

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

August 3, 2014

**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 first Pirohi Sale will be on Saturday, August 13.

+++ Monday at 7: 30 PM, we will sing the Akathist Hymn to the Lord. Please join us in prayer and praise.

+++ Every Monday, we have prayerful devotions before the Myrrh bearing icon at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to be present in praise. The Birthgiver invites us to manifest our faith in response to her first

shown love, to unite our prayers with hers for the salvation of our souls. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

+++ Wednesday is the solemn feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. In anticipation, the vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Tuesday evening at 7: 30 PM. Fruit will be blessed at the celebration.

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Father George, Anna, Barbara, Betty, James, Yevlogia, Nicholas, Maria, Pani Anna Marie and Andrea.

+++ 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 last Sunday: Tithe Offering, \$476.00; Candles, \$20.00; Holy Day, \$20.00; Food Coupons, \$100.00, for a total of \$616.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls!

+++ We are in the Dormition Fast until Friday, August 15. Please observe the prescriptions of the fast that our souls are sanctified and our parish be the beneficiary of our sacrifices for growth in holiness and grace. On Monday, August 4 we will have the Akathist to the Saviour and on Monday, August 11, the Akathist to the Birthgiver will be celebrated in anticipation.

+++ 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, Delores Waller, Maria Idronmenos, Anna Zacharyczuk, Eleanor Korba, Marilyn Korba 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 **\$1809.00** from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ Please be certain to see 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 \$5750 on this project to date!

+++ The Clothing Drive is a permanent on-going project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals and shoes 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, shoes and fabrics.

+++ We invite all pray the Lord our God grants us an enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.

LORD



TEACH
US

Sanctification

Be merciful, O Lord, for I am looking up to you in constant hope Psalms 86: 3.

Yes I am going to send you to the Gentiles to open their eyes to their true condition so that they may repent and live in the light of God instead of in satan's darkness, so that they may receive forgiveness for their sins and God's inheritance along with all people everywhere whose sins are cleansed away who are set apart by faith to me Acts of the Apostles 16: 17.

For I am, by God's special grace, a special messenger from Jesus Christ to you Gentiles, bringing you the gospel and offering you up as a fragrant sacrifice to God, for you have been made pure and pleasing to him by the Holy Spirit Romans 15: 16.

The Christians in Corinth invited by God to be his people and made acceptable to him by Christ Jesus, and to all Christians everywhere, whoever calls upon the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and theirs. For it is from God alone that you have your life through Christ Jesus. He showed us God's plan of salvation, he was the one who made us acceptable to God; he made us pure and holy and gave himself to purchase our salvation 1 Corinthians 1: 2.

There was a time when some of you were just like that but now your sins are washed away and you are set apart for God and he has accepted you because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God has done for you 1 Corinthians 6: 11.

It is this God who has made you and me into faithful Christians and commissioned us apostles to preach the Good News. He has put his brand upon us as his mark of ownership and given us his Holy Spirit in our hearts as guarantee that we belong to him and as the first installment of all that he is going to give us 2 Corinthians 1: 21, 22.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

You have destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened paradise to the thief. The sorrow of the women You turned to joy. You commanded Your apostles to proclaim to all: "Christ our God is risen, granting great mercy to the world" Troparion, Resurrection Tone Seven.

No longer can the might of death rule over men; Christ has come destroying and crushing its power. The Abyss is now in chains. The prophets with joy unite in proclaiming "The Saviour has appeared saying to those who believe: 'Come forth, you faithful, to the Resurrection'" Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Seven.

May the Lord give strength to His people; may the Lord bless His people with peace Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Seven.

