



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty Second Sunday After Pentecost

November 9, 2014

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 yesterday's simple feast of SS. Michael & Gabriel. 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.

+++ **The Thanksgiving Bake Sale will be on November 22. Please secure orders for this event.**

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Father George, Anna, Barbara, Betty, James, Yevlogia, Nicholas, Maria, Cynthia, Ncholas, 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, \$377.00; Candles, \$21.00; Food Coupons, \$280.00; Holyday, \$22.00; Kitchen, \$45.00, for a total of \$745.00. 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 Idroumenos, Anna Zacharyczuk, Eleanor Korba, 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 **\$1818.00** 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 \$5750 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.

+++ Work is about to begin on the exterior of our building with the soffit being replaced completely so that new gutters and down spouts may be installed. Plans are being made to have the dome refurbished and reinstalled on the roof.



All are aware it is entirely appropriate for us in venerating icons or sacred objects to actually kiss them with our lips, as our loving devotion is passed on to the prototype. In being thoughtful and pious, we sometimes forget about side affects in this praiseworthy practice. Women with lipstick and men with lip balm many times plant an unintended image of their actual lips on the icon or the glass covering protecting it.

To avoid this problem, all are asked, in venerating an icon or the cross, or the gospel, book, to get into the habit of cupping their lips so nothing is left behind as evidence of carelessness. CUP the lips at all times in venerating sacred objects such as icons and the cross and gospel book and when you have lipstick on or lip balm for chapped lips, you will not be creating a problem with holy objects which in all circumstances should be respected and honorably approached.

Leaving behind evidence of lipstick and lip balm on the cross or icons is showing disrespect and must be avoided.



Freed By Christ

Happy is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile Psalm 32: 1, 2.

That we might be justified by his grace and become heirs, in hope, of eternal life Titus 3: 7.

Now that we have been justified by faith, we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ Romans 5: 1.

You must realize my brothers, that it is through him that the forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you including the remission of all those charges you could never be acquitted of under the law of Moses Acts Of The Apostles 13: 38.

To sum up, then, just as a single offense brought condemnation to all men, a single righteous act brought all men acquittal and life. Just as through one man's disobedience all became sinners, so through one man's obedience all shall become just Romans 5: 18, 19.

"I will forgive their evildoing, and their sins I will remember no more" Hebrews 8: 12.

No one who dwells there will say, "I am sick"; the people who live there will be forgiven their guilt Isaiah 33:24.

You must perceive that a person is justified by his works and not by faith alone. Rahab the harlot will illustrate the point. Was she not justified by her works when she harbored the messengers and sent them out by a different route? Be assured, then, that faith without works is dead as a body without breath James 2:24-26.

He is *Revealed*
by many Names...



"...and His name shall be called..." Isaiah 9:6.

The Holy Name of our Lord, God and Saviour was revealed by the angelic visitor. Throughout salvation history, He is referred to in a variety of ways, each of which make known more and more of the enduring love of our Heavenly Father for each of us.

My Rock and my Fortress

"You are my Rock and my Fortress; for your name's sake, you will lead and guide me" Psalm 31: 3.

The time will come when all our earthly work and daily labor and effort will be tried and judged by the storm and fire of judgment. A question will be raised about the foundation and underpinning of all our efforts. If we are genuine believers, we will build our spiritual lives upon the foundation that has already been set in Christ. He is the only enduring *Rock*. So, though the winds blow and the storm shakes all about us, will we stand secure in our unity with Him? And if Christ is in fact, our *Rock* and our *Fortress*, shall we build now with hay, stubble, grass or mud upon such an eternal and enduring foundation? Should we not attempt seriously to enhance what our God has begun for us in our spiritual lives in the sacramental Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and the Eucharist? Should we not bring honor and glory to our God and continue His enduring attempt and effort to make us holy and worthy of His kingdom? Our God is inviting us to build the kind of spiritual life which will endure through the ages for all eternity. Will all our meager effort be wasted and only He endure? Or will we also find shelter in Him, our *Fortress*?



