



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 30, 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

+++ Saturday is the solemn feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. In anticipation of the holyday, the vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Friday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and prsie and celebration during this most holy season.

+++ The annual St. Nicholas Day Covered Dish will be next Sunday, December 7. A food preparation/donation listing is available in the hall kitchen for all to sign up and prepare favorite dishes for

its success. St. Nicholas will be here for the children and adults as well! Please prepare vegetarian foods for our enjoyment.

+++ The offering for flowers for the coming feast of the Nativity of our Lord will take place next Sunday, December 7. Please use appropriate envelope and be generous with your sacrificial offering so our church will be fittingly beautified for this solemn feast.

+++ His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas will be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at St. John the Baptist Parish in Perth Amboy on Sunday, January 11, 2009 when he will celebrate a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Many bishops and priests will be present for the festivities. We are invited to participate as well since Father is his classmate. A Golden Jubilee Banquet will be held at the Forge Inn in Woodbridge as part of the event. We would like to have 2 tables from our parish. Tickets for the banquet are priced at \$50.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children under thirteen. Please see Nina Harrison to make reservations and secure details as soon as possible. Deadline is December 24. We wish our parish is well-represented.

+++ The weekly Scripture Study meets 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, ~~\$2,000.00~~; Candles, ~~\$2,000.00~~; Food Coupons, ~~\$1,000.00~~; Kitchen, ~~\$2,000.00~~; Christian Fellowship, ~~\$2,000.00~~; Ten Week Club, ~~\$2,000.00~~; Pennies From Heaven, ~~\$2,000.00~~; Holyday, ~~\$2,000.00~~; Candy Sales, ~~\$2,000.00~~ for a total of ~~\$20,000.00~~. 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 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, Mary Jaakobs, Robert Gorbich, Kent 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 ~~\$2,000.00~~ 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 ~~\$20,000.00~~. 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 \$4500.00 on this project to date!

+++ As soon as possible, 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.

+++ The Winter Bake Sale will take place for Nativity of our Lord on and Friday and Saturday, December 12 and 13. Cookies will be available at the Nativity Bake Sale. Please begin to secure orders NOW. **The next Pirohi Sale is this Saturday, December 6 at which we invite your needed assistance in helping hands, preparing for the sale on Thursday, securing orders and delivering them. The Order Sheet for both Pirohi and the Bake Sale is available on the church hall table. Please begin securing orders now so these endeavors are successful.**

+++ Recently, Father received for our Parish Library the donation of a DVD about the Moslem threat to our nation and the world from Fox News as a public service. Anyone interesting viewing it may see Father as soon as possible and it will be provided. It is an interesting, informative and provocative work and Father recommends it for viewing and study.

+++ Our parish lawyer has pursued the feasibility of our obtaining the 4.67 acres of land in Millstone Township on route 537 and Mineral Springs Road. He had consultations with the Planning Board Chairman to secure in writing the use of the property for our church and parish center. We have determined as long as all other requirements for the property are observed, securing a variance will not be a problem. Father engaged an engineer to make a preliminary study of the total square footage of the property and draw out the set backs and determine the maximum square footage of buildings we would be allowed to put on it. This is important since we must add a kitchen and bathrooms to the original hall plans. The church building will remain the same. Driveway and parking lot square footage must also be included. We wish to retain a park-like serene setting. This drawing is available in the parish hall. It appears we can fit all that is needed within the set back areas. We will also be able to erect a Picnic Pavilion as we originally planned. There is provision for parish office expansion of the house for rectory use in the future when this becomes necessary. If we are able to procure this new site, everything will be new! **Pray** the Lord inspires generosity in the appraisal of our present property. The Park Commission has on its agenda approval of the appraisal fee Monday evening and then we expect to hear for an appointment with the appraiser.

+++ We are in the gracious season of the Nativity Fast. During this holy preparatory season for the coming feast of the Nativity of our Lord, Father is preaching a series of homilies on *Men in Scripture* at the services celebrated Monday evenings at 7: 30 PM. Come join us in prayer and an eagerness to grow spiritually as we observe the prescriptions of the holy preparatory season. Let us welcome together the coming of our salvation! All are asked to abstain from meat products. Offer your sacrifice for the success of our building program. Confessions are heard prior to and after services.

+++ We are in need of your support, so be certain to taken a catalogue and order sheet for candy for the coming feast of the Nativity of our Lord from the vestibule desk. Please return the order sheets and fill them out as the **DEADLINE for turning in orders is TODAY.**

+++ We express our sincerest gratitude to all our faithful for their support of the Food Basket Donations for the Thanksgiving holiday. This year exceeded all the past years in amount of food received. The Open Door Food Pantry in town was very happy to receive our donation. We invoke upon all our faithful who support this charitable endeavor the bounteous blessing of our gracious God for continued good health in doing God's will.

+++ We are in need of a donor for the candles which will beautify our altar table and parish church for the coming feastday of the Nativity of our Lord. The offering is \$125.00. Please see Father as soon as possible.

