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Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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

+++ There will be no Pirohi Sale in November because we do not have the necessary workers for the event. We will have the Thanksgiving Bake Sale only on Friday and Saturday, November 20, 21.

+++ 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, \$265.00; Candles, \$15.00; Holyday, \$20.00; Food Coupons, \$520.00; Kitchen \$1152.00, for a total of \$1972.00. 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

Happiness

Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; therefore, despise not correction from the Almighty Job 5: 17.

A good man shall be satisfied with himself Proverbs 14: 14.

A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken Proverbs 15: 13.

All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast Proverbs 15: 15.

A happy heart is just like medicine Proverbs 17: 22.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are those who hunger for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who mourn for you shall be comforted. Blessed shall you be when men hate you, when they ostracize you and insult you and proscribe your name as evil because of the Son of Man. On the day they do so, rejoice and exult, for your reward is great in heaven. Thus it was that their fathers treated the prophets. But woe to you rich, for your consolation is now. Woe to you who are full, you shall go hungry. Woe to you who celebrate now, you shall weep in your grief. Woe to you when all speak well of you. Their fathers treated the false prophets in just this way Luke 6: 20 – 26.

Happy the man who finds wisdom, who finds understanding Proverbs 3: 13.

Be glad and rejoice for great is your reward in heaven Matthew 5: 12.

Those who have endured we call blessed. You heard of the steadfastness of Job and have seen what the Lord who is compassionate and merciful did in the end James 5: 11.

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1 State of being complete

2 Soundness

3 Honesty

Perhaps there is no better word that describes us as believers in and followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are inspired by the Holy Spirit and strive earnestly to resound and reverberate the inner working of the third Person of the Holy Trinity. In other words, we are what we claim to be!

We are committed to offer the most complete comprehensive fulfilling lifestyle of faith commitment as an impelling example to others around us in our family, neighborhood and workplace. Our goal is to affirm those whom we encounter and come in contact with us daily with the challenging values of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world. We wish to share the soundness of Christian fidelity with all around us.

The soundness and reliability of faith in God is determined by the grace imparted from heaven and our responsive cooperation with its inner working in our soul. The bottom line is that we must be witnesses to its trustworthiness. Being a devoted follower of the Lord shows not only good judgment...it makes good sense.

Professing faith without the continuing assurance and reflective good works means nothing without honesty! We always advance our faith cause by providing proof of the working of the Holy Spirit within us. We wish to stir up God's grace imparted and sustained by a fervent sacramental life. We believe Christians need to demonstrate fastidious allegiance to the standards of their baptism; we respond by meeting genuine need and providing service in a spirit of responsibility and trust. Following the Saviour in authentic faith commitment is not an important part of our life, it is our life!

When we look at how the great Lord God, working through Elisha to restore life to the son of the Shunemite woman (2 Kings 4: 8 -37), just on the other side of the hill from Naim, had to lay on the boy until the dead cold body grew warm once again. But Jesus simply speaks and says, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" Luke 7: 14. What a great gulf exists between our power and that of the Lord, between the compassion of God and our limitations. How grateful we are for Jesus bearing such mighty strength on his shoulders and such deep love in his heart!



He is Jesus.

The One and Only.

Transcendent over all else.

To know Him is to love Him.

To love Him is to long for Him.

To long for Him is to finally reach
soul hands into the One true thing

we need never get enough of.

Jesus.

Take all you want.

Take all you need.

Till soul is fed.

And spirit freed.

Till dust is dust.

And Face you see.

Jesus Christ.

He's all you need.

Prayers to Remember

Great Spirit, help me
never to judge another
until I have walked
in his moccasins for two weeks.

Sioux Indian Prayer

O God, help us to be masters
of ourselves that we
may be servants of others.

Sir Alec Paterson

O Lord, let us
not live to be useless.

John Wesley

Let not that happen
which I wish, but
that which is right.

Menander

Lord, we pray not for
tranquillity; we pray that Thou
grant us strength and grace
to overcome adversity.

Savonarola

O God, help us
not to despise or oppose what
we do not understand.

William Penn

O Lord, reform thy world—
beginning with me.

A Chinese Christian's Prayer

O Lord, never suffer us to
think that we can stand by
ourselves, and not need Thee.

John Donne

Let us have faith
that right makes might.

Abraham Lincoln

This is the day which the
Lord hath made: let us rejoice
and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24

Compassion

"When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said, 'do not cry'"
Luke 7: 13.

How hard it must have been for Christ to possess all authority in heaven and on earth, but stick solely to a kingdom plan requiring its timely exercise! Even now, He can sneeze on satan and blow him into oblivion, but that is not the plan of the Father. Satan's prompt demise and disposal would spare us trouble, but it would also spare us growth resulting in many unimaginable rewards. So until the right time for satan's disposal, Christ restrains himself.

Other areas of restraint must also have been challenging for our Lord as He walked this pavement. For example, imagine thoughts this funeral procession must have provided in the mind of the Author of Life.

No one else in crowd could do anything about the widow's plight. No one possessed power. Christ is the only one present who had lordship over the living and the dead. His heart went out to her. He felt deeply. He spoke only two words to her, "Do not cry." We have all said these words to someone who is brokenhearted, but Christ meant something entirely different.

