



# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 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

+++ Wee sincerely thank all the generous souls who contributed to make our Pirohi Sale a success. We pray the gracious Lord continues to bless all and their loved ones with continued good health for Many & Blessed Years!

- +++ 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: Tithe Offering, \$503.00; Candles, \$15.00; Holyday, \$35.00, for a total of \$553.00. 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 Zacharyczuk, 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.

LORD



TEACH  
US

### In Faith and Trust

*He will guard the footsteps of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall perish in the darkness. For not by strength does man prevail* 1 Samuel 2: 9.

*Yet the righteous shall hold to his way and he who has clean hands, increase his strength* Job 17: 9.

*Realize what when your faith is tested this makes for endurance* James 1: 3.

*If we sin willfully after receiving the truth, there remains for us no further sacrifice for sin, only a fearful expectation of judgment and a flaming fire to consume the adversaries of God* Hebrews 10: 26, 27.

*When you pass through water, I will be with you; in the rivers you shall not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you* Isaiah 43: 2.

*The eyes of the Lord roam over the whole earth to encourage those who are devoted to him wholeheartedly. You have acted foolishly in this matter for from now on you will have wars* 2 Chronicles 16: 9.

*The Lord keeps faith; for he it is who will strengthen you and guard you against the evil one* 2 Thessalonians 3: 3.

*Without faith it is impossible to please him. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him* Hebrews 11: 6.

*Thus in virtue of the favor given me, I warn each of you not to think more highly of himself than he ought. Let him estimate himself soberly in keeping with the measure of faith that God has apportioned him* Romans 12: 3.

## Remembering

Remembrance – memory – is an essential part of life. Memories help define us; to understand ourselves as persons, as families, as Church! During every Divine Liturgy, as we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we are reminded of Christ's words to His disciples, as He offered the bread, gave thanks, broke it and said, "This is my Body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me!" Memory is life-giving! Memory unites us with one another! Memory unites us with Christ! In many ways and places, our God calls us to remember. That is why it is vital for us to participate in the worship of the Church on Sundays and holydays! God said to Noah after the flood: "I will remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh." After God brings His people out of Egypt, Moses says to them, "Remember this day, in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage, for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out from this place."

During every Divine Liturgy, we remember "God's saving commandment, and all which have come to pass for us: the Cross, the Tomb, the Resurrection on the third day, the Ascension into heaven, the sitting at the right hand and the second and glorious coming." If we wish God to remember, we must also remember what is expected of us.

In our parish we have time for remembering. We have time for recalling fondly we are God's blessed children. We have to recall His blessing on each of us particularly in our times of need. Each time we are gathered for celebration by the Holy Spirit, we have much to remember. Our Church family of faith gathers to celebrate our life of salvation together. We come to renew our relationship in Christ. We come to access the continuing work of Church which includes our own salvation. We come to realize in the Eucharist our oneness in Jesus Christ. It is in this unity in Christ that we remember, that we recall the blessedness of being a disciple of Christ. We remember, we recall and we never forget that we are communicants and vital parts of Christ's own Body!

Each Sunday and holyday there is much to remember and much to recall. We cannot forget our own individual initiation into the faith of Christ by our experience of Baptism and Chrismation. How readily we remember how good the Lord is as we come forward at the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and holydays to be nourished on His Body and Blood once again! How overjoyed is our heart and soul as we are comforted and confirmed in faith commitment remembering and hearing the Word of God taught us in Scripture, hymn and homily.

## SOUNDING THE DEPTHS

We ought often reflect on the invitation of our Lord to His disciples, which should be the theme of our parish educational program, "Put Out Into The Deep!" It is the gospel challenge to every communicant of our parish and every Orthodox believer and especially all who are committed fervently to the spiritual heritage of charity, unity, and devotion to the salvation of mankind. Desiring to be able to reach more people, that He be better heard and observed and understood, our Lord tells His disciples to get into the boat and move away from the shore. Change positions, He teaches them. Let the people gain a new perspective on traditional gospel truth. "Put Out Into The Deep."

Let us begin with a contemporary parable. Not long ago at the Jersey shore they were preparing to test new lifeguards. About a hundred yards out in the ocean there was a rowboat in which the instructor was seated. Back at shore there were several young people who were going to swim out to the boat as part of the test. One man about 18 years old, was next to be tested. He was carrying a rope and lifesaving equipment. As he was going, the people yelled out to him. One said, "Jim, have you taken everything you need?" Another yelled, "Jim, are you sure you can handle big waves?" And yet another, a sister or girlfriend perhaps, hollered, "Jimmy, do you really want to do this?"

As believers in Christ, we must ask ourselves these same questions: Do we have everything we need for the journey? We have our precious and blessed faith. Is that not enough? That is the question we pose for ourselves. Our faith is enough, more than enough, and if it is, then we have nothing more to take with us except that. If our faith is strong, if we know who we are, then we can go into the journey, "Put out into the Deep," and not be afraid. We don't need to be afraid of the big waves or the challenges that society places in front of us. We do not need to be afraid of anything, because our Lord is with us. Of this we can be certain.

