

ὁ ἅγ. εὐστάθιος ὁ πακίδας

Ἡ ἅγια θεοπίμη

ὁ ἅγ θεοπίμης ὁ ἅγ ἀγάπιος



# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 23, 2007

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 commission our teachers to begin a new Catechetical Year in the parish. Our Jesus School will meet each Sunday after the Divine Liturgy. Parents should see to it the children are here every week to benefit from the instructions imparted. We pray for our teachers and commend them to the inspiration and care of the Holy Spirit for success in the sight of our good God.

+++ We express our deep gratitude to Frank & Maria Pashos Family in sponsoring the September Bulletin in thanksgiving to God for the many blessings they have received. May the good Lord continue to bless them with abundant good health for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ Too late did we receive this past Tuesday a letter from the Chancery Office requesting a special collection today for the victims of tragic fires in Greece recently. So many Orthodox faithful have lost their homes and been displaced. We always like to pre-announce special offerings in advances, so we will have the offering next Sunday. Please use the GUEST OFFERING ENVELOPE at the rear of the church for your generous gift.

+++ The next Pirohi Sale will take place on Saturday, October 6, with preparations with fillings taking place the Thursday before.

+++ The Thanksgiving Bake Sale will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17 while that for the Nativity of our Lord will be conducted on Friday and Saturday, December 14 and 15.

+++ We continue to be in need of Web Site donor-sponsors. The amount is \$25.00 per month. Please see Father as soon as possible.

+++ May all glory, adoration, 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!

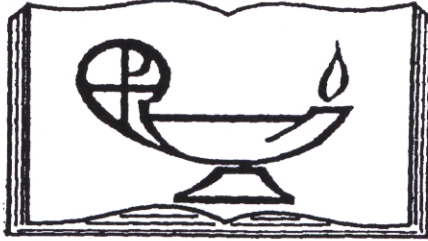
### Web Site Address

Parish: [www.stpaul-freehold.com](http://www.stpaul-freehold.com)

Father's address: [fatherbob@stpaul-freehold.com](mailto:fatherbob@stpaul-freehold.com)

**Check Out Our New Website!**

LORD



TEACH  
US

### Signs Of The End

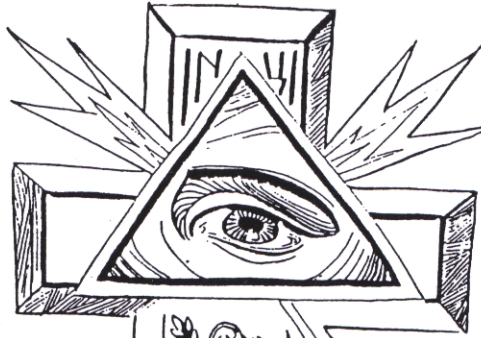
*And Jesus answered and said to them, take heed that no man deceive you. For many will come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes, in diverse places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you and you shall be hated of all nations for my name sake. And then shall many be offended and shall betray one another and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that endures to the end, shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations and then the end shall come Matthew 24: 4 – 14.*

*Then shall two be in the field; one shall be taken and the other left. Watch therefore for you do not know at what hour your Lord will come. Therefore be ready for in such an hour as you do not think the Son of Man will come Matthew 24: 40, 42, 44.*

*Know this also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemous, disobedient to parents, unthankful and unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of Godliness, but denying the power of i., From such turn away 2 Timothy 3: 1 – 5.*

*Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God created to be received with thanksgiving for them who believe and know the truth 1 Timothy 4: 1 – 3.*

i listened  
to the  
words of the  
Lord.



**THINK**  
**UPON THESE THINGS!**

- St. Paul

## Who's To Blame?

Here is an old story that dramatizes how easily communication can go wrong.

Two men out walking heard the loud, pealing bells of a nearby church. One said, "aren't those bells lovely?"

The second man, struggling to hear over the loudness of the bells asked, "What's that you say?"

The first man repeated his question, but the increasingly irritated second man shouted back, "Those confounded bells are making too much noise for me to hear you."