The Apostles saw the Resurrection of the Creator. They were amazed and sang the angelic hymn of praise. This is the glory of the Church; the devil has been defeated. This is the wealth of the kingdom. O Lord, You suffered for us; glory be to You! Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

Christ fulfilled the prophecies of David. On Sion He manifested His greatness to His disciples. He showed Himself praised and glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, first as the Word before He became man; now incarnate He died for us as man. He rose by His own power. He is the Lord and Lover of mankind Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

Mother of God, you became a mother outside the law of nature. In birthgiving you remained a virgin. This is beyond understanding and human speech. Words cannot describe the wonder of your birthgiving. More glorious is the nature of conceiving, O Pure One! The manner of your birthgiving is beyond our understanding. For when God wills, the laws of nature are broken. We firmly believe you to be the Mother of God. We hasten to you in prayer: Intercede for the salvation of our souls Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

O Christ, You descended into the Abyss; You despoiled death and arose on the third day; You raised us with you; We glorify Your all powerful Resurrection. O Lord, You alone love mankind Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

Discernment Of Spirits

The ability to distinguish whether a given idea or impulse in the soul comes from the good spirit or from the evil spirit is vitally necessary today. It may be an act of the virtue of prudence or a special gift of infused grace, or both. We have the opportunity to respond to the inspiration of our guardian angel or the myriad influences of the devil through the flesh and the fallen world by his demons reigning in this world.

In persons who are seriously intent on doing the will of God in their daily lives, the good spirit is almost readily recognized by the peace of mind and readiness for sacrifice that a given thought or desire produces within the soul. The evil spirit initiates disturbance of mind and a tendency to self-indulgence. The opposite effect is produced by both spirits towards sinners. Evil inclinations are portrayed by the demons as appealing and deserved while virtuous behavior is given the appearance of being boring, unnecessary and difficult as well as servile.

The discerning soul ought never to arrive at an important decision alone and unaided, not simply by prayer and meditation and the grace of the heavenly Mysteries, but most necessarily by guided and objective introspection with a spiritual Father. In the life of the Body of Christ, a spiritual Father should always be consulted in prayer for relief of disparaging burdens and questionable insights. Decisions should always be made with the blessing and insightful examination of one's Father confessor.

"Test yourselves to see whether you are living in faith; examine yourselves. Perhaps you yourselves do not realize that Christ Jesus is in you – unless, of course, you have failed the challenge. I hope you will understand that we have not failed. We pray God that you may do no evil – not in order that we may appear approved but simply that you may do what is good, even though we may seem to have failed. We cannot do anything against the truth" 2 Corinthians 13: 5 – 7; "Beloved, do not trust every spirit, but put the spirits to a test to see if they belong to God, because many false prophets have appeared in the world. This is how to recognize God's spirit: every spirit that acknowledges Jesus Christ come in the flesh belongs to God" 1 John 4: 1, 2.

Determinants of Morality

Factors in human behavior and conduct which determine whether something is good or bad are determined in the wisdom of God revealing himself to man. It can be said there are three determinants of morality, namely the object, the end, and the circumstances of particular behavior.

By object is meant what the will chooses to do; in thought, word or deed, or chooses not to do. By end is meant the purpose for which the act is willed, which may be the actual act itself as one of loving God, or some other purpose for which a person acts, as in reading to learn. In either case, the end is the motive or the reason why an action is performed. By circumstances are meant all the elements that surround a human action and affect its morality without belonging to its essence. A convenient listing of the circumstances is to ask: *Who? Where? What? Where? How much? What means? How often?*

Some circumstances so effect the morality of an action as to change it radically. Stealing is bad, but stealing a consecrated object such as a chalice from a church becomes sacrilege and lying under oath is elevated to perjury, far more serious than just fibbing. Other circumstances change the degree of goodness or badness of an act. Murder is prohibited, but slaying another in self-defense mitigates the matter entirely. In bad acts there can be aggravating circumstances such as the amount of money a person steals.

To be morally upright a human action must agree with the norm of morality revealed to us by God on all three counts: in its nature, its motive, and its circumstances. Departure from any of these makes the action morally wrong.

"But we have the mind of Christ" 1 Corinthians 2: 16. Endowed with the Holy Spirit, the believer in Christ has an experienced knowledge of God's will and of spiritual divine values and therefore knows the mind of Christ. "Yet God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit" 1 Corinthians 2: 10.