Finally, do we really want to do this? Do we really want to "Put out into the Deep? Do we really want to take this journey of evangelization and spreading our faith, sharing it with others who are hungry for salvation? Do we wish to take this journey when it is so much easier to stay at home, to stay on the beach, to stay in the comfort of our own little world. The Lord says to us, "Put out into the deep." He is not offering us an adventure that is always going to be pleasant. He's offering us the opportunity to demonstrate who we are as His followers and what we know and how we put it into practice daily. To know who we are is to know what we can do. It means using the grace of the Holy Spirit to make up in us what is generally lacking. It means to trust

Christ for the very purpose of our life. To know who we are means to proclaim it to the world. We must express what is in our hearts, what energizes and animates our souls, the charity of our hearts, the unity of our faith and the love of Christ.

"Putting out into the deep" means taking what we know, what we are and making something of it. It means changing the world, changing our community, being a vibrant and meaningful Orthodox faith community that contributes to and influences the belief of our community. It means taking seriously Christ's mandate to change the world. It means making a serious attempt to make this world better than we found it when we entered it.

To "Put out into the deep" means bringing our Orthodox faith into the society around us, sharing with those who are hungry, the food of the soul. It means offering to others the genuine Christian friendship; that is ours as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. It means knowing there are others outside our parish family who seek our love, our warmth of soul, our devotion to Christ, our true faith and its expression so they can accompany us on our journey to heaven.

It is our religious education program, for children and adults that is seeking to transform us, to change us, to elevate us and bring about a veritable change in our thinking and therefore in our lifestyles so that what we say and do is going to be so compelling to all who encounter us during the week will then want to know what has happened to us. They will want some of the same for themselves. They will want the blessed assurance we possess in our relationship with our God. Then God's warm and impelling love in us will draw them to the Lord. That is what "Putting out into the deep" means for us, out into the depths of our human society where at the very inner being we touch people in such a warm and meaningful way, they will be drawn to our God.

We have the Adult Scripture Class which will help transform and inform you so that you will have the wherewithal to be an asset to the Lord. We have the parish bulletin issued each week to enlighten and ennoble our parish faithful. Do you invest your time reading and rereading it each week? Do you share it with your friends and neighbors? Never throw away good Christian literature! Permit it to be circulated by the grace of the Holy Spirit so that its message will be accepted when the reader and seeker is ready for it. Share it with others. We are the only parish that has subscribers to its bulletin. Do you realize there are three non-parishioners that pay postage simply so they can receive our bulletin because they respect its message, while two more are inquiring about receiving it? The diocesan newspaper, *The Church Messenger* is another instrument of enlightenment and gives evidence that others in scores of communities around the nation just like ours are as zealous for the sake of Christ as

we ought to be. The parish library is another means which can contribute to our betterment if permitted to be utilized and enlisted for the sake of Christ. It is not simply for children, but for all who recognize there is so much more treasure to be discovered in the life of our blessed vehicle of salvation, the Orthodox Church. At every service or devotion in our parish, there is a homily or sermon offered which attempts to enlighten and educate, to provide an insight never considered before.

Knowing who we are is learned at the healing services conducted in our parish church the second Monday of each month in the devotions to St. Nectarios. From our brokenness in sin, from our alienation in illness, from our loveless lives, we are drawn out and united and healed, made whole in the name of Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician. Here in our parish, we have all the means to know and practice our faith with abundant generosity. Let us take advantage of all the blessings our God bestows upon us here and now. We should be eager to be treasure hunters and treasure seekers as well as finally, treasure finders. The icon print collection in the library files, the pamphlet collection which provides new glimpses into old and familiar subjects can offer us such an adventure that we can literally become excited about Christ as we explore new paths of His great and abiding love for us.

Everything our parish does, from the opportunities it provides for Christian Fellowship, to the avenues which open for growth and learning adventure, are being offered and pursued simply to glorify our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That is why your presence and participation here at the Divine Liturgies celebrated on Sundays and holy days is so vital to our success in Christ. There is no question but if you wish to save your soul, the opportunity is here! We must be a united faith community, seeking together the blessing of heaven. We must be a praying and worshipping and adoring community if we expect to be the kind of example for our community that Christ is calling us to be.

At the advent of this new millennium, we can decide positively to be an asset for Christ, to contribute in every way we can to the success of His endeavor for mankind's salvation in our geographic community. We can participate in this glorious adventure to literally draw in souls in such numbers and of such quality that we will lead a literal army into paradise. Let us commit ourselves to the truth of Christ, to living it and therefore, loving it. Let us not only boast of the theory of Christ's redemption, but about its practice in our every day living. Let us remember we are a counter cultural Church, the Body of Christ. Let not anyone try to make us a least common denominator church because they fail to grasp the nobility of their baptismal vocation. We are only as strongly committed as our weakest link. So, we appeal to everyone, be what Christ has called you to be. Do what Christ invites you to become. Live up to the



dignity of your name in Christ. Take a quiet confident pride in our blessed faith and permit the finger of Christ to touch you, to lead you, to guide you.

