

Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ

ΠΑΥΛΟΣ  
ΑΡΧΙΕΠ. ΚΩΝ/ΠΟΛΕΩΣ



# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

November 2, 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 our Jesus School Children come to church dressed as a Bible character or saint of the Church so Father can guess their identity. Prizes will be awarded to all children, especially those who stump Father.

+++ Yesterday we had our monthly Pirohi Sale and we thank all who came and assisted in making it a success, those who made preparations, those who filled orders and secured them and those who labored.

**We invoke upon all the devoted souls of the parish the choice blessing of our heavenly Father for continued good health for Many & Blessed Years!**

+++ This Saturday is the simple feast of St. Michael the Archangel and all Bodiless Powers. In anticipation, the vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Friday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise.

+++ The weekly Scripture Study decided to meet on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy while children attend their own classes. Everyone now has an opportunity to participate in adult religious education at which Scripture is discussed and explained along with other interests.

+++ 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, ~~XXXX~~; Candles, ~~XXXX~~; Food Coupons, ~~XXXX~~0; Pennies From Heaven, ~~XXXX~~; Christian Fellowship, ~~XXXX~~, for a total of ~~XXXX~~0. 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, Debra Szmajda, Mary Jaakobs, Willoiam & HGelen Karpiak, Kent & 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 ~~61422.00~~ 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.

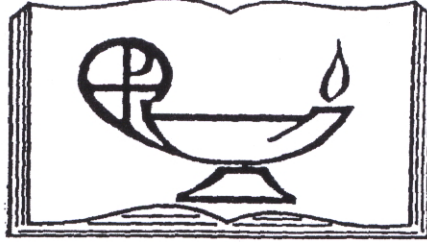
+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals \$99, 685. 00. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite 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 \$20.00 denominations. We invite ALL to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized ~~\$-XXXX~~0 on this project to date!

+++ Please see Marilyn Korba to sign up for the Alaskan Cruise next August, 2009 as well as for starting the new Ten Week Club. We are in need of your support.

LORD



TEACH  
US

## Gossip

*If your brother sins, go and correct him in private. If he listens to you, you have won your brother* Matthew 18: 15.

*You shall not go up and down as a talebearer among your people, neither shall you stand by idly when your neighbor's life is at stake* Leviticus 19: 16.

*A perverse man stirs up dissension and a gossip separates close friends* Proverbs 16: 28.

*He who covers over an offense proves love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends* Proverbs 17: 9.

*As a north wind brings rain, so a sly tongue brings angry looks* Proverbs 25: 23.

*Let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters* 1 Peter 4: 15.

*He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps things hidden* Proverbs 11: 13.

*Anyone who spreads gossip is a fool* Proverbs 10: 18.

*From the scourge of the tongue you shall be hidden and shall not fear approaching ruin* Job 5: 21.

*God hates a proud look and a lying tongue* Proverbs 6: 17.

*If a man who does not control his tongue imagines he is devout, he is self-deceived; his worship is pointless* James 1: 26.

## Smooth Preaching

*Do not deceive for us what is right; speak flatteries to us, conjure up illusions*  
Isaiah 30: 10.

The faithful preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ is never universally popular. While some will love him for his faithfulness, greater numbers will hate and dislike him for his unwillingness to compromise in fidelity to the Lord. In the days and time of Isaiah, the Lord pronounced judgment because the people refused the warning of doom, for they wanted the prophets appointed by God to bring messages which would not condemn their sinfulness. When they were being corrected or reprimanded, their so sensitive feelings became offended. Their feelings were not sensitive when they sinned, but when corrected, they assumed an altogether different posture of victimized victims. They told their teachers, as some today tell their priests, "...speak to us smooth things; do not denounce or mention our sins or tells us what is right; flatter us; conjure up illusions if you must, but do not offend our sensibilities."