Conscience

Conscience is an operation of the intellect and not of mere feelings or emotions or even the will of man. It is the judgment of the practical intellect deciding from general principles of faith, reasoned through the individual mind about the goodness or badness of a way of acting which an individual now faces.

An action or activity is right or wrong because of objective principles to which the mind must subscribe to and certainly not because a person subjectively feels that way or because he wants it that way.

Conscience, therefore, is a specific act of the mind applying its knowledge to a particular concrete situation calling for a moral decision. What the mind decides in a given case depends on principles already in the mind.

These principles are presupposed as known to the mind, either from the light of natural reason reflecting the data of creation, or from divine faith responding to the revelation of Almighty God and cooperating with it. Conscience does not produce these principles; it accepts what God teaches and reveals as true and efficacious. Nor does conscience pass judgment on the truths of reason responding in positive manner to divine faith; it simply uses them as the premises from which to conclude that something should be done because it is good or should be omitted because it is bad. Its conclusions also apply to situations where the mind decides that something is permissible or preferable, but not obligatory

A person has a true conscience when he concludes correctly from what God has revealed to us in true principle, that some act is lawful or sinful and conducts daily life according to this provision. Baptized people desire to have the mind of Christ, a conscience conformed to the will of God.

CONTRITION

Contrition comes to us from the ancient Latin, *contritio* which means grinding, crushing, from the root word, *contrere*, to rub together, bruise. The act or virtue of sorrow for one's sins is called contrition. The virtue of contrition ought to be a permanent disposition of soul. However, only an act of contrition or expression of sorrow is required for forgiveness of sin, which in the sacramental Mystery is rendered in prayer. This must reflect the inner depth of the soul separated from the love of God by willful submission to sin, with or without priestly absolution in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation.

The act of contrition is a free decision involving detestation of and grief for sins committed and confessed and also a determination not to sin again. This recognized detestation is an act of the entire believer that aims at past sinful thoughts, words, deeds or omissions. In practice it means that a sinner must renounce his past sins, equivalently saying he wishes he had not committed them. Grief for sins is also an act from the depths of the soul directed at the state of estrangement from the security which unity in faith response to God produces. Sinful actions produce a chosen separation and estrangement from God's security. Concretely, it means the deep desire to regain divine friendship, whether lost or injured by sin. There must be a determination not to sin again which is an act of the will resolving to avoid the sins committed and take the necessary means to overcome them through the grace and mercy of the Holy Spirit.

The qualities that permeate a genuine act of contrition are detestation of our sins, grief for having committed them and a determination not to repeat them. Valid contrition is inspired by God's freely bestowed grace coupled with the individual response to the operation of that grace within the sinner. It must be sincere and not proceed from a mere passing mood or emotional experience. It involves the working of the grace of the Holy Spirit with a motive accepted through faith. It is universal when its sorrow extends to all the deadly sins committed. It is sovereign if the penitent recognizes sin as an offense against God as the greatest of all evils with a commensurate wish to make amends as best as human limitation permits.

Abraham

Born in the twentieth or nineteenth century before Christ in Ur of the Chaldees on the Euphrates River, his father was Terah who named him Abram. The family migrated to Haran, where Terah died (Genesis 11: 26 – 31). At the explicit invitation of God, Abram, his wife, Sarah, his nephew Lot, and all their followers moved on to Canaan (Genesis 12: 4).

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God made a covenant with him, changing his name to Abraham, signifying a totally new lifestyle was being initiated, and promising to make him "father of a multitude of nations..." Genesis 17: 1 – 5. "I will make you into nations and your issue shall be kings...I will give to you and your descendants the land you are living in, the whole land of Canaan, to own in perpetuity, and I will be your God" Genesis 17: 5 – 8. Thus the beginning of salvation for mankind was begun. A people with his innate faith response would be formed to prepare the world for reconciliation with our heavenly Father since its separation with the falloff Adam and Eve.

