



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2015

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

+++ Today we have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's simple feast of the Protection of the Birthgiver of God. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we reply, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ 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.

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Barbara, Betty, James, Yevlogia, Nicholas, Maria, Cynthia, 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: Tithing Offering, \$270.00; Candles, \$10.00; Holyday, \$15.00; Food Coupons, \$360.00; Kitchen, \$28.00 for a total of \$683.00. 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!

+++ 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, Maria Idronmenos, Anna Zacharyczak, Bob Gorbich, 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 \$1828.00 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 \$6750 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 the grace of enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.

+++ The next Pirohi Sale is this Saturday, October 10. Please come and lend your helping hands.



PRAYER

There is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we asked of him 1 John 5: 14, 15.

Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. In green pastures he gives me rest; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in a dark valley I fear no evil for you are at my side. With your rod and your staff you give me courage. You spread the table before me in the sight of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever Psalm 23: 1 - 6.

This is how you are to pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us the wrongs we have done as we forgive those wrong us. Subject us not to trial but deliver us from the evil one' Matthew 6: 9 - 13.

One day he was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord teach us to pray as John taught his disciples' Luke 11: 1.

So I say to you, Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives, whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted. What father among you will give his son a snake if he asks for a fish, or hand him a scorpion if he ask for an egg? If you, with your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him Luke 11: 9 - 13.

A Guide For Life

God is our God forever; he will be our guide forever, even to death
Psalms 48: 14.

The radio operator of the *Joshua Heandy* had just sent out an SOS. The staff of the ship had just crawled into their bunks when the first mate opened the door to their quarters and told them to put on their heavy coats and lifejackets. Without further explanation he was gone. This ship was a liberty ship loaded with horses for Poland along with sixteen volunteers to care for the horses.

The wind was wildly screaming through the rigging and the sea in its rage picked up the ship until the screw came out of the water, causing it to vibrate and shudder. The vessel seemed helpless as it turned crosswise to the swell and rolled about 45 degrees. Finally all aboard were told that the steam pipe to the rudder broke, so they were without means to control and guide the huge ship. Some time later the damage was repaired and they were once again headed in the right direction.

As a ship without a rudder, so is our life without a guide. Our heavenly Father is perfectly able and qualified to be our guide. He knows the way because He beforehand created it. He knows the future because it belongs to him. Moses become confident because the pathway is being provided by the God who called him to lead the Israelites out of bondage. Joshua knows where to go into the Promised Land because God is his compass. We have full confidence in him even as Abraham, who went out not knowing where he was going, only knowing with Whom he was going. Job in his trials comforts himself with the thought, "He knows the way I take" Job 23: 10.

There are many dangers along the way; there are astounding storms in life which surround us and those who choose to go their own way are certain to get lost. We see it about us every day of our lives. Our Guide expects us to follow and obey him. He will eagerly guide us if we pray, "take my will and make it yours." Even through trials He continues with us all the way, even to death. Jesus, Saviour, pilot me!

DIAKONIA

(Dē - ă - kôn' - ē - ə)

THE GREEK WORD FOR "SERVICE"

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO SERVE GOD
THROUGH OUR WORSHIP, PRAYER
AND SERVICE TO EACH OTHER
AND TO THE WORLD.

JESUS ...

got up from the table,
took off his outer robe and
tied a towel around himself.

Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him ... After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you. (John 13: 4-5; 12-15)

**We as baptized Orthodox believers must be moral and faith-filled
in our geographic community and in the life of the Church.**

**We must light the way for the world reeling from
the anguish of the hungry in our streets,
the danger of ecological devastation,
the obscurity of war as political strategy,
the sin of systemic oppression,
the stench of corporate greed,
and the heresy of sexism.**

**We must be prophetic as those who live at
the center of society to leaven it,
at the bottom of society to speak for it,
and at the edge of society to critique it
so the truth of Christ becomes
known and lived in our broader community.**

**Then a critical number of people will be
changed in how they think and behave;
our culture will be transformed and a new era begun.**

**Our heavenly Father does not just call the equipped,
He equips the called.**

**It is not the numerical size of our parish faith community, but the
integrity of interior faith that determines the
quality, influence and longevity of parish life!**

Enduring Faith

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed...without weakening in his faith

Romans 4: 18, 19.

A deep thinker and enduring believer once advised a questioning man who asked him the best way to have strong faith: "The only way to know strong faith is to endure great trials. I have learned my faith by standing firm through severe testing."

How sublimely true this is!

Dear and beloved soul, you may scarcely realize the value of your present situation. If you are enduring great and painful afflictions right now, you are at the very source of strongest faith. Our heavenly Father will teach you during these dark hours to access the most powerful bond to his throne you could ever know, if you will only submit to his will.

"Do not be afraid; just believe" Mark 5: 36. But if you ever are afraid, simply look to heaven and say with David, the man after the heart of God, "When I am afraid, I trust in you" Psalms 56: 3. Then you will be able to thank God for his school of sorrow that became for you the university of faith.

Great faith must first endure great trials.

The greatest gifts we receive from our God come through great pain. Can we find anything of value in the spiritual or the natural realm that has come about without tremendous toil and tears? Has there ever been any great reform or conversion, any discovery benefiting humanity or any soul-awakening revival, without the diligence and the shedding of blood by those whose sufferings were actually the pangs of its birth?

For the temple of God to be built, David had to endure intense affliction over the years. And for the gospel of grace to be extricated from the whole of Jewish tradition, the life of St. Paul had to be one long, almost unending agony.

What of the lives of all the disciples following Pentecost? Were not the sufferings they were called to endure occasions which confirmed them in resolved commitment to their Saviour? Did not the agony of the Lord on the Cross pave the way for confirmation in faith response

*"Not only is
woman's work never
done, the definition
keeps changing."*



ST. SERGIUS OF RADONEZH

Each national group within the Church has saints it dearly venerates. As the jurisdictions draw closer together in the movement towards unity, it is necessary for us to know of these heroic people of ages past.

St. Sergius of Radonezh is one such majestic figure. He was born about 1319 and had an undistinguished early life. In fact, he had difficulty learning to read in school, but a chance meeting with an aged monk worked a profound change in him.

By the age of 23, Sergius was ready for monastic life. Rather than enter the existing communities, he set out with his brother Stephen for the uninhabited forests of central Russia. Here in the dense forest they built their cells and lived the life of work and prayer. The brother did not stay long, but Sergius remained. He suffered the intense cold of winter, the isolation, the loneliness, the fear and the hardship of life far removed from the populated areas.

After several years of lonely existence, the news of his austerity and piety spread. St. Sergius was visited by other monks who came to stay with him. The community thrived and soon Sergius became the abbot. He built a church of timber named "The Source of Life, the Ever-Blessed Trinity." In the centuries to come, it grew into the most renowned of monasteries in the land, the Troitska monastery.

St. Sergius grew to have tremendous influence on the national life of Russia. Princes were known to seek out his advice. Monks from his community went forth and organized monasteries elsewhere. His pioneering spirit helped bring learning, schools, hospitals and culture to the country. St. Sergius died in 1392. By the year 1428, the church canonized him.