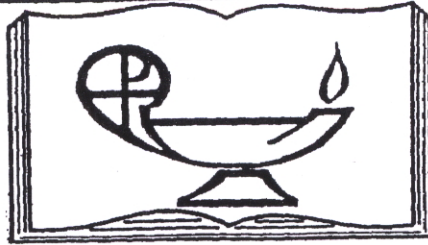
+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!

VESPER VERSES

TONE 7

1. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord :
He has crushed the power of death;
He has enlightened the human race.
Let us cry out with the angels of heaven :
“ Our Maker and Savior, glory be to you! ”
2. You suffered the crucifixion and burial for us,
O Savior.
Being God, you put Death to death by your death.
Therefore, we bow to your resurrection,
O Lord.
Glory be to you!
3. The Apostles saw the resurrection of the Creator.
They were amazed and sang the angelic hymn of praise.

LORD



TEACH
US

When Depressed

The Spirit, too, helps us in our weaknesses or we do not know how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in speech. He who searches hearts knows what the Spirit means, for the Spirit intercedes for the saints as God himself wills Romans 8: 26, 27.

To place on those who mourn in Sion a diadem of ashes. To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning, a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit. They will be called oaks of justice, planted by the Lord to show his glory Isaiah 61: 3.

Finally, my brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous or worthy of praise Philippians 4: 8.

Bow humbly under God's mighty hand, so that in due time he may lift you high. Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you 1 Peter 5: 6, 7.

He told them a parable on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart Luke 18: 1.

Do not be surprised, beloved, that a trial by fire is occurring in your 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 his glory is revealed you will rejoice exultantly 1 Peter 4: 12, 13.

For his anger lasts but a moment; a lifetime is his good will. At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with the dawn rejoicing Psalms 30: 6.

Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you and uphold you with my right hand of justice Isaiah 41: 10.



*Wisdom Of
The*

*Byzantine
Fathers*

When you are generous to another person, you are bestowing not a gift, but repaying a debt. Everything you possess materially comes from God, Who created all things. And every spiritual and moral virtue you possess is through divine grace; it is a blessing from God. Thus you owe everything to God. More than that, God has given you His Son, to show you how to live; how to use your material possessions, and how to grow in moral and spiritual virtue. We may say that your material and spiritual possessions cost God nothing; God created the universe in order to express His own glory. But the gift of His Son was supremely costly, because His Son suffered and died for our sake. The agony of Christ on the cross is the measure of how much God loves us. For this reason we should take none of our gifts – material or spiritual – for granted; day by day we should give thanks to God for what He has bestowed on us. Once this spirit of gratitude infuses us, we shall see generosity for what it is. When we help someone in need, we shall be saved from any temptation to take pride in our actions. On the contrary, we will regard our acts as no more than a small token of appreciation for all that we have received, or, more precisely, the repayment of a tiny fraction of God's blessings St. John Chrysostom.

On the Mount

The gospel of St. Matthew begins in Chapter 5, “When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain... he began to teach them” Matthew 5: 1. Indeed, it has always been from a high place that our heavenly Father reveals his great mysteries and his everlasting love for mankind.

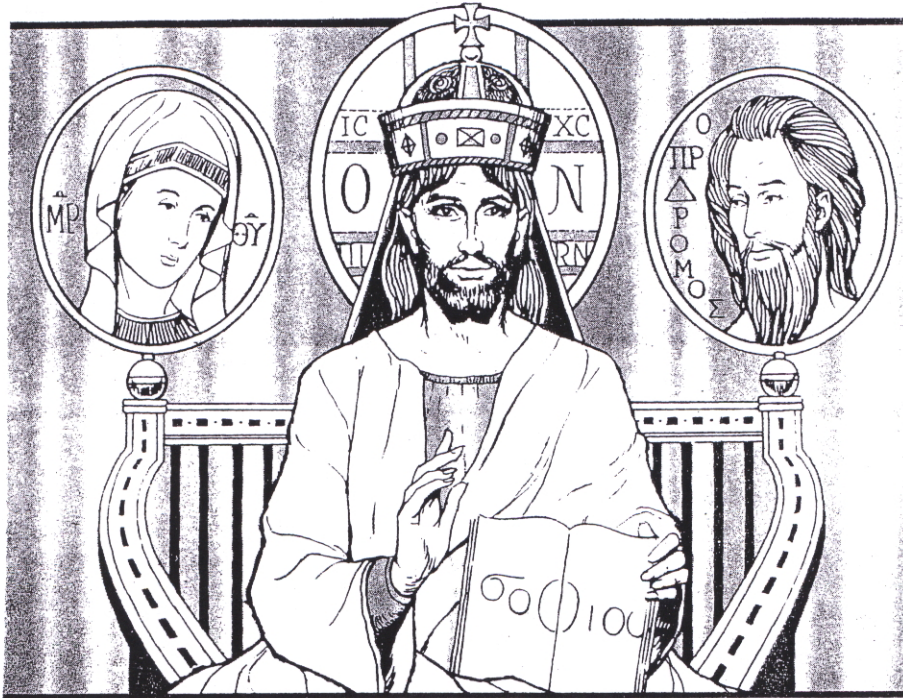
On Mount Sinai, God gives Moses the commandments. On Mount Horeb, God reveals himself to Elias in the gentle breeze. On Mount Tabor, Jesus is transformed into glory before Peter, James and John and from the Mount of Olives, Jesus ascends to his glory with the Father.

