



E  
T  
E  
R  
N  
I  
T  
Y

# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 14, 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 ninth to twelfth chapters of the Book of Genesis.*



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

+++ *The Offering for flowers to beautify our church for the coming feast of the Nativity of our Lord will be taken on Sunday, December 5.*

+++ *Prices for all the baked goods and products we have for sale will increase beginning January 1. We determined it is better to assure the high quality of our goods instead of reducing their size or using inferior products to make them. A printed listing will be provided this coming week-end at the Bake Sale.*

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

+++ *Tomorrow is the first day of the Nativity Fast which prepares us for the coming august feast of the Nativity of our Lord. Each Monday evening during this sacred season we will have prayer services of anticipation and welcome. Father's series of homilies will be on men of the Old Testament, beginning tomorrow with insights into Cain and Abel.*

+++ *For the good of the parish, please gladly assume the fasting regulations of the Church during this sacred season personally to make ourselves worthy mangers of the Lord and secondly, for the growth and spiritual advancement of our parish that it grow by the grace of Christ.*

+++ *The annual St. Nicholas Luncheon will take place on Sunday, December 5. We will have a sign up sheet available soon. Plan on being with us for a visit from St. Nicholas.*

+++ *The annual THANKSGIVING Food Collection has begun. We have the collection basket out for food products which are needed by the local food bank which we support. Please cooperate and share your blessings with those less fortunate.*

+++ *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, \$543.00; Candles, \$25.00; Food Coupons, \$480.00; Kitchen, \$480.00; Pennies From Heaven, \$1.00, for a total of \$1471.00. 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 \$1606.00 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!

+++ The Clothing Drive is a permanent project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing and fabrics.

+++ We ardently pray this Nativity Fast season be spiritually productive and enriching for our parish. Come and join us regularly in prayer and praise.

+++ We remind our faithful only those who are present for the entire Divine Liturgy should come forward to receive Communion. The entire Liturgy means "Amen" to "Amen."

+++ 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!



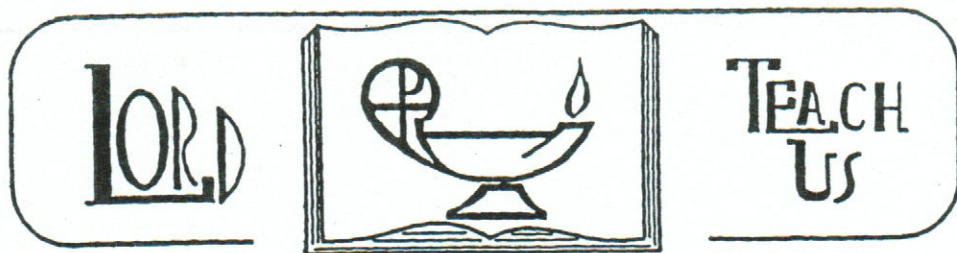


## Teach Us to Live

God of love—Forgive! Forgive!  
Teach us how to TRULY LIVE,  
Ask us not our race or creed,  
Just take us in our hour of need,  
And let us know You love us, too,  
And that we are A PART OF YOU . . .  
And someday may man realize  
That all the earth, the seas and skies  
Belong to God, who made us all,  
The rich, the poor, the great, the small,  
And in the Father's Holy Sight  
No man is yellow, black or white,  
And PEACE ON EARTH cannot be found  
Until we MEET ON COMMON GROUND  
And every man becomes a BROTHER  
Who worships God and loves each other.

Beloved, let us love one another:  
for love is of God;  
and every one that loveth is born of God,  
and knoweth God.

