



“For a Christian ending to our life,
painless, blameless, peaceful and a good
defense at the judgment seat of Christ, let
us beseech of the Lord . . .”

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 13, 2017

**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 insightful riches 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

+++ His Grace, Bishop Gregory will be visiting our parish the week – end of November 4, 5, to bless the icons on the icon screen and to impart his episcopal blessing to our

faithful. We will have a service Saturday afternoon honoring our tear - shedding icon and the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy followed by a dinner in honor of the Most Blessed Bishop. Please set aside these dates to assure your presence with the parish family for this auspicious event.

+++ The Dormition of the Birthgiver of God feast is Tuesday and the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9: 00 AM. Please join us in prayer and praise.

+++ With regret we note many of our faithful are not offering their Diocesan Dues. Please bring them in because the parish is responsible for remitting \$65.00 per adult for support of the diocese.

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Betty, James, Yevlogia, Nicholas, Maria, William, Cynthia, Patricia, 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, \$93.00; Candles, \$15.00; Holy Day, \$30.00, for a total of \$138.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer one tenth of their God-given treasure and labor for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls!

+++ 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, Maria Idromenos, Anna Zacharyczuk, Marilyn Korba and Pani Buletza.

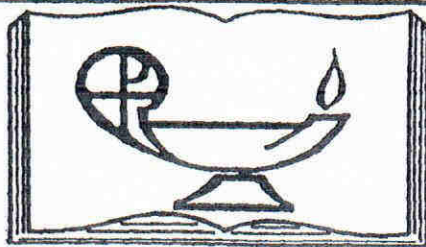
+++ We make a PENNIES FROM HEAVEN Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of \$1860.00 from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ 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, blankets and fabrics.

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

ALLELUIA

LORD



TEACH
US

In Times Of Temptation

There is cause for rejoicing here. You may for a time have to suffer the distress of many trials, but this is so that your faith, which is more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may by its genuineness lead to praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ appears 1 Peter 1: 6, 7.

Yet in all this, we are more than conquerors because of him who has loved us Romans 8: 37.

I tell you all this that in me you may find peace. You will suffer in the world. But take courage! I have overcome the world John 16: 33.

Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. In all circumstances hold faith up before you as your shield; it will help you extinguish the fiery darts of the evil one Ephesians 6: 10, 11, 16.

Who gave himself for our sins, to rescue us from the present evil age, as our God and Father willed Galatians 1: 4.

Therefore submit to God; resist the devil and he will take flight James 4: 7.

I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers. He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel Genesis 3: 15.

Happy the man who holds out to the end through trial! Once he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life the Lord has promised to those who love him. No one who is tempted is free to say, "I am being tempted by God." Surely God, who is beyond the grasp of evil, tempts no one. Rather, the tug and lure of his own passion tempts every man James 1: 12 - 14.

Justice and Mercy

God stands ready to forgive our sins, but we must turn to him in sorrow.

Just as we recognize we can fail, that we fall, that we sin, so do we realize that we need to be forgiven, to be freed from that heavy burden of alienation and separation which sin produces. We have to be able to make things right again. When we recognize we have offended God, Who is all deserving of our love, we sense the need for reconciliation. Like the Prodigal Son in the Gospel, we long to know again the loving embrace of a forgiving Father Who patiently waits for each of us. Jesus Himself has established the sure and certain way for us to access God's mercy and to know our sins are forgiven.

We learn that the mercy of God embraces us as we long for oneness with Him in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation or forgiveness, or penance, or confession of sins.

Where do we find the fullest possible revelation of God's mercy? How is it manifest to us? These questions bring us to the Cross on Golgotha and the empty tomb in Gethsemane. Here we are reminded that the true depth of God's mercy is revealed from the Cross and by the Resurrection. The Paschal Mystery is the culmination of this revealing and effecting of mercy, which is able to justify and reconcile man once again, to restore justice in the sense of that salvific order which God willed from the beginning to man and through man, to the whole world.

CHRIST CONQUERS

In the final commendation at funeral services, the priestly celebrant reminds us that the love of Christ which conquers all things, destroys even death itself, the most profound

effect of sin. Faced with the power of sin and death, we can sometimes feel helpless. Evil seems so often to triumph. Certainly death always reaches us. How can we hope to restore what is lost in our own spiritual life through our personal sin and even more, how can we hope to restore the right balance in our world wounded by sin and its consequences? Where do we turn for the possibility of healing? Is it tilting at windmills to dream of a world of justice and peace and to work for a good and just society? The Cross of Christ calls us to a realism that recognizes our own weaknesses but also our capacity to accomplish wondrous things for the kingdom of God.