At first glance, the first man is our hero. He's "awake" to the beauty of the church bells, while the second man is too caught up in conversation to enjoy them. But is this fair? Rather than asking questions when his companion can't hear, shouldn't the first man let them both listen to the bells and then ask his questions? Of course, nobody - and no communication - is perfect, except the salutary message entrusted to us by our Lord.

## United Effort

The salvation of humanity lies nowhere else except in its heart responding to the salutary message of Christ. Human beings have power to reflect in meekness and responsibility. Without a resolution in human consciousness nothing will change for the better and the catastrophe towards which this world is headed will be

unavoidable. But with God all things are possible because all we really have to do is take the energy it takes to pout and transform it into a blessing for ourselves and others.

## Folklore Teaches

Each month the moon shines some nights and is dark on others. Here is a Nigerian folktale explaining why this is so.

Once, long ago, a hungry crocodile pleaded with an antelope for food from his farm, but was refused. Next he tried a neighboring sheep, who generously shared her food with him. The crocodile, in turn, shared his bounty with a python. To show his gratitude for such kindness, the python gave the crocodile a jewel that lit up the night.

The sheep caught sight of the dazzling jewel and had to have it! So she traded her farm for it. But without a farm, the sheep grew hungry and had to beg her neighbor for help. Again, the antelope refused, as did other neighbors. Finally the folk god, saw the sheep's plight and fed her. The grateful sheep gave her only treasure to the folk god, who took it to the sky people to benefit all mankind.

The jewel, then was kept in a box, which was opened some nights to remind us of the sheep's generosity. But the sky people also kept the box closed part of the time to remind us of the darkness of selfishness and the problems and dangerous limitations it causes in the lives of others.

## Perspective

Here is a popular story about the governor of a state and his wife out on a drive in their rare leisurely moments. As they passed through the area where the wife had grown up, they stopped for gas. When the attendant came out, the governor saw that his wife and the attendant recognized each other, though they didn't speak. The governor sensed that the attendant might be someone his wife had been involved with in her younger days.

The wife relaxed and sat silently for quite a while after they resumed their trip. Finally the governor said, "I guess that you and that fellow knew each other long ago. I bet you've been thinking how your life would have been totally different had you married him; that you would be the wife of a gas station attendant."

"Well no," she replied, "I was actually thinking that *he* would have become governor."

## Self-Acceptance

Many people say you better forget about yourself and love other people. Well, it does not always work quite that simply. The truth is, you must first accept yourself and love yourself with all your mistakes, all of your so-called sins, all the times you look like a fool, and all the times you have acted inappropriately. You must be able to stand before the entire world and make no excuse for yourself. When you can do that, you are coming from a position of

unconditional love. Maybe afterwards then, you will be able to share yourself with others as created in God's image.

## Hands On

A prominent American public speaker once entered a Fannie May candy shop and related this encounter. At the counter was a small, older lady who had apparently already been waited on. He asked the clerk something about the selection, but the lady broke in and answered. In fact, she answered all ensuing questions, until the man became annoyed and turned his back on her, which had no deleterious effect.

Finally, the lady remembered that she had a plane to catch and left. Both the man and the clerk breathed a sigh of relief. The man was glad to be rid of the irritating pest. The clerk, however, shouted to the back room, "Okay, girls, you can relax and come out now, Fannie May is gone!"

The annoying lady was the candy chain's owner! She traveled about, visiting her shops and, as the man found out, making sure customers got all the help she could give. What seemed like intrusiveness was in fact, the pride and loving concern of ownership. Many times, loving concern and interest in another's well-being is considered intruding, but it can be a genuine expression of Christ's love if rightly perceived and understood! How many times have you misunderstood the rightful interest of others and missed an expression of God's love?

## First to Know

Ms. Smigdolessa was a very good teacher, but she just didn't like one of her fifth grade students. Teddy was quiet, he was slow, he wasn't popular; he wasn't even clean. So she spent little time with him and fully expected him to repeat the fifth grade.

Just before the Nativity holy days, the teacher reviewed Teddy's school records and discovered from his previous teacher's notes that his mother had died and his father showed little interest in him. She began to feel deep pangs of guilt. Why hadn't she investigated earlier?

