



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 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.

+++ Monday is the simple feast of St. Demetrius, Martyr. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 7: 00 PM. Please join us in prayer and praise.

+++ 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, \$281.00; Candles, \$6.00; Food Coupons, \$320.00; Kitchen \$368.00, for a total of \$975.00. 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.



Who Is Jesus?

I am the Good Shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep John 10: 11.

I am the way, and the truth and the life John 14: 6.

You put to death the Author of Life Acts of the Apostles 3: 15.

I myself am the bread of life John 6: 35.

As Scripture says, "Out of Sion will come the deliverer who shall remove all impiety from Jacob" Romans 11: 26.

Jesus told her: "I am the Resurrection and the life..." John 11: 25.

All drank the same spiritual drink, they drank from the spiritual rock that was following them and the rock was Christ 1 Corinthians 10: 4.

I am the true vine and my Father is the vine grower John 15: 1.

Jesus spoke to them once again: "I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall ever walk in darkness" John 8: 12.

Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers he was silent and opened not his mouth Isaiah 53: 7.

Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many Isaiah 53: 11.

Sell It!

Who, when he found one pearl of great price, went out and sold all that he had and bought it
Matthew 13: 46.

It is worth it. If you have found that pearl, you must have it. It is worth more than anything else you own. Everything else will lose its value. This is timeless. Everything else will stay on earth when you die. All else will remain behind. This you can take with you. What is this pearl?

It is the salvation of your soul. When the rich young ruler asked Jesus how to get to heaven, the Lord's answer was direct and simple. Sell everything! Keep nothing for yourself. Jesus knew that even one thing we keep for ourselves will block our relationship with our heavenly Father. God demands the highest seat in our lives. If your automobile is your idol, sell it! If your house is your idol, sell it! If you worship your reputation, sell it! If indulging your flesh is your idol, sell the indulgence! If you overlook the sinfulness of your children, sell that emphasis! Do not permit earthly trifles to hinder you from getting the things that really count. Do not spend on nonsense what you can invest in eternity!

Sometimes when we sell out to God, He gives us some "things" back. He may provide a house for you to live in, but not to live for. He may offer you a car to drive, but not to adore. Even if He only lets you live in a hut, what is that if you will spend eternity in a glorious mansion? If He permits you to walk on mud streets now, does it really matter when He has promised gold streets in heaven? If He assures us of a glorified body in eternity as we finally rise from the dead, why should we be so overly concerned about flowering up and doctoring the original character of his creation in our flesh? If we are not investing in the never-ending value of our soul, why should we waste time pasting the false values of the temporary world on our souls, putting physical decorations on a spiritual entity?

The rewards of selling out for God are manifold. The reward for eternal investment is found in paradise. Any who seriously follow the Saviour know the inherent riches and pitfalls promised. In this life nothing is permanent except the spiritual. What is physical is temporary and does not last. It must be traded in for spiritual values that obtain. The Son of God has promised, "...in this time, houses and brethren and sisters and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come, eternal life" Mark 10: 30.

He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

ARIUS, THE NON-BELIEVER SAYS:

I like the man who knows all kinds of sports statistics, but cannot spell Bible!



Happy is the man that finds wisdom.

Proverbs 3:13

Wisdom

THE PRICE OF WISDOM IS ABOVE RUBIES.

JOB 28:18

Did You Know That ...

- ...living for and with Christ makes our life worth living?
- ...satan tempts us to bring out the worst in us but God inspires us to bring out the best?
- ...for time and eternity, Jesus is all we need?
- ...if you want your influence to last, put Christ first?
- ...life's challenges re designed not to break us, but to bend us toward God?
- ...when a loved one dies, faith in Christ keeps hope alive?
- ...a strong will often conceals a strong "won't"?
- ...the way to be anxious about nothing is to be prayerful about everything?
- ...a changed life is the result of a changed heart?
- ...why we are here is important, but where we are going is even more important?
- ...Christian unity begins at the cross?
- ...prayer is an open line to heaven?
- ...to follow the Lord we must walk with the Lord?
- ...only Christ can create unity out of diversity?
- ...we often face situations beyond our reserves, but never beyond God's resources?
- ...they witness for Christ best who witness with their lives and their lips?
- ...in every desert of trial God has an oasis of comfort?
- ...Christ is the bridge over the chasm of sin?
- ...it is never too late to make a fresh start with God?