As we push off into the deep, about to embark on a faith journey, be able to speak clearly and be able to speak from experience and from the heart, be able to tell people what you believe and why you believe. It is the challenge that comes from being who we are. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. We are disciples of Christ, eager to spread His message in our community. We are Orthodox believers, people the Lord called and touches every single day of our lives. If someone asks what you need for this journey of faith commitment and living, tell them you're taking your faith, the faith you have learned to love and live here, the faith that is nurtured in your heart and soul, here. What does your Orthodox faith mean to you? Can you actually proclaim it? Can you share it? Are you a witness to it? Can you communicate to others what you believe and what motivates every moment of your life? We have got to know who we are, what we believe and where we are going. That is what we learn and are oriented towards each time we are present for worship in our parish church. To not share our faith is to hoard it, and is akin to not having it at all.

Let us keep ourselves from becoming what we ought not be. We are children of a God Who loves us, a God Who teaches us, a God Who changes our lives if we give Him the opportunity and the chance. To know our blessed faith, to love our God more as a result of that knowledge and appreciate the gift of His abiding grace, and then finally, to serve Him unreservedly is the purpose of our life and earthly existence.

Let us resolve as we begin this new educational year in our parish that it will be entirely different, that it will touch us in a deeper and more profound way, that it will redirect our lives in such a way that God is glorified in our midst as He never was before. Let us manifest our precious faith commitment to Christ; let us not be ashamed. Let us augment it by learning more about it. Let us then love it as we never have before. Let us be proud of the fact our God has individually called each of us to salvation in Christ. Let us offer the power of our prayers, the conviction of our lives, the devotion of our hearts and souls, the example of every day living so that as we "Put out into the deep" of the unknown and known world with all its challenges, pitfalls and opportunities, the Lord will see the purity of our intention and bless us abundantly so that many more eager ears will hear and more eyes will see how blessed we are as His choice and precious children.

To Christ our Saviour be all honor, glory and adoration, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

A love  
to admire.  
A faith  
to respect.  
An example  
to live by...



# Did You Know That ...

...where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier?

...one's destination is not so much a place as a new way of looking at things?

...if you wish others to be happy, practice compassion; if you want to be happy, practice compassion?

...success without honor is an unseasoned dish; it will satisfy your hunger, but it won't taste good?

...trouble is a sieve through which we sift our acquaintances; those too big to pass through are our friends?

...nothing is easy to the unwilling?

... to be loved, be lovable?

...nothing multiplies as much as kindness?

...imagination is stronger than knowledge; dreams are more powerful than facts; hope always triumphs over experience?

...the sun sets to rise once again?

...trends, like horses, are easier to ride in the direction they are already going?

...the opportunity for Christian brotherhood presents itself every time you meet a human being?

...there are times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest?

...where there is room in the heart, there is always room in the house?

...while the supply of words on the world market is plentiful, the demand is falling, so let deeds follow words?

## "SAYING" AND "DOING" ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS

**A** child asked his Sunday School teacher, "Can I do whatever I want and still go to Heaven?" As innocent as the child is who asked the question, sadly, there are some adults who have this distorted view of religion. They believe that all they have to do is believe in Jesus – that is all that matters; that you can do whatever you want and still go to heaven.

What can be easier than merely proclaiming: "I believe, Lord"? Yes, the Bible tells us plainly that it is our faith that brings us salvation. Certainly we are taught that Christ died for our sins – all of our sins. But that hardly means that all we have to do is SAY "I believe in Jesus" and heaven is ours. After all, even Satan believes that Jesus is the Son of God! Christ Himself said "NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME 'LORD' WILL ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD, BUT THOSE WHO DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER."

A great danger exists when we leave the Scriptures open to self-interpretation. The Church has long maintained that it is easy to misunderstand - and misinterpret the Word of God. That is why we are compelled to base our biblical beliefs primarily on what the Church Fathers of yesterday had to say about the Gospels and Christ's teachings. Perhaps nothing is more misinterpreted in the Scriptures than passages that deal with being saved and attaining the kingdom of heaven. This is certainly what we all want and it is human nature to want it to be easy.

In Christ's own words, it's not SAYING but DOING that really matters. St. James puts it beautifully in his epistle: "Faith without good works is dead." Yes, if we truly believe in Christ, then we will naturally do all of the acts of mercy that He instructed us to do. Just saying we believe in Jesus doesn't mean we are not responsible for our actions. Yes, Christ died for all of our sins, but if we have no sorrow for them, what reaction can we expect from our Him? God is merciful. He is loving. He is forgiving. But He is also just. Only know that we will never be with Him if we do not practice our belief in Christ with our ACTIONS as well as our WORDS.

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