Hence he as been called the founder and father of the Chosen People of God, those who would witness to and be faithful to God's covenant. Abraham's dedication to the will of God was tested when he was told to take his son, Isaac, to the land of Mount Moriah, which later became the site of the Jerusalem Temple, and sacrifice his son as a burned offering. He obeyed in faith response to the implicit request of God without hesitation, but Isaac was spared at the final moment (Genesis 22).

In his final days, Abraham arranged to have his son marry Rebecca, one of his kinfolk (Genesis 24), and left Isaac all his physical possessions and spiritual patrimony before he died at the age of one hundred seventy five years (Genesis 25).

Because of his supreme, faith, Abraham is considered to be the father of faith response par excellence, for the original band of Chosen People and those who finally succeeded them with the death and Resurrection of Christ, the present day faithful Christians.

Did You Know That ...

- ...if we belong to Christ, we should be longing to serve him?
- ...we must not let our parents down because they brought us up?
- ...to return good for good is simply human, but to return good for evil is God-like?
- ...the only gospel message your neighbor may hear will only come from you?
- ...when it comes to prayer, many believers need a faith lifting?
- ...the poor in spirit are earth's true nobility and heaven's millionaires?
- ...our love for God is best exemplified in our love for others?
- ...there are no victimless sins?
- ...one person's sins can bring tragedy to many?
- ...what parents leave in their children is far more important than what they leave to them?
- ...precious memories of yesterday can become precious moments today?
- ...if we are anchored to the Rock, we will never be shipwrecked on the rocks?
- ...God's grace can keep us from evil-seeing and hearing as well as from evil-speaking?
- ...those who would be wise to salvation must first become fools for Christ's sake?
- ...if we live for our neighbor, we will be living for God?
- ...if you have to be a talebearer, say something good?
- ...he has the right to criticize who has the heart to help?
- ...since we are the object of God's blessing, He should be the object of our thanks?
- ...he who puts God first will find God with him to the last?

ST. THEOPHAN THE RECLUSE: HOW TO LOVE CHRIST

How did St. John the Theologian attain such lofty love for the Lord and become a model of love for all of us? I think that he did this in the same way that people begin to love one another. They see the beauty and goodness of a person and become attracted to them with all their heart. In like manner St. John saw the beauty of the Lord and was attracted to Him. He sensed the Lord's special love for him and likewise was inflamed with love for Him. He saw the great, wondrous, and fruitful works of the Lord and, moved by fervent piety, he became completely devoted to Him. He tasted the sweetness of love for Him and, immersed with his whole heart in this love, took rest in it. Here follows the path of ascent in love for the Lord. Let us enter upon it, and in the end we will acquire it.

First: St. John saw the beauty of the Lord and was attracted to it. In the same manner love among people is born. They see someone's beauty, spiritual or physical, and begin to love one another. Let us lift up our mind to the contemplation of the Lord's beauty, and surely we will not remain cold and indifferent towards Him. The Lord's beauty is the sum total of all His perfection. "Look and observe, what does the Lord lack?" says St. Tikhon of Zadonsk. Anything that you might desire can be found with the Lord in indescribable and unlimited fullness. Do you seek blessedness? He has eternal and true blessedness. Are you seeking beauty? "Comely art Thou in beauty more than the sons of men" (Ps. 44:3). Do you seek nobility? Who is more noble

than the Son of God? Are you looking for honor? Who has more honor or is more elevated than the King of the heavens? Do you seek wisdom? He is the Person (Hypostasis) of God's Wisdom. Do you want gladness? He is the joy and gladness of blessed spirits and the chosen of God. Do you need comfort? Who can comfort you more than the Lord Jesus? Do you seek rest? Here is the eternal rest of those souls that love Him. Do you want life? He is the fountain of life. Are you afraid of being lost? He is the way. Do you fear deception? He is Truth. Are you in fear of death? He is life as He Himself assures us: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In short, all the perfection, beauty, and goodness that the human soul could love is found in Him. Force your mind to grasp this and, you will not be able to do otherwise than love the Lord. St. Catherine the Great Martyr promised to love the one in whom she would see the same wealth that she possessed, the same beauty, the same wisdom she boasted of, expecting that in the whole world she would not find such a person. But when she came to know the Lord, she saw that compared to His beauty, wisdom, and wealth her own was nothing and contemptible. She then gave herself completely to Him, clinging to Him and offering herself to Him as a sacrifice.