*Wisdom Of
The*



*Byzantine
Fathers*

Speak when your words are more desirable than silence, but love silence when it is better than words
St. Gregory Nazianzen.

Even if your soul should suffer somewhat from an offense, keep the sorrow within yourself. For it is said, "Within me my heart is troubled" Psalms 142: 4; that is the passion has not come out, but has been humbled like a wave that has broken up on the shore. Calm your raging heart. Let your passions be ashamed at the presence of reason in you, as playful children are ashamed before a man commanding respect St. Basil the Great.

I shall indicate to you the most direct and simple method to acquire the habit of silence...Reflect as often as you can on the pernicious results of indiscriminate babbling and the salutary results of wise silence. When you come to taste the good fruit of silence you will no longer need lessons about it St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain.

Did Jesus Own A Bible?

Today in the overwhelming presence of American short-lived religion, reading the Bible, as a newly discovered blessing is considered to be vitally important. And Orthodox believers do not discount its value since it is the Orthodox Church which canonized and codified it and offers it to believers. But it can only be understood in the life of the Body of Christ since it is literature of the Church of Jesus Christ. Those outside the salutary grace of Christ certainly cannot come to a correct understanding of its teachings by themselves, nor do they have the grace to pursue its truths in reality. We are not saying Bible reading is unimportant. What we are saying is God's revelation to us must be correctly understood if it is to be correctly lived and is not a part of personal interpretation.

No, Jesus Christ did not own a Bible. Why? Because it was not until long after the return of Christ to the right hand of the Father that the complete Bible as we know it today came about. What we call the Bible did not exist at the time of Christ. There was of course, oral tradition which was finally written down and was accepted under the prompting of the Holy Spirit by the Church as inspired writing.

Synagogues maintained collections of scrolls containing writings that have since become part of the Bible as we know it. Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah at the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4; 16, 17). The apostle Paul heard the public reading of the law and the prophets in Antioch in Pisidia (Acts of the Apostles 13: 14, 15). And the disciple James said that Moses was "read aloud in the synagogues on every sabbath" Acts of the Apostles 15: 21.

Did individuals in the first century own scrolls of Scripture? The Ethiopian eunuch of the court of Queen Candace evidently did, for he was "sitting in his chariot and reading aloud the prophet Isaiah" when the disciple Philip met him on the road to Gaza (Acts of the Apostles 8: 26 - 30) The apostle Paul asked Timothy to bring the "scrolls, especially the parchments" 2

Timothy 4: 13. Though Paul did not say what scrolls they were, it is certain he was speaking of portions of Hebrew Scripture.

Personal ownership of Scripture scrolls among the Jews was probably only for privileged men in the Holy Land, for all who claimed to be educated for example the Pharisees and teachers like Nicodemus. The primary reason was cost. Paying a copier just for the Book of Isaiah could amount to a half year's wages in the time of Christ.

As the inspiring Source of Scripture, Christ certainly did not need a Bible. He knew the Scripture and is depicted as always quoting it, expounding it and explaining it for the benefit of his listeners precisely what God's will was. The Church always considered Christ being the fulfillment and completion of God's revelation to us. Oral tradition in the time of Christ and in the early Church was vital and necessary and practical and in time led to the writing down of the actual teaching of the Lord. Jesus was well versed in Scripture and He knew it by heart (Matthew 4: 4, 7, 10; 19: 4, 5). The Birthgiver of God is depicted as having an intelligent and inspiring understanding of the Bible as she quotes it and uses it as an inspiration of her daily living. The average Jewish education at the time of Christ was primarily an explanation of God's revealed truth, so people were more Bible literate than today.

