



Great Martyr
CATHERINE

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

November 28, 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 thirteenth to sixteenth chapters of the Book of Genesis.*

+++ *The Offering for flowers to beautify our church for the coming feast of the Nativity of our Lord will be taken next Sunday, December 5. Please be generous with your offering.*

+++ *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. A notification letter was included with orders to all our customers.*

+++ *The next Pirohi Sale will be on December 11. Please secure orders to assure its success. Please come and invest a helping hand.*

+++ *We are by God's grace in the blessing 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 have prayer services of anticipation and welcome. Father's series of homilies will be on men of the Old Testament.*

+++ *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 nex Sunday, December 5. We will have a sign up sheet available fo9r donat4d foods. 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 imperishable food products which are needed by the local food bank which we support. So little food was collected, we extend the time to the Nativity feast day. 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 TODAY, 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,*

\$509.00; Candles, \$19.00; Food Coupons, \$440.00; Kitchen, \$2912.00; Bulletin Sponsor, \$25.00; Holyday, \$88.00, for a total of \$3993.00. 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 Bulezka.*

+++ 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 \$1607.00 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 \$5200.00 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!

Keep America in Your Care

We are faced with many problems
that grow bigger day by day
And, as we seek to solve them
in our own self-sufficient way,
We keep drifting into chaos
and our avarice and greed
Blinds us to the answer
that would help us in our need . .
Oh, God, renew our spirit
and make us more aware
That our future is dependent
on sacrifice and prayer,
Forgive us our transgressions
and revive our faith anew
So we may all draw closer
to each other and to You
For when a nation is too proud
to daily kneel and pray
It will crumble into chaos
and descend into decay,
So stir us with compassion
and raise our standards higher
And take away our lust for power
and make our one desire
To be a SHINING SYMBOL
of ALL THAT'S GREAT AND GOOD
As You lead us in our struggle
toward NEW-FOUND BROTHERHOOD!



Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people
whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Psalms 33:12

LORD



TEACH
US

PRAYER

Together they devoted themselves to constant prayer Acts of the Apostles 1: 14.

"Please come over to us without delay." Peter set out with them as they asked. Upon his arrival they took him upstairs to the room. All the widows came to him in tears and showed him the various garments Dorcas had made when she was still with them. Peter first made everyone go outside; then he knelt down and prayed. Turning to the dead body, he said "Tabitha, stand up." She opened her eyes, then looked at Peter and sat up Acts of the Apostles 9: 38 - 40.

All raised their voices in prayer to God on hearing the story: "Sovereign Lord, who made heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them, you have said by the Holy Spirit through the lips of our father David your servant, 'Why did the Gentiles rage the peoples conspire in folly? The kings of the earth were aligned, the princes gathered together against the Lord and against his anointed.'...Grant to your servants, even as they speak your words, complete assurance, by stretching forth your hand in cures and signs and wonders to be worked in the name of Jesus, your holy Servant. The place where they gathered shook as they prayed. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God's word with confidence Acts of the Apostles 4: 24 - 27, 29 - 31.

Peter was thus detained in prison while the church prayed fervently to God on his behalf....Suddenly an angel of the Lord stood nearby and light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. "Hurry, get up!" he said. With that, the chains dropped from Peter's wrists. The angel said, "Put on your belt and your sandals!"...Peter followed him out, but with no clear realization that this was taking place through the angel's help. The whole thing seemed to him a mirage...Peter recovered his senses by this time and said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent this angel to rescue me from Herod's clutches and from all that the Jews hoped for" Acts of the Apostles 12: 5, 7 - 9, 11.

Jesus

THE PERFECT MODEL TO FOLLOW

Christ stands solitary and alone among all heroes of history. Clearly if anyone deserves to be our model in life, it is Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of the eternal living God. St. Paul, a learned man of the first century chosen by Christ to be his follower and to speak about him to the world, urges us to "...keep our eyes fixed on Jesus" Hebrews 12: 2. What does Jesus teach about how to live? How can his life benefit us?