Secondly, St. John the Theologian, sensing the Lord's love for him, was inflamed with love for Him. Sincere and selfless love, when experienced from another, always inspires a corresponding feeling. Let us experience the Lord's love and kindle our love for Him. "What did the Son of God not do for us?" asks St. Tikhon. "What did He not attain for us? What did He not bear and suffer for the sake of our poor and needy souls? What labors and sufferings did He not take upon Himself in order to bring us, who had fallen away, to His Heavenly Father? He came down from Heaven in order to raise us, who had been cast out of Paradise, up to Heaven. For our sake He was born in the flesh in order to bring us unto Himself through spiritual regeneration. He humbled Himself for our sake, in order to lift us up. He became impoverished, in order to enrich us wretched ones. He suffered dishonor and wounds in order to heal and glorify us. He died for us in order to give life to us who were dead. Behold what condescension and humility His perfect love and sympathetic mercy brought Him to." Has not each one of us experienced this movement of God's love? How often have we fled from this love by sinning? Every time, because of one phrase, "I am guilty and will not do it again," have we been reunited through His mercy. How many times have we angered Him by giving into the temptation of the delights of this world? Then when we turned to Him again we were admitted to the Lord's Table, to partake of His Body and drink His

Blood. Is this not the embrace of His merciful love? Christ is among us in our everyday life. Who among us has not experienced His caring nearness to us, in deliverance from misfortune, illness, sorrow, difficult circumstances, in all needs spiritual and physical? Is it possible not to respond to such great love and turn to One who so untiringly loves us? Is it possible because of distraction and inattention to forget about the Lord's love for us? Having known and remembered this love, it is then impossible not to experience a feeling of love for the Lord no matter how calloused one's heart might be. He who continually walks in the presence of God's love will always be kindled with love for Him. Such is the nature of love!

Thirdly: St. John tasted the sweetness of love for the Lord and with perfect peace rested on his breast. Love is in itself a gift which can be compared with no other. It brings a blessing which is higher than anything in heaven or on earth. The Lord says, "He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him, and If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him" (John 14:21,23). How comforting are these words! What great and exalted promises the Son of God offers to those who love Him—that the true lover of Christ will share in friendship with the Father and His Son! The human mind cannot fathom God's goodness. God Who is great, endless, and unattainable, desires to have friendship with man whom He created and who is His slave. He desires to have friendship as long as man does not reject it ... "fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ", writes St. John (I John 13). Where the Son and the Father are, there also the Holy Spirit is not excluded. Behold what the love of Christ attains! He who loves is worthy to be the dwelling and home of of the Most Holy Trinity. The Tri-Hypostatic God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - is well disposed to dwell in man by Grace. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him (I John 4:16). Blessed indeed is such a heart! Even here on the earth it feels joy which is abundantly poured forth into the hearts of the chosen unto eternal life. The heart tastes the very essence of "how good the Lord is" and possesses that which is meant by the words, The Kingdom of God is within you.

For there where God is, is also all that belongs to Him. If God is within you because of your love, then you will have His justification for your sins, deliverance from your captivity, peace instead of your evil conscience, joy

instead of your misery, comfort instead of your sorrow, justification at God's judgment, assistance against your enemies, wisdom and intelligence instead of confusion and ignorance, strength in your weakness. If the Lord dwells in you for the sake of your love, then who can be against you, what harm can befall you? If He is your peace, then who can disturb you? If He is your joy and comfort, then who or what can cause you sorrow? If He is your strength, then who can overcome you? If He is your King, then who can subjugate you? "If God is with us then who can be against us," boldly exclaims St. Paul together with all those who love the Lord (Rom. 8:31). Such is love, and behold what it brings with it! Those who enter into the love of the Lord feel that they are more and more filled and perfected. For love is the bond of perfectness (Col. 3:14).

