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# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

October 31, 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

+++      *The Scripture Study Class meets on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please come and join us by investing time in learning our precious faith so we can better enjoy and live it! The public is invited to participate with us, so invite a friend or neighbor. In preparation for this week, please read the fifth to eighth chapters of the Book of Genesis.*

+++ *We sincerely thank all who invested themselves in the success of this past week's Pirohi Sale. We invoke upon all who made it worthwhile the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that good health continue to occupy our beloved faithful and their loved ones for Many & Blessed Years!*

+++ **The Thanksgiving Bake Sale will be held Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20. Please secure orders to assure its success.**

+++ *We will have our annual Nativity Holy Day Gertrude Hawke Candy Sale again. We are assured of orders from Major League Baseball, so we ask our faithful to submit and secure orders early. The dead line is Sunday, November 28. Please cooperate since we lost the income from the last sale which was too small to submit. Order blanks and informational booklets are on the counter in the kitchen.*

+++ *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, ~~\$571.00~~; Candles, ~~\$59.00~~; Food Coupons, ~~\$240.00~~; Holyday, ~~\$15.00~~; Kitchen, ~~\$54.00~~; Pennies From Heaven, ~~\$4.00~~; Special Gift, ~~\$250.00~~; Christian Fellowship, ~~\$9.00~~, for a total of ~~\$1202.00~~. 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 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.*

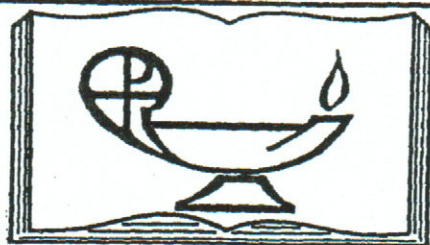
+++ *We make a PENNIES FROM HEAVEN Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of ~~\$1582.00~~ from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.*

+++ *For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals ~~\$105,815.00~~. 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!*



LORD



TEACH  
US

### At Times Of Suffering

*As we have shared much in the suffering of Christ, so through Christ do we share abundantly in his consolation. Our hope for us is firm because we know that just as you share in the sufferings, so you will share in the consolation* 2 Corinthians 1: 5, 7.

*I tell you this that in me you may find peace. You will suffer in the world. But take courage! I have overcome the world* John 16: 33.

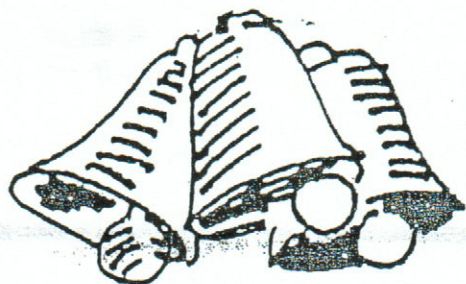
*Do not be surprised beloved that a trial by fire is occurring in our midst. It is a test for you, but it should not catch you off guard. Rejoice instead, in the measure that you share Christ's sufferings. When this glory is revealed, you will rejoice exultantly. Happy are you when you are insulted for the sake of Christ, for then God's Spirit in its glory has come to rest on you* 1 Peter 4: 12 - 14.

*When a man can suffer injustice and endure hardship through his awareness of God's presence, this is the work of grace in him. If you do wrong and get beaten for it, what credit can you claim? But if you put up with suffering for doing what is right, this is acceptable in God's eyes. It was for this you were called, since Christ suffered for you in just this way and left you an example, to have you follow in his footsteps* 1 Peter 2: 19 - 21.

*I repeat, we are full of confidence and would much rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. This being so, we make it our aim to please him whether we are with him or away from him. The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ so that each one may receive his reward, good or bad, according to his life in the body* 2 Corinthians 5: 8 - 10.

*If anyone among you is suffering hardship, he must pray. If a person is in good spirits, he should sing a hymn of praise* James 5: 13.

## CHURCH BELLS



A striking component of worship is the ringing of bells at appointed times. Each day cycle of public divine services begins with the ringing of bells and anyone who has witnessed the procession around the church at the time of the holy Resurrection cannot forget the almost continuous peal of the church bells. Usually a separate structure was erected to contain the bells, but more often in modern times a belfry is erected in one of the towers of the parish church, primarily over the entrance to the church building within which the bells are housed.

