

**This appearance of our Risen Lord and the
miraculous catch of fish by His disciples
symbolizes their great commission to become
“FISHERS OF MEN”**

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Father of the Nicean Council

June 16, 2013

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.

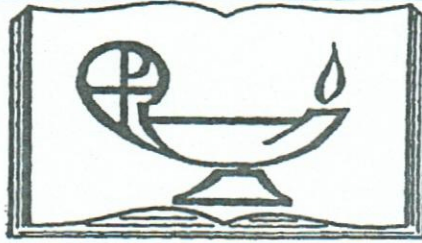
GLAD TIDINGS

+++ We will honor the elementary and high school graduates next Sunday, June 23. Please be with us for this celebration.

+++ Today we have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's solemn feast of the Ascension of our Lord, concluding the Resurrection celebration. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He Is And Shall Be!"

- +++ The final All Souls' Day for this liturgical season is solemnized this Saturday at 9:00 AM. When the Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service is celebrated. Please join us in prayer.
- +++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Anna, Ryan, Betty, Mary, Beth, Ann Helene, Delores, Debra and Michael.
- +++ We have left-over Pirohi from last week's sale. If anyone wants them we can provide them as several orders were cancelled and not picked up.
- +++ 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, \$348.00; Candles, \$29.00; Food Coupons, \$220.00; Kitchen, \$479.00; Holyday, \$10.00; Flowers, \$25.00, for a total of \$1111.00. 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! The attendance was 44 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, Anna Zacharyczuk, Debra Szmaida, Eleanor Korba, Michael Douglas, Robert Gorbich, Maria Garcia 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 **\$1694.00** 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 \$5550.00 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.
- +++ Please pray the Lord our God grants us an enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.
- +++ 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!

LORD



TEACH
US

Investing

Dear friends I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well 3 John 2

If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands, I will give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God. You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock – the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed where you come in and blessed when you go out. The Lord will grant that he enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. Then all the people on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity – in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground – in the land he swore to your forefathers to give to you. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the works of your hands. You will lend to many nations but borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom Deuteronomy 28: 1 – 13.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given you as well Matthew 6: 33.



MIRACLES OF JESUS

The gospel narratives contain at least thirty five instances when our Lord performed miracles. The people who witnessed them marveled at His wondrous deeds. The miracles included healings, exorcisms, power manifested over nature, and bringing the departed back to life. We have included a complete chart of the miracles of our Lord and where they can be found in God's revelation to us.

The miracle stories of the Gospels testify to the tremendous impression

the work of Jesus made on the people who followed after Him. More people became curious about Jesus and sought Him out because they wanted to see in person the man everyone was talking about Who would perform such signs, wonders and miracles. Some became fascinated with the Lord and in spite of His miracles, still did not consider Him God, but perhaps someone Who was possessed of extraordinary powers. Naturally, there was a whole variety of reaction to the Saviour.

In this so-called sophisticated age, many people pass over the miracle stories and dismiss them as enthusiastic exaggerations on the part of believers. They point out that there were other "magicians" around in the time of Jesus and that there were similar stories told and associated with them. When they do this they ignore some of the reasons why the miracles of Jesus were different from the others and some of the interpretations of the miracles of Jesus Himself being wrought only to witness to the glory of God and genuine individual need. The importance of Jesus' miracles lies not so much in the power they displayed as the significance that was attached to them both by believers and non-believers.

In general, the miracles were affected by the power of the spoken word or touch; they did not rely on magical tricks as some would contend.

All who looked on, were amazed. They began to ask one another:
"What does this mean? A completely new teaching in a spirit of authority! He gives orders to unclean spirits and they obey"
Mark 1: 27!

I command you: Stand up! Pick up your mat and go home Mark 2: 11!

Taking her hand he said to her: "*Talitha, koum,*" which means, "Little girl, get up" Mark 5: 41!

The miracles were not performed to bring glory or renowned to Jesus but that all might give glory to God for His bountiful mercy and love.

Fear seized them and they all began to praise God. "A great prophet has risen among us," they said; and "God has visited his people"
Luke 7: 16.

The miracles demonstrated God's love for suffering and stricken humanity.

My heart is moved with pity for the crowd Mark 8: 2.

These events were seen as the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures and its promises that at the time of salvation God would heal people's bodies as well as their souls.

Jesus gave this response; "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard. The blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead men are raised to life, and the poor have the good news preached to them Luke 17: 22.

On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see. The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel
Isaiah 29: 18, 19.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf cleared.
Then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the dumb will
sing Isaiah 35: 5, 6.

The spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken-
hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners
Isaiah 61: 1.