If you desire to love the Lord then strive to contemplate with your mind His beauty, or the fullness of His perfection, sense the warmth of His love and taste the sweetness of love itself with your heart. One cannot learn love, it takes place in the hidden places of the heart. It is sown in secret and ripens unobserved, like seed cast on the ground which sprouts without the knowledge of the sower, bringing forth a stem, an ear of grain and seed in the ear. Love is sown mysteriously, always, however, from the effect on the heart, the object of love. Turn your mind in your heart to the radiant, visage of the Lord, full of love and worthy of love, and from His eyes a spark will descend into your heart and kindle it with love for Him. He who stands by a fire is warmed by it, and he who turns to the Lord with his mind and heart is warmed by the fervor of His love, and himself begins to return a warm disposition towards Him. ...The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts... (Rom. 5:5), the Apostle Paul teaches. Love is a gift, but a gift prepared for everyone who seeks it: only desire it and seek, and immediately you will receive it. Just as the Lord embraces everyone, so it is impossible not to love Him. However, since not everyone turns to Him and seeks Him, so not everyone loves Him. For indeed He loved us first, and therefore we should love Him.

Let us dwell on these things brethren, and force ourselves to love the Lord with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our strength. Even better, let us arouse the love for Him sleeping in us and bring it out into action to be seen by us and everyone. Amen.

VESPER VERSES ACCORDING TO THE EIGHT TONES

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.

This is the glory of the Church;
The devil has been defeated.
This is the wealth of the Kingdom.
O Lord, you suffered for us :
Glory be to you!

4. Arrested by sinful men, O Christ,
You are still my God; I am not ashamed.
Seeing You scourged, I will not deny You;
Seeing You on the cross, I will not hide.
I praise your resurrection : your death is life
for me.
Almighty Lord, Lover of mankind, Glory be
to You!
5. Christ fulfilled the prophecies of David.
On Sion He manifested his greatness to his
disciples.
He showed Himself praised and glorified
With the Father and the Holy Spirit,
First as the Word before He became man;
Now incarnate He died for us as man.
He rose by his own power.
He is the Lord and Lover of mankind.
6. O Christ, you freely descended into the Abyss.
As God and Lord, You conquered Death.
You arose on the third day.
You freed Adam from the bonds of death.
He cried out in song and said :
" Glory be to your resurrection; You alone
love mankind! "

7. O Lord, You were buried in the tomb as asleep.
Powerful and strong, You arose on the third
day.
You raised Adam from the corruption of
death :
You are the Almighty Lord.
8. Glory be to the Father ✙, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.

Mother of God : you became a mother outside
the law of nature.

In birthgiving you remained a virgin.

This is beyond understanding and human
speech.

Words cannot describe the wonder of your
birthgiving.

More glorious is the nature of your conceiving,
O Pure One!

The manner of your birthgiving is beyond our
understanding.

For when God so wills, the laws of nature
are broken.

We firmly believe you to be the mother of God.

We hasten to you in prayer :

Intercede for the salvation of our souls

At the Apostichon

1. You rose from the dead, O Savior of mankind.
Through your body, you raised mankind.
O Lord, glory be to you!

2. Let us worship the Lord :
He has risen from the dead and enlightened
mankind.
By his resurrection, He has freed us from the
suffering of the Abyss.
He has granted us life and great mercy.
3. O Christ, you descended into the Abyss;
You despoiled Death and rose on the third day;
You raised us with you :
We glorify your all powerful resurrection.
O Lord, you alone love mankind.
4. O Lord, you were awe-inspiring :
Even when in the tomb as asleep,
Being all powerful, you rose on the third day.
You raised Adam who cried out :
“ Glory to your resurrection; You alone love
mankind! ”
5. Glory be to the Father **+**, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.
O most pure Lady :
All on earth take refuge under your protection.
We cry out to you : Mother of God and our
hope,
Deliver us from our many sins
And save our souls.