The Old Country Priest says...

He who has a thing to sell
And goes and whispers in a well,
Is not so apt to get the dollars
As he who climbs a tree and hollers.

Together With God

An old friend from India tells of a huge elephant and a tiny mouse who became close friends. Everywhere they went they walked together, side by side. One day, they came upon a long narrow bridge suspended over a deep gorge. Side by side they stepped onto the bridge and walked across. When they stepped off on the other side, the little mouse said to the elephant, "Wow, we sure made that old bridge shake." Just one believer in partnership with our God can produce eternally lasting effects in the world. Look at the life of St. Paul.



"The Son of God worked with human hands; he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved" *GS 22 § 2*.

The human soul that the Son of God assumed had human knowledge. This is why Jesus could "increase in wisdom and in stature" (Lk 2:52). "The human nature of God's Son, not by itself but by its union with the Word, knew and showed forth in itself everything that pertains to God," wrote St. Maximus the Confessor (Qu. et dub 66).

By his human knowledge being united to the divine wisdom, Christ had in it the fullness of understanding of the eternal plans he had come to reveal (Mk 8:31). He also said that there were areas in which he had no knowledge, yet these areas are described in other sections as things he was not sent to reveal (Mk 13:32).

The Council of Constantinople II (681) professed that Christ has two wills, one divine and the other human. The human will "does not resist or oppose but rather submits to the divine and almighty will." Jesus then really modeled for us His words, "Thy will be done."

Did You Know That ...

- ...when you walk into a trophy shop, do you wonder to yourself, "Boy, this guy is good!?"
- ...we are drowning in religious information, but starving for spiritual knowledge?
- ...Orthodox believers have a unique, never-to-be-repeated role in this world?
- ...vision without action is a daydream; action without vision is a nightmare?
- ...quality of faith is never an accident and is always the result of high noble intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution and the grace of the Holy Spirit?
- ...people usually will pay far more to be entertained than to save their soul?
- ...our parishes need more people who will specialize in doing the impossible?
- ...Christian PRIDE is *Personal Responsibility In Daily Events*?
- ...an army of sheep led by a lion would defeat an army of lions led by a sheep?
- ...to make mistakes is human, to stumble is commonplace, but to be able to learn and grow from both is Christian maturity?
- ...predicting the future is not that difficult; it is figuring out the here and now that is hard?
- ...when we are able to relax, it shows we are too busy?
- ...the biggest human temptation is to settle for too little?
- ...we will become as small as our controlling desire and as great as our dominant aspiration?
- ...although one chance is all we need, our God is eager to give us a second?
- ...intentions *may* be written in pencil, but commitments *should* be written in stone?
- ...if you do not live your Orthodox faith, you do not really believe it?



*Wisdom Of
The*



*Byzantine
Fathers*

A man decides to build a house. He digs down into the earth until he reaches solid rock, and then lays the foundation. He collects great lumps of stone, hews them into regular shapes, and puts them one on top of another to make walls. He goes into the forest to chop down trees, which he saws into rafters for the roof. He digs out clay and bakes it into tiles to put on the roof. At last his work is complete. He stands back and admires his achievement. "Nothing can destroy such a strong building," he says to himself; "my house will last forever." Certainly such a man is skilled and gifted with his hands; but he is totally unskilled with his soul. Even if his house were to last forever, it is utterly irrelevant to him. He may be struck down by an accident or a disease within a few days. He may survive his full life span, but as the breath leaves his body, his house will count for nothing. He might just as well have built himself a shelter from sticks and mud and used the time saved to concentrate on the salvation of his own soul St. John Chrysostom.

We are not to throw away those things which can benefit our neighbor. Goods are called good because they can be used for good; they are instruments of good in the hands of those who use them properly St. Clement of Rome.