The miracles were accomplished in order to lead people to a faith commitment that
would endure. They were to make known the saving power of God our Father which
was working in Jesus.

Jesus said, "If you can?" Everything is possible to a man who has faith"
Mark 9: 23.

They were not compelling signs of God's power, for some of the leaders of the
people saw fit to attribute them to the power of the devil.

"...He is out of his mind," while the scribes who arrived from Jerusalem
asserted, "He is possessed by Beelzebub," and "He expels demons by
the help of the prince of demons" Mark 3: 22.

But to those who had eyes to see, the miracles were signs that God was at work in
Jesus in fulfillment of all the promises He made. They were able to place their faith
commitment in Jesus. His miracles confirmed that faith commitment we make. The
foremost miracle of the New Testament is the Resurrection. This is confirmed by
historical and reliable trustworthy sources.

I handed over to you first of all what I myself received, that Christ died
for our sins in accordance with the Scripture; that he was buried
and, in accordance with the Scriptures, rose on the third day; that
he was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that, he was seen
by five hundred brethren at once, most of whom are still alive,
although some have fallen asleep. Next he was seen by James; then
by all the apostles. Last of all, he was seen by me, as one born

out of the normal course 1 Corinthians 15: 3 - 8.

We can readily come to understand our Lord's tender concern for those who believe in Him.

...but the crowds found this out and followed him. He received them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God, and he healed all who were in need of healing. As sunset approached, the Twelve came to him and said, "Dismiss the crowd so that they can go into the villages and farms in the neighborhood and find themselves lodging and food, for this is certainly an out of the way place." He answered them, "Why do you not give them something to eat yourselves?" They replied, "We have nothing but five loaves and two fishes. Or shall we ourselves go and buy food for all these people?" There were about five thousand men. Jesus said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of fifty or so." They followed his instructions and got them all seated. Then, taking five loaves and two fishes, Jesus raised His eyes to heaven, pronounced a blessing over them, broke them and gave them to his disciples for distribution to the crowd. They all ate until they had enough. What they had left over and above, filled twelve baskets
Luke 9: 11 - 17.

This text is one which calls to mind the Eucharist, where Jesus feeds us with His Body and Blood. Let us reread the passage questioning whether such an event could have taken place. The crowds were following Jesus and were far away from towns where they could purchase something to eat. We must remember there are not convenience stores at this time. Jesus was speaking of the kingdom of God and was healing those who were sick. The disciples came and asked Him to send the crowd away. Jesus challenges them and here is an interesting note. When people traveled they always carried a pouch which had a little food to sustain them as they went their way, until they could get to the next town and purchase something substantial to sustain them. What if the miracle was that Jesus encouraged them who had food with them to share what they had and not hoard it only for themselves? Then, what would we learn from this event? We would be able to see that Jesus had compassion on the crowd and even demonstrated the compassion of our heavenly Father for all

people.. He also was able to encourage people to share, as He did, to practice selfless love, which He would demonstrate for us in His passion and death. In cooperation with the Saviour, the result was abundance; abundance of food, of sustenance, of faith commitment and of love for our heavenly Father, which is the very purpose the miracles were worked!

Christ worked the miracles to strengthen us, to confirm us, to draw us closer to Him and assure our salvation. He did not want us to doubt, to wonder, to even legitimately question in the inner recesses of our heart and soul. He performed miracles so that we could plainly and firmly believe He effected the salvation of our souls.

MIRACLES OF JESUS

EVENT	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
HEALING OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISORDERS				
Leper	8:2,3	1:40-42	5:12,13	
Centurion's servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Peter's Mother-in-law	8:14,15	1:30,31	4:38,39	
Two Gadarenes	8:28-34	5:1-15	8:27-35	
Paralysed man	9:2-7	2:3-12	5:18-25	
Woman in Hemorrhage	9:20-22	5:25-29	8:43-48	
Two blind men	9:27-31			
Man dumb and possessed	9:32,33			
Man with withered hand	12:10-13	3:1-5	6:6-10	
Blind, dumb and possessed	12:22		11:14	
Canaanite's daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Epileptic boy	17:14-18	9:17-29	9:38-43	
Bartimeus, blind man	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
Deaf and dumb man		7:31-37		
Man possessed		1:23-26	4:33-35	
Bethsaida blind man		8:22-26		
woman bent over			13:11-13	
Man with dropsy			14:1-4	
Ten lepers			17:11-19	
Malchus' ear			22:50,51	

Official's son			4:46-54
Sick man at Bethsaida			5:1-9
Man born blind			9

COMMAND OVER FORCES OF NATURE

Calming of storm	8:23-27	4:37-41	8:22-25
Walking on water	14:25	6:48-51	6:19-21
5000 fed	14:15-21	6:35-44	9:12-17 6:5-13
4000 people fed	15:32-38	8:1-9	
Coin in fish's mouth	17:24-27		
Fig tree withered	21:18-22	11:12-14	
		20-26	
Catch of fish			5:1-11
Water turned to wine			2:1-11
Another catch of fish			21:1-11

BRINGING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE

Jairus' daughter	9:18,19	5:22-24	8:41,42
	23-25	38-42	49-56
Widow's son at Naim		7:11-15	
Lazarus			11:1-44



Did You Know That ...