1 John 4:7



## Finding His Will

*I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk; I will counsel you, keeping my eye on you Psalm 32:8.*

*We know, too, that the Son of God has come and has given us discernment to recognize the one who is true. And we are in the one who is true, for we are in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life 1 John 5:20.*

*Any man who chooses to do his will knows about this doctrine, namely, whether it comes from God or is simply spoken on my own John 7:17.*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths Proverbs 3:5, 6.*

*For I will give you words and a wisdom which none of your adversaries can take exception to or contradict Luke 21:15.*

*When he comes, however, being the Spirit of truth, he will guide you in all truth. He will not speak on his own, but will speak only what he hears, and will announce to you the things to come John 16:13.*

*Evil men understand nothing of justice, but those who seek the Lord understand all Proverbs 28:5.*

*Many people shall come and say: 'Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob. That he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths.' For from Sion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem Isaiah 2:3.*

*Entrust your works to the Lord, and your plans will succeed Proverbs 16:3.*



## A Short Course To Holiness

The six most important words: *"I admit I made a mistake."*

The five most important words: *"You did a good job!"*

The four most important words: *"What is your opinion?"*

The three most important words: *"If you please."*

The two most important words: *"Thank you."*

The one most important word: *"We."*

## We Do It Better

The fact that in our blessed Church worship of God is more profound, more beautiful and far more meaningful than in other confessions around us, reminds us of the truth found in the following story:

The owner of a hair salon in a small town enjoyed the serenity of knowing that he was the only salon in town. He was responsible for cutting and styling the hair of just about every resident. His income allowed him to live comfortably and even send all of his six children to college.

Unfortunately for him, big business came to his town. Right across the street from his busy little hair salon sprang one of those new full-service salon franchises.

Immediately the media campaign began; ads in newspapers, magazines, and billboards announced, **"EVERYTHING FOR \$6.00."** Soon all of his customers and neighbors, began visiting the salon across the street, and the man's business sat empty.

Desperate, he hired an expensive consultant. "I'm finished," he cried. "It's impossible for me, little me, to compete with them." The consultant squinted his eyes at the salon across the street. "Not just yet, not just yet."

With that the consultant picked up the phone and dialed the town's only billboard advertising company. He began speaking to the manager and he could be heard saying, "Yes, on top of our salon...big letters...the message? Simply say: **WE FIX \$6.00 HAIRCUTS.**"

In the depth and profound seriousness of our Orthodox theology, we do fix erroneous and lightly held faith commitment to our Saviour. It is true you can come to our Church and be led by the Holy Spirit in the right direction of salvation. We can receive the forgiveness of our God for our sins. We can be strengthened in the way of holiness by the Blessed Eucharist confectioned at the Divine Liturgy. In our Church all sorts of spiritual problems can be corrected and redirected for the glory of God. Everyone should be made aware of the obvious advantage of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. We should not keep it a secret!

## God's Foolishness

Eastern spiritual writers and mystics always speak about the futility of man's contrived order and the power of God's "chaos." They very well know that no amount of self-sufficiency can help the individual believer live the mystery of faith without living in the presence of God. St. Paul expressed it best when he taught his followers: *"God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength"* 1 Corinthians 1:25. Of course, there is irony here emphasized and employed, which conveys a meaning that is opposite its literal understanding. There is no chaos in God. Even the Mother of God knew and understood this at the Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel. For in uncertainty, in confusion, in the suddenness of the event, she responds with an unquestionable "yes," not totally realizing that she has given up control of her destiny and placed it in the confidence of our God and Creator. At her tender age, she is spiritually sophisticated enough to understand she is placing herself humbly in submission to the will of God.

King David, after all his myriad experiences, was able to faithfully proclaim, *"God is my refuge, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my place of safety"* Psalm 18. How easy in our world, full of turmoil, it is to forget that our God is infinitely larger than our universe with all its problems. Our God is always energizing us by the grace of the Holy Spirit, is always at work in the details of our lives. We do live and move and have our total being in God.

The human condition we live in is largely sinful and chaotic because we exclude the orderliness of the Holy Spirit from it. Sin, whether personal or collective, is being curved in on self. Sin does make life messy and difficult. Have you ever looked back on chaotic situations in life and marveled how near our Heavenly Father was in the midst of all the mess we created? Our God is a God of consolation, and the Spirit of peace is never nearer than when chaos seems to reign. He can be called upon; He can be enlisted, and He can be depended upon to lead us away from the sinfulness in our lives if we but repent and sincerely and seriously turn to Him.