Bodiless Powers

In addition to the visible, physical creation in which we enjoy our existence, there is an invisible world created by God. Scripture sometimes calls it "the heavens" and at other times refers to it as "above the heavens." Whatever its physical description in God's Revelation to us, the invisible world is definitely not part of the physical, material universe. It does not exist in space; it has no physical dimensions. And so it cannot be located, and it is not a "place" which can be reached by travel within the galaxies of the spatial, locatable "places" of the physically created universe.

However, the fact that the invisible, created world is purely spiritual and is not discoverable on a map of created material spaces makes it no less real or truly existing. Invisible creation exists as different and distinct from the created material universe and, of course, as totally different from the uncreated, absolutely super divine existence of the uncreated God.

Invisible created reality consists of the hosts of bodiless powers, generally and somewhat erroneously called angels. The word angel literally means "messengers" and they are strictly speaking, but one rank of the bodiless powers of the invisible world.

According to the Tradition of the Orthodox Church, there are nine ranks of bodiless powers or hosts which literally means "armies" or "choirs" or "ranks." There are angels, archangels, principalities, powers, virtues, dominions, thrones, cherubim, and seraphim. The latter are

described as offering continual and never ending adoration and glory to God with the incessant and ever-resounding cry of "Holy!, Holy!, Holy!" (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8).

Those in the middle of the enumerated listing are little known to man while the angels and archangels are seen as the active workers, warriors and messengers of the Lord God relative to this world and our life in it. Thus, angels and archangels struggle against spiritual evil and mediate between God and the world. They appear in various forms to man in both the Old and New Testaments, as well as in the life of the Church. Angels are those who bring the power and presence of God as messengers of His word for the salvation of the world. The best known angels are Gabriel, which means "man of God," the bearer of the good news of Christ's Nativity (Daniel 8: 16; 9: 21; Luke 1: 19; 26), and Michael, which means "who is like God" (Daniel 11: 13; 12: 1; Jude 9; Revelation 12: 7).

Generally speaking, the appearances of the bodiless powers to man are described in a physical way (six-winged, many eyed", or in the actual form of man). However, it must be clearly understood that these are merely symbolical, not actual descriptions. By nature and definition, the angels have no physical bodies and no material properties of any sort. They are strictly spiritual, bodiless, non-physical beings.

In addition to the created spiritual powers who do the will of our God, there are, according to ancient Church understanding, those who rebel against him and do evil. These are demons or devils which word means those who

"pull part and destroy." They are also known in the Old and New Testaments and have been experienced by man, especially the saints of Christ and those who persevere in their vocation of holiness. Satan, which means "enemy or adversary" is one proper name for the devil, the leader of the evil spirits. He is identified in the serpent symbol of Genesis 3 and as the tempter of both Job and Jesus (John 1:6; Mark 1:33). He is labeled by Christ as a deceiver and liar, the "father of all lies" (John 8:44) and the "prince of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). He has "fallen from heaven" together with evil angels to do battle with God and His servants (Luke 10:18; Isaiah 14:12). It is this same Satan who "entered Judas" (Luke 22:3), to effect the betrayal and destruction of Christ.



The apostles of Christ and the saints of the Church knew from direct experience Satan's power against man for man's own destruction. They knew as well Satan's lack of power and his own ultimate destruction when man is allied with God, filled with the Holy Spirit of Christ. According to the tradition of the Church of Christ, there is no middle ground between God and Satan; there is no gray area. Ultimately, and at any given moment, man is either with God or with the devil, serving one or the other. The ultimate victory belongs to our God and to those who claim His friendship, and are fortified in their faith commitment with the sacramental Mysteries. Satan and his hosts are finally destroyed. Without this struggle in our lives, the struggle between good and evil, one cannot truly be called a Christian who discerns and lives according to the deepest realities of life and ultimately chooses God in Christ.

A Case Of Seeing

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God
Matthew 5: 8.