...to love another, you have to undertake some fragment of their destiny?

...no one is rich enough to do without a neighbor?

...if we discover the truth of Christ, we will showcase it by living it?

...there is nothing deep down inside us except what we have put there ourselves to build on God's grace?

...love stretches your heart and makes you big and inclusive inside?

...pessimists calculate the odds while optimists believe they can overcome them?

...we should never ruin an apology with an excuse?

...words can destroy; what we call each other ultimately becomes what we think of each other and it does matter?

...love produces a certain flowering of the whole personality which nothing else can achieve?

...sometimes one must travel far to discover what is near?

...everybody needs somebody?

...love is a medicine for the sickness of the world; a prescription often given, but too rarely taken?

...heroes may not be braver than anyone else; they may be braver for just five minutes longer?

...we can get anywhere we want to go if we really want to go?

...if we always expect the best from God, we will see that the outcome is spontaneously contained in the expectation?

...wisdom is knowing what to do next while virtue is doing it?

**HAPPY
FATHERS'
DAY**

**God
Grant our Fathers
Peace
Health,
Salvation
For
Many Blessed Years!**

**“I will be a Father to you and you
shall be my sons and daughters, says
the Lord Almighty”**

2 Corinthians 6: 18.

*You are precious to God,
cherished in His sight,
filled with His gifts,
blessed by His presence,
and beloved in His heart.*

**May your life always be a
wonderful celebration of His Love**

All men, and fathers in particular are called, through lives of fidelity and spiritual fruitfulness, and given the grace from heaven above to express the truth of fatherhood. As we celebrate Fathers' Day, it is worth reflecting on the vocation of fatherhood in light of the fatherhood crisis today.

One aspect of the contemporary problem is the absence of fathers. One third of children in the United States live apart from their biological fathers and research has shown that children of fatherless homes are significantly more likely to experience serious difficulties. A second aspect relates to confusion about the role of fathers. Men may be tempted by false ideas about masculinity to be authoritarian or aloof, rather than serving as loving protectors, providers and teachers.

The crisis of fatherhood is fundamentally above all else, a spiritual crisis which is rooted in a failure to recognize and imitate the fatherhood of our Creator God, "...from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named" Ephesians 3: 15. It is our God who shows us what it means to be a father. Conversely, our earthly father helps us to understand something of the love of God, which is nevertheless infinitely greater, more faithful and more total than the love of any man.

Even imagining God as Father becomes problematic without credible models of fatherhood. Today more than ever, the world is in need of faithful fathers, men who live in communion with our heavenly Father and recognize that He alone offers good gifts to his children "If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to anyone who asks!" Matthew 7: 11, embraces them when they are lost and repentant, "While he was yet a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was deeply moved. He ran out to meet him, threw his arms around his neck and kissed him" Luke 15: 20, and loves to the end, even offering his Son for our salvation, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not die, but have eternal life" John 3: 16.

Thankfully, in the life of his Body and Bride, our blessed Church, we have many models of fatherhood to guide us from St. Joseph, the foster father of the Lord to so many of our present day priests and bishops, particularly those who attained glorification under Godless persecution. Even among us, there are priests and bishops

who provide us with vivid examples of the life of Christ and bear witness to the stability of faith we see in God's relationship with us.

Just as the Church is blessed with faithful priests, spiritual fathers, so we see among us fathers who are devoted to our God and attempt seriously to live up to their privileged responsibilities in fatherhood. So many of our parishioners, whether in their own families or in service to those in need, exemplify fatherly virtue in their daily living.

As we celebrate and recognize the blessedness of our fathers among us today, we look ahead, we turn to our Father in heaven and ask for the grace to be ever more the men and fathers He created us to be.

Thinking With the Church

Today the Church asks believers nothing less than she has throughout her history: Profess what you believe and live what you profess. We must have the mind of the Lord. If we are to save our souls, we must think and live what the Church teaches because the Church only teaches what she learned and absorbed from Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Regardless of our personal shortcomings, we still retain the baptismal grace of the teaching office and relationship to the Body of Christ. Since we must echo and reflect Christ, we must know Christ, his spirit and his teaching; it must be espoused and made ours personally.