The purpose of ringing bells is to call the faithful to worship, to inform those who cannot be present for good reason of the various important liturgical moments of the services, as well as calling worshippers to concentrate attention at these moments. It is also used to signal the arrival of the hierarch of the diocese at the church. There historically have been four basic types of bell ringing:

Announcement, the

Peal with as many as three bells; Chain-ringing with linked bells; and the Toll which is broken or interrupted.

### The Announcement

This is a slow rhythmic, unhurried striking of one bell, which is usually rung for the announcing of the beginning of services such as the Ninth Hour, Vespers, Compline, Nocturnes, Matins, First Hour, Third Hour, Sixth Hour, Divine Liturgy, the Great Compline and Thanksgiving Prayer Service. The Announcement bell is also employed at other moments of the services, for example, it was formerly the practice to strike the bell twelve times at each of the twelve components of the Creed in the Divine Liturgy and also before and during the singing of "It is truly proper..."

During the Great Fast on Wednesdays, the Announcement bell is rung at the Third, Sixth, and Ninth Hours as well as at Great Compline with three strikes for the third Hour, six for the Sixth Hour and nine for the Ninth Hour along with twelve times for the Great Compline. During Passion Week, the bells of the church are rung only until Good Friday at which time no bells are rung, but the clappers of the church are used which simulate the thunder and confusion in nature which ensued at the time of our Lord's crucifixion, death and burial. Bell ringing is not resumed until the procession announcing the Resurrection of our Lord. The only instance the Announcement bell would be rung on



Great Friday is on the occasion of the feast of the Annunciation being celebrated the same day.

Before the Divine Liturgy the Announcement bell is rung at least a half hour before it starts and at the actual time it begins. The pre-announcement peal reminds the faithful in the surrounding area that worship was about to begin and they should make preparations to enter the church and make appropriate spiritual transformation for the liturgical celebration.

This bell is also rung prior to the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy during the entire time of the bishop's vesting in the center of the church.

### The Peal

This is the ringing of bells in three modes, three times repeating a musical measure with a definite harmony of many selected bells. The Peal is used at the start of major services, combined with the Announcement ringing. The Peal is rung at the beginning of Matins, and at the beginning of the Gospel. It is also rung at the actual beginning of the Divine Liturgy, along with the Announcement bell and at its conclusion. It is also read after each verse of the Gospel read on the feast of the Resurrection.

### Chain Ringing

This is a successive ringing of all the bells from the largest with the lowest pitch to the smallest with the highest pitch, with the

striking of each bell a number of times before the next bell is struck, and repeating this method several times. It is used before the great Blessing of Water on the feast of Theophany, before carrying out the Holy Cross on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and on the Third Sunday of the Great Fast, as well as at the Hours if they are celebrated prior to the consecration of a bishop. It is also rung, together with a short ringing of the Peal at the Immersing of the Holy Cross at the time of the Great Blessing of Water. When Matins is celebrated on Holy and Great Saturday and the Holy Shroud is once again carried in procession around the church, Chain-ringing the bells may accompany the procession as a sign of the forthcoming joy with the Resurrection of the Saviour.

This mode of bell ringing is also utilized during the burial of priests and bishops as their earthly remains enter and leave the church.

### The Toll

This is the particularly slow ringing of each bell with the largest to the smallest and ending with a striking of all the bells at once. It is used at the receiving and carrying of the earthly remains of departed souls from the church for burial and is known as the funeral toll. There is no Peal after the Toll. In some places, upon receipt of the word of a soul's departing, the church bells rang the Toll to share this announcement with the believing community.

## How Do You Hear?

*Take heed, therefore, how you hear....Luke 8: 18*

Careless listening results in much misunderstanding. We have been accused of saying all kinds of strange things which we had no idea of saying. It is because people do not listen carefully or do not get the whole story. Jesus therefore tells us to heed carefully how we listen, how we hear.