The Cross of Christ on Golgotha is a witness to the strength of evil against the very Son of God, against the one who, alone among all the sons of men, was by his nature absolutely innocent and free from sin, and whose coming into the world was untainted by the disobedience of Adam and the inheritance of a lost legacy.

Yet it is precisely in this Cross which appears in triumph over Christ that the ultimate victory of God over the power of darkness appears. On September 14 we celebrate the Universal Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross. The varied hymnology of this feast day bids us lift high the

Instrument of salvation. It is testimony to the victory of Christ's death and Resurrection over sin and failure. It is precisely through the Passover mystery that every baptized Christian enters the death and Resurrection of Christ, and consequently, has hope of forgiveness and ultimate victory.

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

It is the Lord Himself Who invites us to reconciliation with God. It is Christ, the Good Shepherd, Who offers us forgiveness and the power to turn away from sin. It is the Holy Spirit Who inspires us and strengthens us to face our weaknesses, our sins, our separation from God and Who is the agent of reconciliation. Writing to the Corinthians, St. Paul remind us that just as sin came into the world through Adam and Eve, so too, grace and new creation come to us through Jesus Christ. Just as in Adam all people die, so in Christ all shall be brought to life, a new life in grace (1 Corinthians 15).

In establishing the Church, Christ passed on to her the power to forgive sins. Just as He forgave sins, so should those chosen by Him to be His Apostles be possessed of the extraordinary power to offer forgiveness in His Name.

It is the faith of the Church that in Baptism all our sins are forgiven. And yet the mercy of God is not exhausted

in this one action. Our personal lives bear testimony to the countless failings that mar our relationship with God and each other. Though we cannot be re-baptized, we can access the same loving mercy of God over and over again as it becomes necessary by the multiplicity of our sins.

How is this possible? The answer is found in mercy alive in the Body of Christ, His Church. The sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation is the story of God's love that is always available to us. It endures even our own selfishness and limitations. Like the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son, God waits, watches and hopes for our return even when we continually walk in the opposite direction. Like the son in the parable, all we need to do is turn around, to return, to reconcile our failings, our faults, our sins and above all else, search for and find God's love. Repentance is the key.

The lesson of the parable is two-fold: God's immense and never-failing mercy, and the son's contrition and humility. Without his turning back to the Father he would never have experienced the Father's loving embrace.

Jesus continues to call us to holiness and to His ever-present loving forgiveness. The saving, healing, restoring action which takes place in the sacramental Mystery of

Reconciliation is available to each of us but we need to ask for the mercy of God to receive it.

AT ONEMENT WITH GOD

The man Jesus Christ, Who is God's Son, is the only one who could offer the Father's forgiveness of our sins and effect at-onement with God, becoming one once again with our heavenly Father. Here we see the immensity of God's saving grace and merciful love. Not only does God save us, He brings about our salvation in a manner that at once honors the humanity He saves. Through Christ, God allows a human being to bring gifts worthy of salvation. St. Paul puts it this way: "For if by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one person Jesus Christ overflow for the many" Romans 5: 15.

Jesus becomes the new Passover. He is the unique and final sacrifice by which God's saving plan was accomplished and we were saved from sin and damnation. In God's holy plan it was determined that the Word of God made flesh in Jesus would be the one great expiatory sacrifice that would take away the sins of the world!

MYSTERY OF RECONCILIATION

It is in the Person of Jesus Christ that the priest hears our confession of sin

and guilt. As we approach the confessional that is a foreshadowing of the judgment seat of God, we do so aware of our own failings yet fully expecting the mercy of God. God does not fail us even though we fail Him. The priest speaks the judgment of the Saviour's mercy, invoking the power of Jesus, "Your sins are forgiven, sin not" John 5; 14.

Since the Mystery of Reconciliation restores us to our baptismal innocence, it is many times spoken of as our "second conversion," our first being baptism and is not repeated. However, thanks to the mercy of God, reconciliation can be repeated over and again even seventy times seven times. If this were not the case, no one would enter the eternal kingdom. Forgiveness is available as many times as repentance for sin is exhibited.