Thinking with the Church means thinking like Christ. It means being graced with patriarchs, bishops, priests, deacons and lay people whose lives are beyond question. We must be at the service of mankind, making up what is lacking in the spiritual lives of others. We must uphold the teaching of the Bride of Christ and advance it so that the entire character of the world is transformed and elevated.

If we have the mind of Christ, the Nietzsche claim that "God is dead" is refuted by our lifestyle. The new secularism will be placed in the bin of history and we will begin to write new chapter in the history of salvation.

PRAYER OF PARENT FOR CHILDREN

O HOLY Father, Eternal God, from whom all goodness and blessing flow : I humbly pray to You for the children You have graciously given me. You have given them existence, and have renewed them in the waters of rebirth by virtue of which they are able to obey your commandments and attain the kingdom of heaven. Preserve them in your grace to the end of their life, and sanctify them that your Name be hallowed in them. Aid me also by your grace that I may bring them up for the glory of your holy Name and for the benefit of our fellow man. Grant me the necessary means to this end, together with patience and fortitude. O Lord, enlighten them by the light of your wisdom that they may love You with all their heart and soul. Instill in their hearts a fear of evil so that their way may be without sin. Adorn their soul with your virtues that they may prosper in holiness and grow in your favor. And, if at any time they should sin against You, do not turn away from them but be merciful to them and awaken in them the spirit of contrition. Give them the goodness of the earth and everything necessary for eternal salvation. Protect them from misfortune, anger, privation, and from the snares of the devil all the days of their life. O Lord, grant me joy and happiness in my children. Enable me to appear with them at your awesome judgment, and there, without fear, to say : " Here I am, Lord, with the children You have given me. " That, together with them, praising your great goodness and eternal love, I may glorify your most holy Name, Father †, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CHILD FOR PARENTS

O MERCIFUL Lord God, You commanded me to honor my father and mother, and gave an example of obedience in your own earthly life. I humbly beseech You to hear my prayer and have mercy on my parents. Protect them from every evil, danger, and sickness. Grant them health, and, in your mercy, pour out upon them your bountiful blessings. Bless their efforts and deeds. Have mercy on them according to your great mercy, that they may faithfully serve You, and that, through them, I also may be worthy to praise and serve You. Amen.

PRAYER OF AN ORPHAN

O MOST merciful God, You preserve the life of every creature by your gracious providence. You never forsake even the smallest of creatures. I humbly entreat You not to withdraw from me. In your unfathomable decree, my parents have departed this life and I am deprived of their care and protection. O heavenly Father, take me under your care and be my protector. Console my afflicted heart by your care, and strengthen me by patience in my needs. Awaken compassion and pity in the hearts of my relatives and friends that they may give me a helping hand. Preserve me from affliction, misfortune, harm, and suffering. O God, bless my protectors, instructors, and all my benefactors. Grant my departed parents the remission of their sins and the attainment of your kingdom. For it belongs to You to love and save us, O Lord, and I glorify You, Father ✚, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

FATHERS

In God

**“But they that wait upon the LORD
shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles...”
Isaiah 40: 31.**

**“,,Passing on the faith,
showing to the generations to come
the praises of the Lord,
and his strength and
his wonderful works that he has done”**

Psalms 78:4.

**“but as for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord”**

Joshua 24: 15.

“STABILITY” ON THE SHORE

The Gospels tell us that after His Resurrection, Christ was seen on numerous occasions by His followers. One of the most interesting of these appearances is described in the writings of the Evangelist John as the “. . . *third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.*” (John 21:14) Peter and several of the other Apostles had been fishing all night on the Sea of Galilee with nothing to show for it. In the morning, Jesus called out to the Apostles from the shore, instructing them to “. . . *cast the net on the right side of the boat.*” Their catch was overwhelming – 153 large fish were caught and dragged to shore by them! After joining them for breakfast, Christ has the famous exchange with Peter, where the Lord asks him three times if he loved Him, giving him the opportunity to make amends for denying Him three times. It was also during this Post-Resurrection visitation that Jesus prophesied concerning Peter’s impending martyrdom (you will stretch out your hands and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish) as well as foretelling the lengthy life of His beloved disciple John.

There is also a subtle but powerful symbolism to this appearance that we should not overlook. The Apostles were in the midst of the waters, which could be quite turbulent. Christ was standing firmly on “solid ground” on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where there was “peace.” When the Apostles eventually joined their Master on land, they, too, found themselves in a much more stable environment. So it is for us as well. Our journey on the “sea of life” is not always “smooth sailing.” We are often faced with “waves” of confusion. Only when we cast aside the cares and temptations of this world can we ever hope to find Christ and the spiritual contentment He offers.