Then the holidays arrived and the season of gift-giving appeared. All the class bought her presents, including Teddy. He obviously had less money to spend than the others and his offering was merely a gaudy rhinestone bracelet with some stones missing and a half-empty bottle of cheap cologne. The other students began snickering, but the teacher turned the situation around by wearing Teddy's gifts. And when he stayed after school to shyly tell her, "You smell just like Mom," all the things that had been keeping her from caring about this little boy whom no one else cared about suddenly melted away. After he had left, she sat alone in her classroom and cried for what she hadn't wanted to know.

The teacher then spent every late afternoon for the rest of the school year with Teddy, helping him catch up with his

studies. One step at a time, he made it. When he subsequently moved away before entering sixth grade, she was sad to see him go, but she knew that he could now hold his own.

Seven years later, she received a note from Teddy, saying he wanted her "to be the first to know" that he had graduated from high school, second in his class. Four years later, he wanted her to be the first to know that he had graduated from college, first in his class. And a few years later, she was also the first to know he had become a physician.

The teacher knew that she played a genuine part in his success, but that she owed him just as much for what he had shown and taught her. It was because of Teddy's own courage in seeking love and attention that she had been the first to see the potential in the little boy no one else had cared about. And in investing a few moments each day in this boy's life, she enriched herself beyond measure!

## Strongest Motive

In a remote section of the Andes, a highland tribe attacked a lowland tribe. The highlanders kidnapped a lowland baby girl and took her back to their mountain stronghold. Though the lowland tribe had no knowledge of the mountains or how to climb them, they immediately sent an armed band of their most powerful men after the kidnapped child.

But they had no luck. For several days, they tried every route they could find but



always ran up against walls of sheer rock they could nor surmount, or impenetrable jungle they could not negotiate. Finally, they had to admit defeat and began packing their gear to return to the lowland village. Then they noticed the mother of the stolen infant walking toward them, carrying the precious baby she had lost and coming down the mountain they had been unable to climb.

They asked in amazement, "How were you able to climb those impenetrable mountains, let alone get back your child when our rescue efforts failed?"

She lovingly smiled and said, "It was not your daughter."

How many times something similar happens in our lives. It is only Christ and we who are most interested in the well-being and salvation of our soul!

## Moment Of Truth

Near the end of the nineteenth century a rich boy and a poor boy got into a fight. The rich boy finally won the scuffle, but as the poor boy got up and dusted himself off, he said, that he would have won if he had had the same nutritious food as the rich boy. The rich boy was hit hard by the truth of what he had just heard but never thought of before.

That moment had a lifelong effect on the rich boy. He gave up the trappings of his wealth, such as wearing expensive clothing. He dedicated his life to serving humanity, especially those without wealth

and in genuine need. He became a physician, a missionary, a musician, a philosopher, and a philanthropist. In 1952, he received the Nobel Peace Prize. As a child he confronted the inequity of his advantages, and for the rest of his life, Albert Schweitzer put them to good use caring for the needs of others in a Christ-like way.

## Signature

A former Secretary of the United States Treasury was being interviewed upon the expiration of her term. She noted, "My signature appears on \$60 billion of United States currency. More important, however, is the signature that appears on my life, the strong, proud, assertive, handwriting of a loving mother and father who influenced me with Christian values and example that are important in my daily life."

## What Goes Around...

A postal clerk make a discovery about her customers and coworkers and her own human nature. A newspaper editorial charged her branch had the "rudest people in town." She was angry. "I was rude because they were rude to me," she said. "What goes around comes around." Then she wondered what would happen if she treated others with courtesy. Would that come around too? She made an effort to get to know names, to smile and ask how they were doing. Even a man known for grouchiness became a favorite customer. It all started with the notion that what "goes around" can be good news.



## The Old Country Priest says...

Worry never climbed a hill.  
Worry never paid a bill.  
Worry never dried a tear.  
Worry never calmed a fear.  
Worry never cooked a meal.  
Worry never fixed a broken wheel.  
And worry has never gotten anyone a job.  
In fact, worry has never done anything that  
needed to be done. So why do you waste time  
and energy in worry? It is not Christ-like to  
worry!