We have had episodes in our parish in the past where some shallow souls did not like the message of Christ explained by the priest and so left for greener pastures elsewhere so they could determine the quality of the message they received. How many have not heard from fools in the past, "We pay the priest so he must do what we want!" How deluded some can become because they were not taught the authentic message from heaven in some parish churches.

How many there are that believe a good sermon should make folks feel comfortable and at ease. On the contrary, however, a genuine Scripturally based explanation of God's revelation to us is one which first of all disturbs, irritates, awakens, causes dissatisfaction with the status quo, and insists we examine ourselves and continually change our direction in life until we actually walk the path way of the Lord.

Before anyone can find comfort, even faith in Christ, he must first of all be made to feel and experience his failures and shortcomings instead of representing them as attributes of quality when in fact they are self-condemnatory.

There are three steps in the process of self-conviction, applying the truth of the gospel message to oneself instead of assuming it applies to all others, to our own exclusion. First the

guilty sinner becomes mad, then he become sad, and then, finally, he becomes glad when he confesses his sin, repents and becomes an actual part of the Body of Christ.

What do you think of the sermon or homily your parish priest recently delivered? Was it one that made you feel satisfied with yourself? Was it challenging for you to grow and advance in your assault on the kingdom of heaven? If you did not learn something new to assist in spiritual advancement, you better look for a better preacher or speak to your priest in prayerful earnestness and ask him to beef up his preparation in explaining the word of God as befits his dignity. If we want a good priest in our parish, pray for the one you got, thank God for his response to the grace of the Holy Spirit in being zealous for the sake of Christ!

It is always curious to every priest when people attempt to unduly praise them. Certainly priests wish to do the best they can, but when that occurs it is only doing what Christ expects of them and is not extraordinary. Even our Lord was amused when He witnessed how unconcerned many were about God's revelation to us in the life of his Church They were full of themselves and liked the neer-do-will priests and told everyone who would listen, of their preference. The response of the Lord was: "Woe to you when all speak well of you; their fathers treated the false prophets in just this way" Luke 6: 26. Prior to that He exalted the righteous preacher when saying, "Blessed shall you be when men hate you, when they ostracize you and insult you and proscribe your name as evil because of the Son of God" Luke 6: 22.

A faithful soul described a homily he heard in three distinct ways. He said it was moving, soothing and satisfying. It was moving because half the congregation left before it was over. It was soothing because most of those who remained were falling asleep as it had no impact and it was highly satisfying since everyone declared that they had had enough of that kind of second-rate preaching.

The teaching Word of God is a sword. "Indeed, God's Word is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates and divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the reflections and thoughts of the heart" Hebrews 4: 12, 13.

The teaching Word of God is a knife. "When the Sanhedrin heard this, they were stung with fury and wanted to kill them. Then a member of the Sanhedrin stood up, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law highly regarded by all the people. He had the accused ordered out of the count for a few minutes and then said to the assembly, 'Fellow Israelites, think twice about what you are going to do with these men. Not long ago a certain Theudas came on the scene and tried to pass himself off as someone of importance...However, he was killed and

all those who had been so easily convinced by him were disbanded and it came to nothing....My advice is that you have nothing to do with these men. Let them alone. If their purpose or activity is human in its origins, it will destroy itself. If, on the other hand, it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them without fighting God himself” Acts of the Apostles 5: 33 – 39.

The teaching Word of God is a fire and a hammer. “Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, like a hammer shattering rocks? Therefore I am against the prophets says the Lord, who steal my words from each other, ...who borrow speeches to pronounce oracles....who lead my people astray by recounting their lies and by their empty boasting. From me they have no mission or command and they do these people no good at all...” Jeremiah 23: 29 - 32.

The teaching Word of God is a lamp. “A lamp to my feet is your word, a light to my path” Psalms 119: 105. God’s Word to us wounds to heal and excises and kills to make alive.

We are to preach and to listen attentively and then implement God’s Word in our hearts, in our lives. No book so abounds in such wonderful truth, no guide so unerring in middle, old age or youth. There is no counsel so needed by man in his maturity, no comfort so sweet even on the tomb. Everything in God’s revelation is a vital message to man. Preachers ought and must explain it in word and then live it by example so no listener will ever be able to honestly say he was cheated of God’s riches in salvation because those who were dispatched to preach its truth failed.