People, because they are limited say "Do not cry," because their heart is saying, "Please stop crying because I cannot bear to see you in such pain!" Usually the words come from one who cannot stand to witness the hurt because they are powerless to help. Christ, on the other hand, is never helpless. When He said, "Do not cry." He meant, "Not only do I hurt for you, but I am also going to do something about the cause of your hurt."

The story tells us Jesus' initial reaction: "He went up and touched the bier on which the young son was lying." Picture the structure more like a stretcher than our western concept of coffin. The bodily remains were placed on a board and shrouded with burial linens. Now imagine Christ walking up and touching this burial slate.

The first thing we read after Christ touched the bier is that the ones who were carrying it stood still. They probably stood there bug-eyed. You see, for any unnecessary to the interment process to risk touching the dead body was a serious no-no in Jewish spiritual practice. Jesus was virtually defiling himself. What they could not have realized is that the Son of God could not be defiled no matter what He touched. One day soon He would literally

take on the sins of the entire world while still remaining the perfect lamb without spot or blemish.

We have already seen that Christ does not have to touch to heal. He did not even need to be present. He utilized the sense of touch because it came naturally to him. As we look up the historical usage and history of the word touch, it means to connect, to bind, to apply oneself to, to have physical contact with. The word refers to such handling of an object as to exert a modifying influence on it. In the circumstances, Christ literally connects himself to the situation. We apply all sorts of medication for hurts. Christ takes one look at this woman's grief and applied himself because He is medicine for the human soul. The Lord of Life encounters death in the physical body of this young man and transforms him, returns him to life. Death cannot and does not exist side by side with the Lord of Life. He comes in contact with it and He overcomes it, thus prefiguring his own eventual Resurrection. When Christ saw the woman in such agony and faced with such helplessness, He literally casts off all self-restraint and responds, reacting to her loss. The difference between Jesus and us is that He does not sin even when He cast off any sort of humanly perceived self-control. Christ does not depart from the Spirit whether He responds or reacts, but acts in concert with the Holy Spirit.

Herein lies a most profound difference between the miracle in Naim and the previous miracle of the centurion's servant in Capernaum. In the widow's case, the only prerequisite was her pain. Unlike the centurion, she made no request, asked no favor. She did not exhibit any faith we can detect from the reading. In fact we have no idea if the grieving mother even realized Christ is present. She was probably too enveloped in her own agony to notice. He awaited no conditions nor apparently had any intention of using the moment for instructional purposes.

The Lord encounters a woman in hopeless despair and just reacts with what came most naturally to him: healing and loving mercy. This all the more gives us reason to praise him, to adore him, to glorify his all-holy Name. Here we have a small glimpse into what Christ would do in every one of our despairing moments and situations if a greater plan was not at stake. What comes most naturally to Christ every time He encounters need is to instantly fix it, to return it to its natural order. Is it possible He exercises great restraint to work any other way in the face of devastation.

A plan of profound importance exists that sometimes overrides the miracle we desperately need. But we should be comforted to know that instantaneous healing and resurrection power come even more naturally to our Christ than waiting and working through long but necessary processes. The biggest reason why we must trust in the sovereignty of God is because we are so utterly convinced of the sweetness, of the enduring mercy and love for us of our God.

LOVE

YOUR GOD
with all your HEART

with all your SOUL

with all your STRENGTH
with all your MIND



ABC's of Life

**ACCEPT DIFFERENCES...BE KIND...COUNT
YOUR BLESSINGS...DREAM...
EXPRESS THANKS...FORGIVE...GIVE
FREELY...HARM NO ONE...IMAGINE
MORE...JETTISON ANGER...KEEP
CONFIDENCES...LOVE TRULY...MASTER
SOMETHING...NURTURE HOPE...OPEN YOUR
MIND...PRAY ALWAYS...
QUELL RUMORS...RECIPROCATE...SEEK
WISDOM...TOUCH HEARTS...
UNDERSTAND...VALUE TRUTH...WIN
GRACIOUSLY...XERISCAPE...
YEARN FOR PEACE...ZEALOUSLY SUPPORT
THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.**



SEEKING THE NEEDY



Have you ever wondered, if Christ had come to earth in this modern era, where would He look for followers? Would He affiliate solely with the religious leaders, members of the government or famous actors? NO! We know what approach He took when He did walk this earth. He befriended fishermen, shepherds and even a hated tax collector! People grumbled constantly about those with whom He associated. They were scandalized by His friends and acquaintances. Yet what did Christ say when confronted about this? ***It is the sick, not those who are well, who need a physician!***

Jesus tried to reach people in unconventional places. In His day, Christ walked about the countryside . . . He went up into the hills . . . He visited the shore along the Sea of Galilee . . . He went from town to town. In other words, Jesus didn't wait for people to come to Him . . . He went to them! He didn't set up an office in Jerusalem and wait for customers! If He were here today, He would pretty much have the same plan. He would probably stop off at bus stations or train stations, where a lot of lonely, needy people hang out. We might find Him on the seedy side of town, gently urging the regulars there to do something better with their lives. This was Christ's main focus and should be the primary focus of our Church's outreach program.

We are blessed to have a wonderful, rich liturgical and spiritual tradition to offer the world. To whom do we want to offer it? The answer should be **EVERYONE!** And where should we be searching for lost sheep? **ANYWHERE WE CAN FIND THEM!**

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