He is lifted up on the cross to manifest his love to all the world, as He says in the Gospel of St. John, “And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself: He said this indicating the kind of death he would die” John 12: 32, 33.

Therefore Jesus gives what many Christians believe to be his most profound teaching from a mountain. In what is called the Beatitudes, Jesus contrasts the expectations of the worldly-minded with the deepest spiritual truth of the Creator.

Children are a gift from the
Lord;
They are a reward from *Him*

**May we present
our best friend?**



and the Best Friend you can ever have!

One who wants to be your friend...

Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me Revelation 3: 20.

A Friend who will never forsake you...

There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother Proverbs 18: 24.

I will never leave you or forsake you Hebrews 13: 5.

Who knows your every weakness...every sin...

A discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart Hebrews 4: 12.

For man looks at outward appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart 1 Samuel 16: 7.

One who will forgive your sins and help you...

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness 1 John 1: 9.

He has paid the price of sin for you and me.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed...and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all Isaiah 53: 5, 6.

He has overcome death and reigns in Power and Glory...

The King of kings and Lord of lords 1 Timothy 6: 15.

Behold I am alive forever Revelation 1: 18.

...I myself won the victory and took my seat beside my Father on his throne Revelation 3: 21.

He makes life worth living and death nothing to fear...

I have come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly John 10: 10.

The Lord will guard your coming and your going, both now and forever Psalms 121: 8.

Jesus Christ, my Friend and Lord...

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, or things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord Romans 8: 38, 39.

Will you let him be your Lord and Saviour too?

For if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Faith in the heart leads to justification, confession on the lips to salvation Romans 10: 9, 10.

I solemnly assure you, the man who hears my word and has faith in him who sent me possesses eternal life. He does not come under condemnation, but has passed from death to life John 5: 24.

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him John 3: 17.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God who is generous in forgiving Isaiah 55: 6, 7.

...it is up to you!

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Did You Know That ...

- ...before others accept what the Church teaches as credible, they want to know we are credible?
 - ...you can start living on purpose today?
 - ...a crash of the whole solar and stellar systems can only kill you once?
 - ...as soon as a person comes to life, he is old enough to die?
 - ...very few people know what to tell a dying person?
 - ...although we do not want to see anyone die, there are few obituaries we read with pleasure?
 - ...if the rich could hire other people to die for them the poor would make a fortune?
 - ...death is nature's way of telling you to slow down?
 - ...dying is the last thing most people intend to do?
 - ...even death comes to him who waits?
 - ...since we are but tenants the great Landlord gives us notice our lease has expired?
 - ...it is more important that we live rather than that we die?
 - ...dying is only a temporary condition?
 - ...for most neither the sun nor death can be looked at with steady eye?
 - ...people should go through a cancer ward once a month to be more aware of their trivialities, complaints and putting people down?
 - ...if you expect an early death, it will keep you busier pursuing holiness?
 - ...dying is ceasing to be afraid?
 - ...dust claims dust and we die, too?
-

LIFE'S DEFINING MOMENTS . . .

Every person's life is filled with significant milestones. We commemorate birthdays and anniversaries with great fanfare and revelry. We fondly remember many of the "firsts" that we experience: our first date . . . our first car . . . our first day of school . . . our first job. Yes, these are moments and events that we all treasure greatly.

But have you ever thought about what the most *important moment* - that special moment that has truly defined your entire existence - has been for you? Many of us would, no doubt, have a difficult time coming up with an answer to that question. This would not, however, have been the case for the Apostle Andrew, who is depicted on the cover of today's Church Bulletin. For him, the "defining moment" of his life was his first encounter with Christ.

The Gospel of St. John relates the *exact*

time of day (the 10th hour, or 4 P.M.) when Andrew shared his first conversation with the Man Who would change his life - and change the world as well. Undoubtedly they spoke of the Kingdom of Heaven, and what must be done to gain entrance into it. Surely they spoke of God's love for mankind, and how we are expected to serve He Who loves us so much. What an impression that moment made on Andrew! From that moment on, he was willing to put aside his old life and embark upon a new life with the Lord. Indeed, that moment became so engrained in his heart and upon his soul that Andrew would later willingly die for the One he would affectionately call "Master."

Perhaps we have not had such a dramatic encounter with Christ. Nevertheless, as His followers, *our lives* must be defined by our relationship with Him. Anything else pales in comparison and importance.