blessed Years!

COMPASSION ♦ ♦ ♦

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN often visited hospitals to talk with wounded soldiers during the Civil War. Once, doctors pointed out a young soldier who was near death and Lincoln went over to his bedside.

“Is there anything I can do for you?” asked the President.

The soldier obviously didn’t recognize Lincoln, and with some effort he was able to whisper, “Would you please write a letter to my mother?”

A pen and paper were provided and the President carefully began to write down what the young man was able to say:

“My dearest mother, I was badly hurt while doing my duty. I’m afraid I’m not going to recover. Don’t grieve too much for me, please. Kiss Mary and John for me. May God bless you and father.”

The soldier was too weak to continue, so Lincoln signed the letter for him and added, “Written for your son by Abraham Lincoln.”

The young man asked to see the note and was astonished when he discovered who had written it. “Are you really the President?” he asked.

“Yes, I am,” Lincoln replied quietly. Then he asked if there was anything else he could do.

“Would you please hold my hand?” the soldier asked. “It will help to see me through to the end.”

In the hushed room, the tall, gaunt President took the boy’s hand in his and spoke quiet words of encouragement until death came.

ST. INNOCENT: ENLIGHTENER OF THE ALEUTS

The ministry of St. Innocent found him not only traveling great geographic distances, but making large strides in taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the "ends of the earth." He was born in the village of Anginsk in the Irkutsk Diocese of Russia in 1797. Innocent would begin his apostolic work as a simple parish priest - Father John Veniaminov - and would ultimately end it as Metropolitan of Moscow. He may best be remembered, however, for his labors in the remote regions of Alaska, where he was instrumental in bringing the Holy Orthodox Faith to the natives there. Father John first came to Alaska in 1823. He spent considerable time among the Aleuts, translating a catechism and the Gospel into their native language. He and his family ministered to the faithful all over this vast land, preaching and teaching the Orthodox way of life. In 1838, the Veniaminov's returned to Russia.

Father John's life changed the following year, when his beloved wife Katherine died. In 1840, he was consecrated a bishop, taking the name of "Innocent" and assigned to become the first Bishop of Alaska. He would remain there for nearly 30 years. The challenges in filling the spiritual needs of the faithful of such a far-flung Diocese were many. His archpastoral journeys were long and dangerous. Still, St. Innocent had remarkable success in organizing and educating the varied local tribes whose communities were under his care.

St. Innocent was summoned back to Russia in 1868, to assume the responsibilities of "Metropolitan of Moscow." He left Alaska with sadness in his heart, but he realized that "The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord." (Psalm 36:23) St. Innocent passed on to his eternal reward on March 31, 1879.

Icon by Austin Kachek - Manville, NJ

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