St. Ambrose the fourth century bishop of Milan and great evangelizer, reflected once on these two "conversions," pointing out that in the Church "there are water and tears, the water of baptism and the tears of repentance."

As we reflect on the mercy of God in itself we need to speak about how we approach the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation. This wonderfully generous gift of mercy is available to each and every Orthodox believer. All we need to do is to go to confession and ask for God's forgiveness.

PRACTICING OUR FAITH

What more honest and realistic step can a person take than to humble oneself before our God and seek His mercy! The practice of faith should include regular consistent sacramental confession.

It is by the absolution of the Lord that we are restored to holiness. The apology is necessary by the express mandate of God Himself. So powerful is the grace of this sacramental Mystery that our rich spiritual life insists in a frequent and careful celebration of its blessing as useful as a remedy in avoiding sin as well. This is not a mere ritual repetition or psychological exercise, but a serious striving to perfect the grace of baptism destroyed and marred by our sin, so we bear in our body the death of Jesus Christ that His life may be discerned more clearly as well.

The Church has long identified for us aspects of the Mystery of Reconciliation: Contrition, confession, absolution and penance. The follower of Christ who has sinned and who has been moved by the Holy Spirit to come and enjoy the grace of forgiveness, should above all be converted to God with his whole heart. This inner conversion of the heart embraces sorrow for sin and the intent to lead a new life in Christ. It is expressed through confession made to the Church with an amendment of

life. God grants pardon for sin through the Church which works through the ministry of the priesthood. The penance must be accepted as a remedial activity which should be recalled and relived each time the penitent is tempted to sin. Thus, then preoccupied with praising God in prayer and salutary activity, sin can be avoided and averted.

GOD AND NEIGHBOR

The love of God involves the love of people. It is God's love for us that is the example and driving force of what should be our love for others. It is clear the Holy Spirit teaches us, even those who do not accept the Church's belief in Christ and the infinity of God's mercy, the apology and reconciliation is vital and necessary. It is dictated by love for man, for all that is genuinely human and which, according to the intuitions of many of our contemporaries, is threatened by an immediate danger of indifference to God's love.

Christ truly is the Redeemer of mankind. His way always brings reconciliation, reunion, at-onement with God. His way introduces peace and unity among people. To dismiss any aspect of God's revelation to us is to move forward in peril because we will miss a significant portion of the true vision of human life's worth, purpose and goal. The very reason for the existence of the Church is, in fact

to reveal God, that Father who allows us to see Him in Christ, that man might attain to his rightful destiny as a child of God.

Our world, which at times can seem harsh, unforgiving and unrelenting, can be greatly served by the realization that just as God is rich in mercy and forgiveness and is available to all of us, so should each of us be open to one another with the same consideration and loving forgiveness. It is as forgiven children we approach each other.

What a world we could bring about if such a vision, rooted in God's revelation were accepted as the starting point for how we deal with one another, in our families, in our communities, in our parishes in our nation, in the world at large.

Let such a world begin in our families, with our loved ones so that our holiness radiates into our neighborhood and among those with whom we come in daily contact.

The purpose of the Mystery of Reconciliation is our personal holiness, our advancement in faith commitment, our continuing fidelity to the all-encompassing love of the Holy Trinity for each soul created in God's image, our faithful reflection and echoing of the very purpose of our daily living, existence and creation.

**What's
Tell me
the
what's
buzz...?
happening**

Communicants of our parish are invited to live happily in God's kingdom forever!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS...

...Be a faithful baptized follower of Christ!...Fully live the Gospel message!...Enjoy the grace of the sacramental Mysteries!...Be immersed in heavenly worship every Sunday and holyday!...Pretty simple, wouldn't you say?

Did You Know That ...

...your gifts are the opposite of achievements?

...love applies only to human beings?

...believe tomorrow will be better and joy will enter your heart?

...your companions are like the buttons on an elevator; they will either take you up or they will take you down?

...the only person more obnoxious than a wise guy is a wise guy who turns out to be right?

...those who are happiest are those who do the most for others?

...to understand the value of money, you have to have some, spend some, and give some away?

...the secret of life lies in how we handle today, not yesterday?

...today locks out yesterday's nightmare and unlocks tomorrow's dreams?