Do you want to be a better, happier, more fulfilled person? The apostle Peter explains how we can become so. He writes, "Christ suffered for you, leaving you a model to follow his steps closely" 2 Peter 2: 21. Indeed, having lived an extraordinary life, Jesus Christ had much to offer. By learning about Jesus and modeling our life after his, we can surely become better and happier people. Let us take a closer look at some of the qualities that characterized this great man from heaven and see how we can benefit from his example.

Jesus was balanced. Though Jesus asserted He had "...nowhere to lay down his head" Matthew 8: 20, He did not practice or advocate an austere lifestyle. He attended banquets (Luke 5: 29). His first recorded miracle, changing water into fine wine at a wedding feast, shows that He was not antisocial or an ascetic (John 2: 1 – 11). Yet, Jesus made very clear what was most important to him. He said, "Doing the will of him who sent me and bringing his work to completion is my food" John 4: 34. In one instance, He showed spiritual and temporal responsibilities can easily be met. "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" Matthew 22: 21.

How often do you analyze your life to see how you can balance your material and spiritual pursuits?

Jesus was approachable. Jesus is always portrayed as one who is warm and affable. He is not annoyed when people approach him with problems or perplexing questions. On one occasion when a crowd surrounded him, a woman who had suffered an affliction for twelve years touched his garment, hoping to get relief. He did not rebuff her for her seemingly presumptuous act but kindly said, "Daughter your faith has made you well" Mark 5: 25 - 34. Children, too, were comfortable in his company without fear of being ignored (Mark 10: 13 - 16). His dealings with his disciples were marked by open, friendly conversations and discussions. They did not hesitate to draw close to him (Mark 6: 30 - 32).

How freely do others approach you?

Christ was empathetic and compassionate. One of the greatest virtues of Jesus was his ability to put himself in the place of others, to share their situation and to respond with helpful action. The apostle John relates that when Jesus saw Mary weeping over the death of her brother Lazarus, Jesus "groaned in spirit and become troubled" and "...he wept" John 11: 33 - 44. Onlookers could easily perceive the great affection Jesus felt for his friends, an affection that He was not ashamed to manifest openly. And what compassion He showed when He then brought his friend back to life!

On another occasion, a man suffering from leprosy, a dreadful disease that made him live in isolation, begged Jesus: "Lord, if you can, make me clean." Jesus' response was truly heartwarming. "Stretching out his hand, he touched him, saying, 'I want to. Be made clean'" Matthew 8: 2, 3. Jesus did not cure people simply to fulfill prophecy. He wanted to wipe away their tears. Everything He did was governed by one of his most remembered sayings, "Just as you want men to do to you, do the same to them" Luke 6: 31.

Is your compassion for others translated and seen in your deeds?

Jesus was understanding and discerning.

Although He committed no sin or error, Jesus never expected perfection of others or assumed an air of superiority, nor did He act with a lack of understanding. We are to

strive after perfection, achieving it only by God's grace in paradise. Once a woman, "...known in the city to be a sinner" showed her faith and appreciation by washing the feet of Jesus with her tears. Jesus permitted her to do so, to the surprise of his host, who judged her harshly. Understanding her sincerity, Jesus did not condemn the woman for her sins. Rather, He said, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." As a result of his warm response, that woman was moved to abandon her former way of life (Luke 7: 37 – 50).

Are you known to be quick to encourage and commend and slow to condemn?

He was impartial and respectful.

Perhaps because of a certain affinity of personality, Jesus had a special affection for his disciple, John. Nevertheless He did not show any partiality toward him or favor him over the others. "One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, reclined close to him as they ate" John 13: 23. In another instance, when the mother of James and John asked for privileged positions in God's kingdom, Jesus responded by saying, "It is not mine to give" Mark 35 – 40.

Jesus was always respectful to others. He did to share in the prejudices of the people of his day. Women were commonly treated as inferior to men. Yet, Jesus accorded women due dignity. The first time He openly declared himself to be the Messiah, it was to a woman who was not even a Jew, but a Samaritan, whom the Jews in general would disdain, much less greet (John 4: 7 -26). And it was to women that Jesus granted the privilege of being first witnesses of his Resurrection (Matthew 28: 9, 10).