## ANCIENT WISDOM

**“Whatever we learn to do, we learn by actually doing it: Men come to be builders, for instance, by building, and harp players by playing the harp. In the same way, by doing just acts, we come to be just; by doing self-controlled acts, we come to be self-controlled and discipline; and by doing brave acts, we become brave.”** This wisdom from the ancient pagan philosopher, Aristotle who lived some four hundred years before our Lord came among us, can offer encouragement and common sense to the Christian believer.

If we wish to be praying people, we do it by actually praying with sincerity so that the Lord will see our devotion and increase it within us. If we wish to be genuinely Orthodox, we must become involved with what it is that Orthodox believers do, take up our Cross and follow Christ. Our perfect practice will ultimately make us perfect if we have both the right and serious intention and couple it with grace. If we truly wish to be worshipping people who glorify our God and Creator, that is what we will be found doing. All the inexperience, all the difficulties will be overcome by our eagerness to be what our God has called us to become because his grace will supply what is lacking in us.

# Did You Know That ...

...if you count the sunny and cloudy days of the whole year, you will find that sunshine predominates?

...the world needs all the help you can give by way of cheerful prayer, optimistic, inspiring intercession and personal example?

...a strong positive attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug?

...destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice and is not to be waited for, but a thing to be achieved?

...even the things you cannot imagine are possible with God?

...a hundred years from now, it will not matter what your bank account was, the sort of house you lived in, or the kind of car you drove, but the world may be entirely different because you made Christ important in the life of your child?

...to be genuinely civilized is to be incapable of giving unnecessary offense; it is to have some quality of Christ-like consideration for all who cross your path?

...even though we have learned to fly through the air like birds, now all we have to do is learn to walk on the face of the earth like men?

...instinct is the nose of the mind?

...love is a quality that is never out of season?

...the future is not there waiting for us; it is we who create it in Christian hope?

...followers of Christ not only love the destination, but the journey as well?

...in dusting off old junk, we sometimes come up with a gem?

...the best preparation for tomorrow is to do today's work superbly well?

...when you work, *work*, and when you play, *play*; do not get the two mixed up?

## Joy in the Morning

O Lord, My God, I cried to Thee  
In life's most darkest hour,  
And Thou didst hear me in distress  
And healed me by Thy power.

Thou brought my soul up from the pit  
Thou gave me life anew,  
I know now in Thy mercies  
All is possible with You.

With Thou, my Shepherd, I'll not stray  
Thou guardest all Thy flock,  
And lead Thy sheep to safely stand  
Upon the Solid Rock.

I will extol Thee, O, my Lord  
For Thou hast raised me up,  
I will rejoice and sing Thy praise  
For Thou hast filled my cup.

❧ ❧ A FAITHFUL FAMILY ❧ ❧

**W**e are all, no doubt, familiar with the story of the Apostle Paul's amazing conversion along the road to Damascus - - how he encountered a blinding light from which the Lord spoke to him: "Saul, Saul, who do you persecute me?". The MARTYR EUSTATHIOS, once a prideful Roman general, had an even more unbelievable occurrence that caused him to embrace Christianity. While hunting one day, the general, whose given Roman name was Plakidas, cornered a deer and was prepared to kill him. Suddenly, a dazzling cross of light appeared between the deer's antlers and Plakidas heard these words: "Why are you against Me? I am Christ. Abandon your pagan ways and come to know Me as the living God." Shaken, the general left the forest and immediately sought baptism for his entire family, taking the name Eustathios. His wife was given the name Theopisti, while his two sons became known as Agapios and Theopistos.

Eustathios secretly left Rome with his family to live a simple life of service to the Lord. But life for Eustathios would be far from simple! Arriving in Egypt, his wife was kidnapped and his sons carried off by wild beasts. After 15 years of separation, they were all miraculously reunited in the village of Vadisis.

Eustathios and his family returned to Rome, where the Emperor Hadrian was now in power. The former general was summoned by the Emperor to offer sacrifices to idols with his family. When Eustathios revealed that he was now a Christian, his entire family was put to death in the year 126 A.D.