Like the mystics and saints, we too can come to see the presence of God in all that we encounter, we see, hear, touch, smell and taste. We can sacramentalize the present moment and turn it around as a time for growth in our spiritual lives. The story of a holy priest has resounding effects: One such man, enjoying a sumptuous lunch of fresh vegetables and lunch meats remarked with a twinkle in his eyes: *"Mystics have good appetites."* And at a later time, when severe angina made it difficult for him to breathe, and even though he seemed agitated on the surface, at the very core of his being, he was attuned to our God and Creator, eager to submit himself to His will. Souls who strive after God, can touch Him in all the circumstances of their lives, in their most light hearted joys and certainly in the abject abandonment of their sins.

When a believer truly walks in the presence of God, amazing things begin to happen. If it is God Who leads us, then we are affected by the Spirit's inner prompting in those brief moments before we decide to act, in those moments when we are talking to ourselves, when we converse with the saints, in those



times we pray to the Lord, in those nudges that help us to see good and to do it. The more we allow God to lead us, to guide us, to take us gently by the hand, the more we listen, follow, and obey His will, the more accurately we will see with the eyes of our soul how He lovingly permits particular circumstances to befall us that we mature in faith.

The light of faith enables us to walk one step at a time as courageous followers of Christ. He leads, I listen, I follow, I obey. I then become more and more like Him each day.



### THE EXTRAVAGANCE OF GOD

More sky than man can see,  
More seas that he can sail,  
More sun than he can bear to watch,  
More stars than he can scale.

More breath than he can breathe,  
More yield than he can sow,  
More grace than he can comprehend,  
More love than he can know.

RALPH W. SEAGER



"For those who bear God's Spirit are led to the Word, that is, to the Son, and the Son presents them to the Father." Irenaeus, *Dem*, app 7

It is the desire and the plan of God to bring all to salvation. As the priest prays in the Liturgy in the preface, "You did not cease doing everything until You led us to heaven and granted us Your future kingdom." God does not desire that anyone be lost. The prophet Jonah ran away because he did not want to proclaim that God desires the salvation of all humanity. After being in the great fish he made that proclamation. Our salvation is the work of the Trinity. All three persons of the Holy Trinity are involved in the process of salvation. They are One and always work as One. No One person of the Trinity can ever act independently of the other members. This is why we can say that there is only one God. We are monotheists and believe that there is only one God. We further believe that this one God is three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Father desires our salvation and so the Son was sent and the Son sent the Spirit. Salvation is our going to the Father. We do this because the Son leads us to the Father. This is possible because we have been given the gift of the Spirit.

## Even The Fallen World Is Offended

### Meanies

If you kicked him in his heart, you'd break your toe.

He'll cry over your wounds so he can get salt in them.

He'd steal a dead fly from a blind spider.

He has as much use for anyone living as an undertaker.

He has a testimonial plaque from Simon Legree.

The only way he can hear any good about himself is to talk to himself.

He's applying for a job as a prison warden so he can put tacks in the electric chair.

He dreamed that he died and the heat woke him up.

His rough exterior covers a heart of flint.

He'd make dice out of his mother's knucklebones.

The only thing he'll share with you willingly is a communicable disease.

He heats the knives so his family won't use too much butter.

He shuts off his hearing aid when his wife offers her side of an argument.

He got his parents a fifty-piece dinner set for their golden anniversary—a box of toothpicks.



He's suffering from hardening of the hearteries.

He's taking up ventriloquism so he can go around throwing his voice under old maids' beds.

He's deaf and has never told his barber.

He sends get-well cards to hypochondriacs.

He told his children Santa Claus is too old to get around any more.

He'll give you the shirt off your back any time.

He takes sparrows, dips them in peroxide, and sells them as canaries.

He knifes you in the back and then has you arrested for carrying concealed weapons.

His wife wanted pearls for her birthday, so he gave her an oyster and a rabbit's foot.

He's buying a motel so he can rent cabins to old maids between honeymooning couples' cabins.

He'll throw a drowning man both ends of a rope.

He'd put his pet dog in a sputnik.

The last place he lived in, he campaigned for a dry law, got it passed—and then moved away.