Are you fair-minded in your dealings with people of different race, sex, language or nationality?

He was a dutiful son.

Apparently the foster-father, Joseph died when Jesus was still a youth. Most likely it was Jesus who supported his mother by working as a carpenter (Mark 6: 3). During his last moments of life, He entrusted his mother to the care of his youngest disciple, John (John 19: 26, 27).

Do you imitate Jesus by your assuming family responsibilities as faithfully as He did?

Jesus was a true and faithful friend.

As a friend, Jesus was outstanding. He did not reject or cast aside his friends just because they made mistakes, even the same mistakes repeatedly. His disciples did not always act as He would have liked. But He proved himself their friend by concentrating on their good qualities rather than imputing bad motives to them. "They returned to Capernaum and Jesus, once inside the house, began to ask them, 'What were you discussing on the way home?' At this they fell silent, for the way they had been arguing about who was the most important. So he sat down and called the Twelve around him and said, 'If anyone wishes to rank first, he must remain the last one of all and the servant of all'" Mark 9: 33 – 35. "A dispute arose among them about who should be regarded as the greatest. He said, 'Earthly kings lord it over their people. Those who exercise authority over them are called their benefactors. Yet it cannot be that way with you. Let the greater among you be as the least, the leader as the servant. Who, in fact, is the greater – he who reclines at table or he who serves the meal? Is it not the one who reclines at table? Yet I am in your midst as one who serves you'" Luke 22: 24 – 27.

While not imposing his perceptions and viewpoints on them, He attempts to teach them that they assume what He says to be eternal truth. They are invited to express themselves freely. "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"...And you," he said to them, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "the Son of the living God!" Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, no mere man has revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father" Matthew 16: 13 – 17.

Above all, Jesus loved his friends. "He loved his own in this world and would show his love for them to the end" John 13: 1 He taught them and fulfilled it in his own life: "No one has love greater than this, that he would give up his life for his friends" John 15: 13. Could anyone offer his friends something more valuable than his own life?

Are you still a friend even when others irritate and offend you?

Christ is courageous and manly.

Jesus is far different from the weak, passive person portrayed or described by some artists and writers. The Gospels present him as a strong, vigorous man. Twice Jesus drives merchants with their goods from the temple (Mark 11: 15 – 17; John 2: 14 – 17). When the mob comes to arrest "Jesus of Nazareth," He courageously steps

forward to identify himself and to protect his disciples, declaring firmly, "I am he. If, therefore it is I you are looking for, let these go" John 18: 4 – 9. It is no wonder, then, that Pontius Pilate saw the courage of Jesus under arrest and mistreatment and declared, "Behold, the man!" John 19: 4, 5.

Do you act decisively and courageously even when overwhelmed with what you must do?

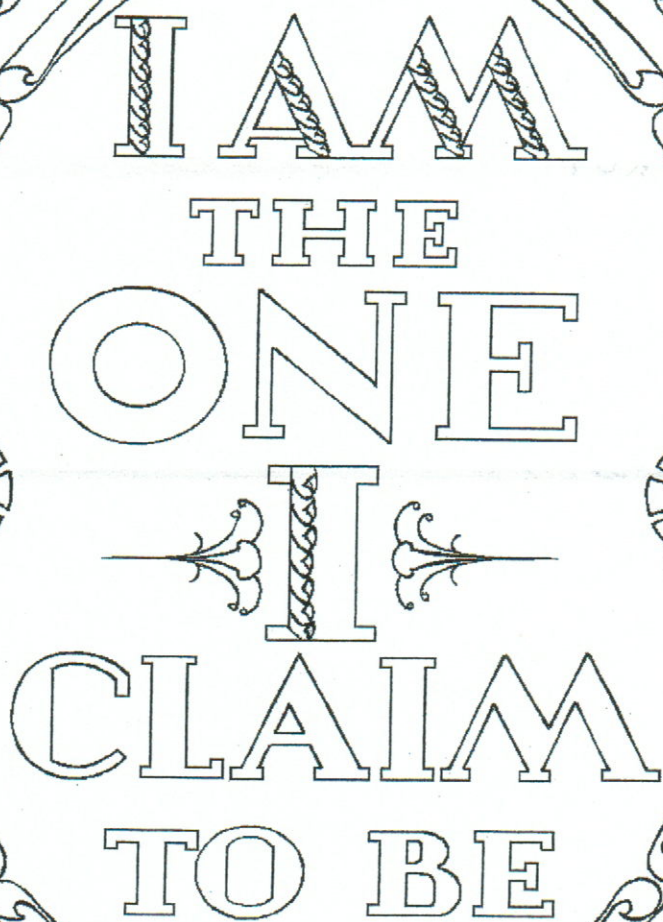
These and a host of other outstanding qualities make Jesus Christ the perfect model for us. If we allow ourselves to be influenced by his conduct, his example, we will be better and happier people. It is for this reason that the Apostle Peter urged Christians to follow the steps of Jesus closely. Are you serious about following the Lord and allowing his example to influence your life?