A retired priest tells the story which produced quite a reaction over the local radio news in his town. In the course of preaching a homily in the local parish while substituting for the local priest, he went on to say he was looking for the second coming of the Lord that year. He received, among others, scorching letters from indignant listeners who accused him of setting dates and predicting the return of Christ that calendar year. But he actually said nothing of the kind. All he said was that he was so exasperated with moral conditions in the world, he was looking forward to the coming of Christ. He did not predict he would come, but simply was looking forward to his coming here and now. And if it didn't happen that year, while being interviewed afterwards, he simply said, he was looking forward to Christ coming the following year. Take heed how you hear! Before judging another's remarks find out just exactly what was said and what was meant. This is especially true of God's revelation to us in Scripture. Many times people hear what they want to hear. Just one misunderstanding of one word can cause an entirely wrong impression.

A small boy asked his father how good he was at arithmetic and being assured the elder thought himself fairly good, the lad posed this question: "There were three frogs sitting on a log. A tree frog, a leopard frog and a peeper frog. The tree frog decided to jump off. How many frogs were left on the log?" Very confidently the father replied somewhat quickly, "Why two of course." "You're wrong," gleefully exclaimed the smart son, "there were three frogs left. The tree frog only decided to jump, but he did not actually jump." Take heed what you hear. It takes big man to sympathize, but any little man can criticize.

Help me the good in others to behold;  
Make deaf my ears to slander that is told;  
Silence my tongue to stop what is unkind;  
Let thoughts that bless only dwell in my mind.



Wisdom Of  
The



Byzantine  
Fathers

They greatly err who acknowledge that the flesh of man was assumed by Christ, but deny that the affections of man were also assumed; and they contravene the purpose of the Lord Jesus himself since thus they take away from man what constitutes man, for man cannot be man without human affections St. Ambrose of Milan.

Jesus whom I know as my Redeemer cannot be less than God St. Athanasius the Great.

Christ was a complete man St. Augustine of Hippo.

As the print of the seal on wax is the express image of the seal itself, so Christ is the express image, the perfect representation of God the Father St. Ambrose of Milan.

He became what we are that he might make us what he is St. Athanasius the Great.



## Work At It

*Let each of you in particular so love his wife as himself and let the wife see that she respects her husband Ephesians 5: 33.*

If your marriage is not working, take heart. Neither is the marriage of anyone else. In every healthy marriage, it is the people who work, not the relationship. A newspaper featured two headlines shouting from adjacent pages. In Japan, Battered Wives Begin To Rebel, and Britain Tries To Shore Up Marriages. These are different countries and distinctly disparate cultures, but the same problems. Why?

Could it be that we expect another person to meet the deepest needs of our hearts? Are we depending on a husband or wife to provide all the answers to life's problematic needs? If so, we have placed an impossible burden on that person. Or is it our own reluctance to face the truth about ourselves, preferring to believe that it is our spouse who has a problem? Is it because our God has no place in the marriage and we look to each other for all the answers daily difficulties ask?

The divine commands for husbands and wives in marriage is instructively chanted from the Ephesian epistle (5: 22 – 33), during the wedding ceremony. They are the framework to success in marriage, not at all a checklist to use in evaluating the performance of our spouse. It is a place to find out and respond to our own job description. These instructions are given to weak, sinful people who need a Saviour and his transforming power, coupled with heavenly grace which makes possible the fulfillment of God's will in our lives.

Most people would prefer a successful and fulfilling marriage that just happens by itself, without any personal exertion of effort or appropriation and working within the framework of grace. But a growing marriage requires unrequited effort and perseverance. God calls us to work at our relationship with him and with the person we promise to enduringly love.

"For better or worse," we pledge.  
Through sickness and through strife;  
and by God's grace and with his help  
we intend to keep these vows for life.

Success in marriage is more than finding the right person; it is being the right person!

## What To Give Our Children

*We will not hide from their sons; we will declare to the generation to come the glorious deeds of the Lord and his strength and the wonders he wrought*

Psalms 78: 4.

Each year is said, Americans spend 24 billion dollars on their children. Much of that, of course, is for essentials, but too many billions go for an endless catalog of "things" – Furbies, Barbies, Beanies, CDs, TVs and other similar nonsense.

Is it wrong to spend so much on children? That question does not have an easy answer. The tough questions are these: Do parents spend money on their children so they do not have to spend time with them? Are parents attempting to show their success in this life by showering their offspring with questionable "necessities" to show their affluence and success in this earthly life?