Every time a scaring cigarette report comes out, he goes around blowing smoke in people's faces.

He's very sympathetic. He buries his head in his hands in the subway—he can't bear seeing an old lady standing.

He has a lot of fortitude—he'll stand for nearly anything but a woman on a train or a bus.

He hasn't stored up enough treasure in heaven to make the down payment on a harp.

He sheds tears, but they never reach his heart.

## The Sin Of Indifference

What word comes to your mind when you hear the word *love*? Most of us think of opposites and would be inclined to say *hate*. But hate is not the opposite of love. The opposite of love is *indifference*.

When, in a heated argument a husband or wife says "*I hate you*," the case is not at all hopeless. That home can be saved. But when a husband or wife becomes totally indifferent to the other, that home is in real jeopardy.

Likewise, nothing hurts or offends our Lord more than indifference. He prefers being hated to being ignored. We often wonder how our Lord feels about those who are indifferent and apathetic toward our parish instead of being actively involved in its life.

### A HALF-HEARTED PRAYER

I love Your Church, O God;  
Her walls before me stand:  
But please excuse my absence, Lord;  
This bed is simply grand!

A charge to keep I have;  
A God to glorify;  
But, Lord, no cash from me:  
Your glory comes too high.

Am I a soldier of the Cross,  
A follower of the Lamb?  
Yes, Though I seldom pray or pay,  
I still insist I am.

Must Jesus bear the Cross alone,  
And all the world go free?  
No! Others, Lord should do their part,  
But please don't count on me!

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below!  
O, loud hymns of praise I bring  
Because it doesn't cost to sing!



## TIME

Suppose your bank credited your account each morning with \$86,400, carried over no balance from day to day, and allowed you to keep no cash in your account. Then further suppose that every evening the bank canceled out whatever funds you failed to use during the day.

Each of us has such a bank. Its actual name is time. Every morning it credits us with 86,400 seconds. Each night it rules off as lost whatever time we failed to invest for good during the day. It never carries over any balance. It allows no overdrafts. Each day it opens up an entirely new account in the same amount. Each night it burns the records of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is totally yours.

There is no going back with time. There is no drawing against tomorrow. You must live in the present on today's deposits. Be wise and invest it in order to get from it the very best in spiritual health, happiness, and success.

## THE MASTER'S WAY

Not ours to know the reason  
Why unanswered is our prayer;  
But ours to wait for God's own time  
To lift the Cross we bear.

Not ours to know the reason  
Why from loved ones we must part,  
But ours to live in faith and hope,  
Though bleeding to the heart.

Not ours to know the reason  
Why this anguish, strife, and pain,  
But ours to know a crown of thorns  
Sweet graces for us gain.

A Cross, a bleeding heart, and crown;  
What greater gifts are given?  
Be still, my heart, and murmur not:  
These are the keys to heaven!

## ETERNITY

**H**ow long is eternity? Pondering such a concept can, indeed, give us a headache! A simple dictionary definition of the word describes it as "infinite time" or "time without a beginning or ending." When we think of eternity in the framework of our faith, however, we focus in on 2 specific areas: eternal life in heaven or eternal damnation in hell. There is no question at all concerning where we WANT to spend eternity. The question is: How do we earn a spot in that wonderful place "where there is no longer sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting?"

Like everything else, the answer lies in the Scriptures. Christ frequently spoke of eternal life and He was quite specific as to how it can be attained. When a certain lawyer approached Him and questioned what he needed to do to inherit it, Christ told him that he must "... love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27) On another occasion when questioned in a similar manner, the Lord urged His interrogator to "keep the commandments" and to "sell what you own and give it to the poor." Still another time, He reminded Nicodemus that "... God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life." (John 3:15) To gain eternal life, Jesus also told His followers that they must "eat His Flesh" and "drink His Blood" - a clear reference to the reception of Holy Communion.

To sum all this up, we can confidently say that if we love God, if we follow His Divine Laws, if we care for the needs of others and live a sacramental life, we, too, will be numbered among the saints in God's heavenly kingdom for all of eternity. Apostle Paul tells us "... eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

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