We are blessed as communicants of the Body of Christ to have so much of Scripture incorporated into so much of our worship, not only in the Divine Liturgy, but in the Matins and Vesper services sung daily in monasteries and on a regular basis in parish churches. Scripture is alive to us if we but study it ourselves, read it, pray it and learn to apply its lessons to our daily lives.

We need not quote it verbatim, but its spirit should resonate in our hearts and souls. We ought to upgrade our lifestyle by the standards of God's revelation to us in Scripture. We don't need to carry a Bible under our arms, but we must know enough about it to carry its transforming word in our hearts!



Don't Sell It!

While your glance flits to it, it is gone

Proverbs 23: 5.

Esau was almost home when the smell hit him. His stomach growled, his mouth watered, and his steps quickened. His day of fruitless hunting left him depressed and weak with hunger and longing. Now he could think of just one thing: lentil soup!

He belligerently burst into the tent, "Jacob, give me some of your lentil soup. I smelled it a mile away. I am starving!" Jacob continued to stir the slowly boiling soup a moment before answering. He throws out a condition because he knows the soup smell is compelling, even seductive to a hungry soul. "Under one condition. Sell me your birthright, and I will give you a bowl of my soup."

Esau scowls at his business-minded brother. Of course, everything has a price as we so often hear. But when you are starving, surely no price is too much to pay for something so good to satisfy the soul. So, "Just give me the soup. First things first. What good is the birthright once I have died of hunger?"

"Swear to me first," Jacob demands. So Esau swears away his birthright and devours his lusted- after porridge. To all future generations he becomes a symbol of making a really bad deal. The book of Genesis says he despised his birthright of primogeniture. The book of Hebrews calls him a profane or godless person. He traded his future, his blessing from God and from his father, for nothing more than a simple bowl of common soup. How like those who submit to the temptation of the devil and give up discipleship in Christ? How related to those who want to please friends and give up friendship with Christ! How similar to the soul who desires unending life in a temporary world compared to eternal life in the never-ending kingdom?

Are you tempted to sell your birthright? Have you considered trading a pure mind for a little carnal pleasure? Would you trade your integrity for a thousand dollars? Which would you rather have: a Christian church or all the "things" you have dreamed of? Would it be a good deal to trade your reputation and the reputation of the Church of Christ for a little earthly fun? Why not cheat on your husband since what he does not know will never hurt him? Share with our wife you are having an "innocent" relationship with a woman who is attracted to you so you wont experience too much guilt and everything will be out in the open!

Purchase virtue and buy the truth; sell it not! Consider well the value of your baptismal birthright and the comparative value of a mere pot of soup! Do not make yourself an eternal fool by trading a birthright of salvation for a mixture of vegetables in boiled water, regardless how compelling their smell or taste! Recognize the worst thief of all is the one who will rob you of truth.

DISCOVERING WHAT BRAVERY REALLY IS

Soldiers are often called upon to display courage in the face of adversity. The story of the MARTYR VARUS teaches us that real bravery is not always shown on a battlefield.

Varus was a young Roman soldier stationed in Egypt during the reign of the Emperor Maximian. He is said to have been fearless in battle, and his reputation as a skilled swordsman was highly acclaimed. Secretly, however, this warrior was a devout Christian. When he learned that seven monks had been cast into a prison his garrison was guarding, Varus faithfully visited them and tended to their needs. Still, he was troubled by the willing way these saintly men suffered, and his own reluctance to proclaim his belief in Christ. On the day when the monks were to be brought before the Emperor for torture, one of them died. When Varus took them before Maximian, he was asked where the seventh monk was. "I am the seventh," Varus cried out, finally having the courage to reveal his convictions. The enraged Emperor ordered Varus to be executed. His mutilated body was literally thrown out with the garbage, where it was secretly retrieved by the wife of a widowed Roman officer, who was also a Christian. The earthly remains of the martyr were taken to the village of Edra near Mt. Tabor. It was there that a great church dedicated to his memory was erected over his grave.

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