One study some time ago in *The Wall Street Journal*, left that impression. It revealed that a majority of the 10 and 11 year-olds have a TV in their rooms and can watch whatever they want. The real issue is certainly not the money, but the reason for expending it. Do parents want to entertain, to indulge and to buy their children's love? Or do they want to teach their children in godliness as required of parents by our Creator? That requires careful instruction from the tradition of the Church.

It takes years of time coupled with perseverance and grace to "train up a child" Proverbs 22<sup>6</sup>. It takes observation and involvement for a parent to provide "...the discipline of the Lord" Proverbs 3: 12. Concerted and concentrated effort is required to teach God's principles. "However, take care and be earnestly on your guard not to forget the things which you own eyes have seen, nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live, but teach them to your children and to your children's children" Deuteronomy 4: 9.

Wisdom is required and needed to be fair. "Fathers do not anger your children, Bring them up with the training and instruction befitting the Lord" Ephesians 6: 4. Diligence is required to manage a believing family well. "Deacons may be married but once and must be good managers of their children and their households" 1 Timothy 3: 12.

Truths and principles of God's revelation to us in the tradition of the Church and most certainly not excessive personal indulgence with created things is what our Creator God expects us to enrich the lives of our children with: time, perseverance, effort, wisdom, diligence. The best things parents can enrich their children with is generous time and godly example.



# **Did You Know That ...**

**...great successes are built on taking negatives and turning them around?**

**...friendship is not a big thing; it is a million little things?**

**...there are no gains without pains?**

**...the purpose of life is to believe, to hope and to achieve salvation?**

**...positive anything is always better than negative nothing?**

**...truly wise people are so filled with joy they cannot be defeated by trouble?**

**...an unexpected turn can become a life-long path?**

**...we ought to be pessimists about probabilities, but optimists about possibilities?**

**...if we can forget our troubles as easily as we forget our blessings, how different this world would be?**

**...we Orthodox believers should never lose sight of the fact that living in Christ is fun?**

**...we fail only when we fail to imitate the Lord?**

**...we should reach for the best within us because it should be Christ in us?**

**...we all need a push now and then, and the grace of the Holy Spirit is willing to do it?**

**...it is amazing what we can accomplish when we don't know what we can do?**

**...the memories we capture today at the Divine Liturgy will make beautiful tomorrows in eternity?**

**...there is a tipple effect in all that we do; what you do touches me; what I do touches you?**

**...for true believers, happiness is being with those we love; Christ and the saints and angels at the Divine Liturgy?**

"LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST IS NOT LIFE . . ."

**T**he relationship between a brother & sister can take many different paths. There is often a competition or rivalry between the two, as they seek the attention & affection of their parents. Many times, however, an unbreakable bond is formed between the two - almost to the point where they act & think as "*one*." Such was the case of the Hieromartyr Zenobius & his sister Zenobia.

Zenobius & Zenobia came from the town of Aegae in Cilicia. They inherited a great deal of material wealth from their parents, but Zenobius & Zenobia received an even greater "*gift*" from their mother & father: a deep love for the Christian Faith. Like many of the saints of the early Church, this pious brother & sister willingly shared their abundance with those less fortunate - they literally gave away all that they had to the poor & needy. God blessed the pair in other ways, bestowing the gift of healing upon Zenobius, who was able to cure the sick with the mere touch of his hand. His popularity among the Christians in Aegae brought about his election as Bishop. This was still the era of religious persecution in the Roman Empire, and Zenobius & Zenobia were arrested and brought before the magistrate, who gave them this ultimatum: bow down to our gods, or die! Zenobius responded quickly with these words: "*Life without Christ is not life, but death, and death for Christ's sake is not death, but life.*" When Zenobius was handed over to be tortured, his blessed sister pleaded to be able to "*. . . drink from this cup of suffering.*" Her wish was gladly granted, so Zenobius & Zenobia gave their lives for the Lord in 285 A.D. Thus a brother & sister, whose lives were intertwined in life, entered the Kingdom of Heaven together as well.

*Icon by Austin Kachek - Manville, NJ*

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