...being bored is an actual insult to oneself?

...success is keeping your head up and your overhead down?

...instead of "you win some and you lose some," say, "you win some and you learn some"?

...knowing the truth and living the truth are two different things?

...character is that force that enables an individual to carry out a resolution once the mood in which that resolution was born has died?

...do not live in the past because you have already been there, done that?

...you should never place a period where God has placed a comma?

...successful people do not work, they simply enjoy what they are doing?

A Positive Message

Have you ever fallen flat on your face as a total failure? One lousy lawyer did.

He came from a wealthy family and was the enormous pride of his parents. He had every advantage: the best schools, a law degree and an introduction to the most important people of his day.

But he had to prove himself a capable lawyer, without the help and influence of his father and social standing. In the courtroom he presented a terrible image. He was too frightened and lacking in self confidence to stand up to the opposition and was easily overwhelmed.

As he reached into his lowest, most wretched level of suffering, he realized there were people personally worse off than himself. He began to consider how he could help and contribute to alleviate the misery around him.

He never did become a prominent lawyer. Instead, he developed his own philosophy, which led his native country of India to independence from British rule after centuries of subjugation. God used him for something totally different than he prepared for in his life. His dignity is that he followed the inspiration of our God. His name was Mahatma Gandhi.

The lesson we must learn is that our God is so all-inclusive, He will gladly use everyone who recognizes his own limitations, is not worried about who gets the credit for praiseworthy activity, and is

willing to surrender his will to Him and be an example for the world to follow.

Roses

The roses under my window make no reference or compare themselves to former roses or seemingly better or worse ones; they are what they are; they exist the way God made them today and are faithful to their vocation of simply being roses. There is no time to them. There is simply the rose; it is perfect in every moment of its existence because it is faithful to what God want it to be

The Lear Jet

The father of this amazing airplane was a man named Bill Lear. An inventor, aviator and business leader, Lear held more than 150 patents, including those of the automatic pilot, car radio, and eight track tapes. Lear was a pioneer in his innovative thinking, and in the 1950's he could see the potential for the manufacture of small corporate jets. It took him several years to make his dream a reality, but in 1963, the first Lear jet made its maiden voyage and in 1964 he delivered his first production jet to a client.

Lear's success was immediate, and he quickly sold many aircraft. But not long after he got his start, Lear learned that two aircraft he'd built had crashed under mysterious circumstances. He was devastated because he knew it reflected adversely on him. At that time 55 Lear

jets were privately owned and he immediately sent word to all the owners to ground their planes until he and his research team could determine what caused the crashes. The thought that more lives might be lost was far more important to him than any adverse publicity that action might generate in the media.

As he researched the ill-fated flights, Lear discovered a potential cause, but he couldn't verify the technical problem on the ground. There was only one sure way to find out whether he had diagnosed the problem correctly. He would have to try to re-create it personally in the air.

It was a most dangerous process, but that is what he did. As he flew the jet, he nearly lost control and almost met the same fate as the other two pilots. But he did manage to make it through the tests, and he was able to verify the defect. Lear developed a new part to correct the problem and immediately fitted all 55 planes with it, eliminating the potential danger.

Grounding the planes cost Lear a great deal of money, but he felt it was the least thing he could do. And it planted seeds of doubt in the minds of potential customers. As a result, he needed two years to rebuild his business and restore confidence. But Lear never regretted his decision. It caused havoc in his life, but he was willing to risk his success, his fortune and even his life to solve the mystery of those crashes. But he would

not sacrifice his integrity and concern for others. That takes character!

The Perfect Speech

Chauncey Depew once played a trick on Mark Twain on an occasion when they were both to speak at a banquet. Twain spoke first for some twenty minutes and was received with great enthusiasm. When Depew's turn came immediately afterward, he said, "Mr. Toastmaster, ladies and gentlemen, before this dinner, Mark Twain and I entered into an agreement to trade speeches. He has just delivered mine and I'm grateful for the reception you have accorded it. I regret that I have lost his speech and cannot remember a thing he had to say."

He sat down to astounding applause.

Know Your Limits –Then Ignore Them!

John Mason the author of the book of the same title, tells us that it doesn't often happen that he is awakened in the middle of the night with this thought, "Don't live within your means!"