More Than A Model

Jesus Christ, however, is much more than a model to follow. He teaches us, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" John 14: 6. Besides making known the truth about God the Father, thus opening up the way to draw close to him, Jesus provides the means for faithful ones to gain life in his Body, the Church. "God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him may not die, but have eternal life" John 3: 16.

Regarding the reason for coming among us, Jesus teaches us "The Son of Man...has come, not to be served by others, but to serve, to give his own life as a ransom for many" Matthew 20: 28. By offering up his own life as a sacrifice, Jesus laid the foundation for our enjoyment of eternal life. "Eternal life is this: to know you the only true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ" John 17: 3.

Taking in knowledge of Jesus Christ, imitating his way of life and exercising faith in his sacrificial death and subsequent Resurrection are the initial requirements. As we know him, we increase our loving response in faith, so we live by grace his life. His exemplary life teaches us what kind of person we must be. When we are confirmed in the concept, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord" Romans 6: 23, we live the life of salvation in his Body, the Church. Never must we permit the preoccupations and anxieties of life to rob us of the opportunities to consider and follow closely the example of the Son of God, Jesus Christ!

An ornate, symmetrical decorative border in a black line-art style. It features a central oval frame with elaborate scrollwork, floral motifs, and acanthus leaves extending to the corners and sides. The border encloses the central text.

I AM
THE
ONE
— I —
CLAIM
TO BE

JOHN 8:24



DO NOT
CONFORM
YOURSELVES
TO THIS
AGE

BUT
BE
TRANSFORMED
IN CHRIST.

Take up your
Cross and follow!

"MARRIED" TO THE HEAVENLY BRIDEGROOM

The Great Martyr Catherine was the daughter of Constus, the governor of Alexandrian Egypt during the reign of the Emperor Maximian in the early 4th century. It is said that she possessed great beauty, and young men from prominent families all over the Empire sought her hand in marriage. Catherine, however, had no interest in them. Through the efforts of her mother, she had secretly become a Christian, baptized by a saintly Elder who lived in a cave on the outskirts of the city. During her conversion process, Catherine had a vision, where she received a ring from our Lord Himself as a sign of her "betrothal" and total commitment to Him.

When she returned home, Catherine found that the Emperor was visiting Alexandria to preside over a pagan festival. Everyone was ordered to offer sacrifice to the idols, or face the ruler's wrath. Catherine boldly went before the Emperor and declared she was a Christian. She denounced his pagan practices and challenged him to prove her wrong. Maximian summoned 50 of his wisest men to engage her in debate, and at the end of their discussions, the men amazingly professed their belief in Jesus Christ! The enraged Emperor executed them and cast Catherine into prison. She continued to speak to others about Christianity, and convinced over 200 soldiers and even the Empress Augusta to forsake their pagan ways and follow Christ. After several unsuccessful attempts on her life, Catherine was finally beheaded in 310 AD. It is said that her relics were taken by the angels to Mount Sinai and are preserved to this day in the famous monastery that bears her name.