Preaching the gospel message is not only absolutely necessary. “I charge you to preach the word, to stay with this task whether convenient or inconvenient – correcting, reproving, appealing – constantly teaching and never losing patience. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but, following their own desires, will surround themselves with teachers who tickle their ears, They will stop listening to the truth and will wander off to fables. As for you, be steady and self-possessed; put up with hardship, perform your work as an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” 2 Timothy 4: 2 – 5.

Just as priests, bishops and deacons are to preach and explain, faithful listeners are to believe, accept and live up to the challenges offered in homilies and sermons.



## Remarkable Obituary

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Mr. Common Sense.

Mr. Sense had been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such value lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm and that life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), and reliable Parenting strategies (adults, not kids, are in charge).

His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

Mr. Sense declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer an aspirin to a student, but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

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Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, she spilled a bit in her lap, and was awarded a huge financial settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility, and his son, Reason.

He is survived by two stepbrothers; My Rights and I am Whiner.

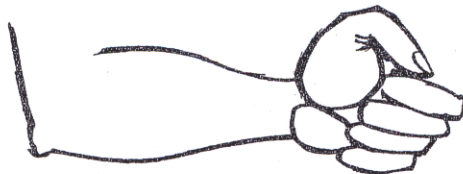
Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

ARIUS, THE NON-BELIEVER SAYS:

**That religion is best which respects our individuality and does not hold us accountable.**



*Need a Helping Hand?*



*Try the End of Your Arm.*

The best kept

# SECRET

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

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

What are  
**YOU**  
doing to change this  
misconception?

**Wondering what to do on a free evening? Look on your calendar and see if a holyday Divine Liturgy is being celebrated and immediately invest your time in worshipping God.**

**Burdened by the oppressive guilt of sin? Examine your conscience and then come a little earlier before divine services and ask your spiritual Father to hear your repentant confession of sins so you may be absolved and have the burden lifted!**

**Need some joy in your life? Participate in heavenly worship each Sunday and holyday and a new spirit will overcome you!**

**Want to spend some time with upright positive people? Sing God's praises with them and enjoy their company at the Christian Fellowship hour each Sunday!**

**Don't know what to do constructively with your spare time? Invest it by building treasure in heaven and give a few hours to the fund-raising events of the parish!**

**Experiencing boredom? Make a genuine effort to respond to the grace of your baptism and take seriously Christ's promises!**

**Finally, to make matters even simpler, allocate some time daily to serious prayer!**

## **UP IN THE AIR?**



## SAINT PAUL: ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

**I**n the year 325, Emperor Constantine convened the great Ecumenical Council in Nicea to confront the problems of the early Christian Church. Among those in attendance was the Priest Alexander, representing the aged and ill Bishop of Byzantium. Accompanying the Priest was a very young secretary named Paul. Prior to the death of the sick Bishop (Metrophanes), he foretold that Alexander would succeed him to the throne of Byzantium, and that in time young Paul, too, would come to be the Patriarch of Constantinople.

And that is exactly what happened. Paul was elevated to the patriarchal throne in the year 336. But those days were difficult ones for the hierarchs of the Church. There was contention in the imperial court, as well as in the Church; there were heresies to deal with; in short, there were problems galore for the leaders of the Empire and the Church.

Archbishop Paul himself was banished from his throne, then returned to it, later condemned by an Arian synod, restored then expelled again, decoyed by soldiers and carried secretly out a back door, confined for a week without food in Armenia and finally strangled to death by his foes. This was about the year 350, and his relics were kept in Constantinople for centuries. No wonder the Church has seen fit to commemorate this saint. His entire life was dedicated to Christ and Church. In spite of all the difficulties and hardships, he persevered in faith. He will always be remembered as one who "cleared the weeds of controversy out of the garden of Christianity."