Always a great proponent of letting go of whatever makes you stop or limits you, at about 4:30 AM, he was so excited about that idea that he awoke his wife and began to "preach" to her about it for several minutes. She said the idea was great, but that she really needed her

sleep for the succeeding busy day she anticipated.

What does he mean when he says, "Do not live within your means"? He believes we should act bigger, believe larger and associate higher. Our outlooks determine our outcome. So our plans should be BIG! After all, did not our Creator include us in His big, eternal plans?

If we are only satisfied with this life as it is, that is all we will achieve and appreciate. He is not encouraging us to go wild, to have no boundaries or be reckless. Certainly we should spend within our means, but not live there. We ought to recognize that a portion of eternity is here and now, that the life of our Church introduces heaven to us, that the kingdom of God surrounds us.

We should talk with people smarter than us. We ought to listen to those more insightful than us. We ought to question those who are more successful than us. We can lend a hand to those less fortunate than us. We can share insights with our spiritual mentors and learn to grow not only physically, intellectually, but most importantly, spiritually as well!

He sincerely thinks that many people who think they are frugal are not really frugal at all. Rather, they are full of fear. The label of frugality, balance, or conservativeness is often a mask to cover up a deep-rooted fear in their lives; that they are not really generous in their love response to God Who first expressed His overwhelming love for them. They are too

reserved, even overwhelmed to think about the never-ending glory of heaven for eternity so that they do not genuinely enjoy their earthly lives, which are in fact, a preparation and encouragement for eternity! They make such thorough plans for rainy days they don't enjoy today's sunshine! He advises abandoning altogether the thorough search for security because it is only the insecure who strive after security. Instead, trusting in the Lord and His promised provisions is advanced.

He desires that all recognize that no matter what level your ability, you have been equipped with more potential than you can possibly use in your lifetime because the lifetime of a true believer is for all eternity, actually limitless, without end! Being somewhat of a success here and now does not really equip us for a joyful eternity if we limit ourselves here and now. Earth's standards are not heaven's standards. He advises that we not permit the future to be that time when we wish we had done what we are not doing now simply because earth life is so limited compared with that of heaven. We need to have a fond and eager dream, a expectant dream of salvation to make it come true.

In other words, if the shoe fits, don't wear it. If you do, you are not allowing room for growth. You are not embracing your complete potential as God sees it for you. Webster knew all about the ineffectiveness of "living within your means." Simply human people live simply human lives; but we are destined for

divinity, for eternity! When you look up the word *means* in the dictionary, it tells you to see the word *average*. When you decide to live within your means, you are deciding to live simply an average life.

Do this: Know your limits, then ignore them because you have an eternity, with God ahead of you!

The Garden You Could Grow

Her grown daughter Carolyn had continually pestered her to visit some garden several hours from her home and she had successfully managed to put off the visit. Until now when the badgering could not be ignored. Reluctantly, the city woman made the trip with her daughter, unable to imagine why Carolyn made such a fuss over a bunch of flowers. But then when they finally reached the garden, it took only a momentary glance for the mother to quickly understand.

There before her were acres of daffodils cascading down the mountainside in a gently flowing river of orange, white, lemon and saffron. More than 50,000 bulbs panted one at a time over forty years by just one seemingly industrious woman! The mother and daughter were equally impressed and intimidated by the scope of the gardener's achievement. "What might I have accomplished if I had thought of a wonderful goal such as this 35 years ago and had worked at it one bulb at a time through all these years?" The out-loud thinking of the mother was responded to by the daughter's observation, "start tomorrow!"

And of course the young woman is absolutely right. It is useless to ponder what might have been done, but what you *could* do is far more realistic and can still spread before you a flood of attractive and appealing color. Everyone does not have the necessary green thumb to succeed in transforming seeds into brilliant blooms, but the soul of every person can spread the bright colors of virtue, joy, humility, kindness, generosity, tenderness and loving care.

Hope

A busy physician tells the story of overhearing two others discussing a paper they were about to deliver at a national meeting of cancer specialists. One was complaining bitterly, "I don't understand it, Bob. We use the same drugs, the same dosage, the same schedule of treatment. Yet I get a 22 percent recovery rate and you get a 74 percent recovery rate. How do you explain that?"

The other responded intuitively, "We both use Etoposide, Platinol, Oncovin, and Hydoryurea. You put those letters together and tell people that you are giving them EPOH. I put them together and explain rather carefully to them that they are receiving HOPE. I emphasize they have a definite chance!"