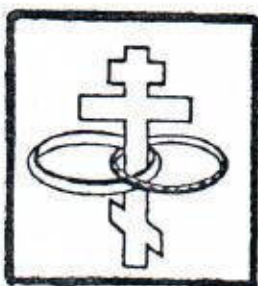
Birthday
Wishes!

We are pleased to greet those of our faithful communicants who celebrate their birthday this month. Our Lord has offered these souls yet another year of blessed life. The most obvious way He blesses us and participates in our life is by sharing his divine life with us in the Eucharist at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Thus we gather together and offer thanks for yet another year of life blessed by his most gracious hands. Today, we prayerfully remember in the Divine Liturgy the following souls who celebrate their birthday during this month:

July 14 Louis Pasquino
July 17 Eleni Pallas
August 1 Anna Sabo
August 3 Maria Pashos
August 9 Kent Pasquino
August 16 Maria Idromenos
August 16 Alfred Camp
August 29 Robert Henry
August 30 Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba

With a prayerful heart and grateful soul, our parish faith community asks the Lord to continue to bless these birthday celebrants with good spiritual and physical health for the coming year. We invite all to add their personal intercessory prayers so that with one voice and one heart we may also participate in the grace and joy of their celebration. As we wish them a happy and blessed celebration of their birthday, our ardent prayer resounds that the Lord our God will continue to bless them for

Many and Blessed Years!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The Byzantine Fathers of the Church were wont to emphasize how ancient and how venerable marriage is in the sight of our God because it was established yet in paradise before the fall of Adam and Eve and brought to blessed perfection by Christ in Cana of Galilee. Its grace survived the sin of our first parents and it remains a sign of the presence of the Holy Trinity in our midst. It is a living symbol of the deep and abiding love between Christ and His Bride, our blessed Church. It is characterized in the liturgical life of the Church as a happy martyrdom. And it is precisely for this reason the sacramental Mystery of Marriage is such a joyous event. On the third Sunday of this month, we honor those of our good parishioners who observe their marriage anniversaries this month. They are specially remembered in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and subsequently receive an individual and personal blessing of the Lord at its conclusion. Celebrating this month are:

August 4 Alfred & Ann Helene Camp
August 14 Subdeacon Daniel J. & Marilyn Korba

We gratefully give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for having guided and strengthened the marriages of these believers, and their cooperation with sacramental grace to remain faithful to one another over the years. Like all who are faithful to Christ, they recognize the presence and necessity of the Holy Spirit not only in the marriage, but in subsequent family life as well. As we praise our God for their witness in our midst, let us also join them with our prayers and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lord. May they continue to praise His Holy Name by their love and devotion to one another for

Many and Blessed Years

"YOU WERE TRANSFIGURED ON THE MOUNTAIN, O CHRIST OUR GOD"

The observance of the Feast Day of the Transfiguration of our Lord dates back to the 4th century, when St. Helen built a church on Mt. Tabor in remembrance of this mysterious event. Originally, this celebration was held in February, but since this often fell during Great Lent, and its commemoration was not in conformity with the penitential spirit of this fasting period, the Transfiguration was moved to August on the Church Calendar.



Why was this date selected? According to the church historian Eusebius, the Transfiguration actually took place 40 days before Christ's crucifixion. By placing the observance of this feast day on this particular date, it is now celebrated 40 days before the Elevation of the Holy Cross. That is a time when significant attention is given to our Lord's passion and suffering upon the Cross.

The Apostles Peter, James and John were present to witness this manifestation of Christ's divine glory. There has been much speculation as to why these 3 disciples were singled out to behold this miracle. It is felt that they represented the 3 main virtues of FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. Peter represented FAITH, for he was the first apostle to boldly claim that he believed that Christ was the "Son of the Living God." James represented HOPE, for it was with hope in Christ's promise of eternal life that James became the first apostle to lay down his life for the Lord. John represented LOVE, for this beloved disciple remained loyal to His Master when all others deserted Him.

Icon by Nataliya Zharsky

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