Which obviates the point that if we sometimes reverse the order of things we speak about, encouragement and hope can be imparted without extra effort.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 17, 14-22



Obeying Parents

Ephesians 6:1

God wants you to obey and love your parents. Sometimes you might not want to obey your parents, but Jesus will help you to do what is right.

One way you can show your parents you want to obey them is to help them at home and keep your room clean and neat.

Michael and Jason need to help their parents by making their yard look neat. Color all the things Michael and Jason can clean up or put away. Did you find all 14 things?

What things can you do to obey your parents and keep your house neat?



Help the children to think of other situations in which they might not want to obey, but Jesus will help them. Discuss why obedience to parents shows Jesus we want to obey Him too.

Helper Certificate

Obeying Parents

Ephesians 6:1

When you obey your parents, you are obeying God. The Bible tells children to obey their parents.

Sometimes it is hard to obey, but Jesus will help you do what is right.

You can show your parents you want to obey them by giving them this Helper Certificate. Write in your name, the name of the person you will obey by helping, and what job you will do for them. Color the seal your favorite color and cut out the certificate. Give the certificate to the person you want to help.

Helper Certificate

I, _____
(Your Name)

will help

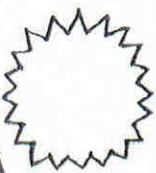
(Name of person you will help)

by doing

(job)

(job)

(Signed) _____



Brainstorm with the children jobs they can do to show obedience to their parents. You might suggest they use their helper certificate to show their parents they will do some job they have been unwilling to do before. Help the younger children fill in the blanks, if needed.

Q

Jealous People

Some Scripture folk were miserably jealous. See if you can match these persons, listed in the left-hand column, with the persons they were jealous of.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Saul | _____ a. Mordecai |
| 2. Philistines | _____ b. Moses |
| 3. Rachel | _____ c. Jesus |
| 4. Laban's Sons | _____ d. Isaac |
| 5. Cain | _____ e. Hagar |
| 6. Miriam | _____ f. David |
| 7. Sarah | _____ g. Joseph |
| 8. Chief Priests | _____ h. Jacob |
| 9. Jacob's Sons | _____ i. Leah |
| 10. Haman | _____ j. Abel |

Before the great flood, people lived for an extremely long time. Methuselah, for example, lived 969 years. After that, the average life span was about 120 years.

- A. 10 (Esther 5:11-13)
 B. 6 (Num. 12:1, 2)
 C. 8 (Matt. 27:12, 18)
 D. 2 (Gen. 26:12-14)
 E. 7 (Gen. 21:9, 10)
 F. 1 (1 Sam. 18:6-9)
 G. 9 (Gen. 37:3, 4)
 H. 4 (Gen. 31:1)
 I. 3 (Gen. 30:1)
 J. 5 (Gen. 4:4, 5)

JEALOUS PEOPLE

✠ ✠ FALLING ASLEEP OF THE VIRGIN ✠ ✠

In a sense, one might say that the month of August is devoted to the Holy Virgin, Theotokos, Birthgiver of God. Two weeks of the month are set aside by the Church as a time of fasting and of preparing for the Feast of her Dormition or Falling Asleep. Special services are conducted during this time, and sermons are preached about the one “blessed amongst women . . .”

Tradition has woven for us the story of the Holy Virgin’s last days and departure from this life. Our Lord, at the time of His death on the cross, instructed St. John the Beloved Apostle to care for the Virgin Mother. And care for her he did, as a loving son.

But time marches on, and with its passing the race of humankind also passes. The Theotokos felt her earthly life was drawing to a close. She gave instructions to be buried at Gethsemane, and then “fell asleep.” The apostles and disciples of the Lord gathered to honor her.

An ancient story tells that St. Thomas was not present at the time of the rites. When he finally arrived, after three days, he asked to see the Virgin Mary and impart the “last kiss of parting.” The apostles opened the tomb, and were astonished to find that the body was gone. It is from this story that the term “assumption” has been associated with the event.

The icon depicts the repose of the Holy Virgin in graphic detail. The apostles are solemn in their ministry to the Theotokos. Christ hovers in the central position, holding the soul of the Virgin. The mood is stark, although the Virgin appears in perfect peace.

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