A spiritually insightful man illustrates one aspect of Jesus' words: "You are blessed when you get your inside world – your mind, heart and soul – put right. Then you can approach and see our heavenly Father in the outside world." When allow ourselves to experience his forgiveness and cleansing, our eyes are opened to see him in our daily circumstances in ways we never did before.

Many people think about how they feel after making a seriously good confession of sin, as they repent of their former evils and wrongdoing and meditate for an even longer time about how the grace of God affects their living. And, of course, that life - changing day is one which we should cultivate more frequently for our own good. This same man goes on to say, "It was a life=changing day for me; it was a a case of seeing Christ in charge of my life and it instilled in me a sense of being safe.

Since he worked at a remote railway station depot, he took a walk on the platform a day later and it gave him the sense of the entire station being whitewashed. The very dingy brick wall, all covered with smoke and soot from the passing - through engines looked whiter. "It was not the walls at all. It was not my eyes; it was my mind that was brightened as I took my first walk in the open in light of what transpired just the day before."

Having entered new dimension and worked and permitted it to continue, this man recognized what the Lord was speaking of. A pure heart enables us to see God and his glory in everything that surrounds us. And when we look into our own heart and soul, we see manifest there the presence of Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

When we have come to terms with ourselves and our privileged relationship with the Lord, our Creator gives the opportunity to see ourselves alienated from his saving goodness and we long to return to the security of a child of God, created in his image. We readily see that the sinfulness we have embraced separates us from his purity and we want to re - establish that pure relationship once again. Do not deny yourself the assurance of being in and remaining at all costs within his salutary embrace.

New Testament Names and Titles of our Lord Jesus Christ

The following is a list of names and titles of Christ, together with their biblical citations, that appear in the New Testament:

I John 2:1	Advocate
Revelation 1:8; 22:13	Alpha and Omega
Revelation 3:14	Amen
Hebrews 3:1	Apostle and High Priest of our religion
Luke 2:12	Baby
Matthew 12:18	Beloved
John 6:33	Bread of God
John 6:35	Bread of life
John 6:50	Bread that comes down from heaven
John 3:29	Bridegroom
Mark 6:3	Carpenter
Matthew 13:55	Carpenter's son
I Peter 5:4	Chief shepherd
Matthew 2:20	Child
Luke 23:35	Chosen One
Matthew 16:20	Christ
I Timothy 1:15; Colossians 1:1	Christ Jesus
Luke 9:20	Christ of God
Luke 2:12	Christ the Lord
Romans 9:5	Christ who is above all
Hebrews 2:9	Crowned with glory and splendor
Romans 8:29	Eldest of many brothers
Revelation 1:5; 3:14	Faithful witness
Matthew 12:18	Favorite
Revelation 1:17; 2:8	First and the Last
Revelation 1:5	Firstborn from the dead
Colossians 1:15	Firstborn of all creation
Luke 2:7	Firstborn (Son)
I Corinthians 15:20	First fruits
Matthew 11:19	Friend of tax collectors and sinners
John 10:7	Gate of the sheepfold
John 10:11, 14	Good Shepherd
John 12:41	Glory
Luke 2:32	Glory of your people Israel
Hebrews 7:22	Greater Covenant
Hebrews 13:20	Great Shepherd of the sheep

Ephesians 4:16
Colossians 1:18

I Corinthians 11:3
Colossians 2:10

Revelation 2:17
Hebrews 3:1; 4:14; 7:26
Acts 2:27
Mark 1:25
Acts 4:27

I Timothy 1:2
John 8:58

II Corinthians 4:5
Colossians 1:15

Matthew 1:23

II Corinthians 9:15

I Peter 3:18

Luke 2:25

Matthew 1:21

I John 2:1

Hebrews 6:20

John 18:5

Acts 7:52

Matthew 21:5

John 1:50

Revelation 17:14; I Timothy
6:15

Revelation 15:3

Hebrews 7:2

Matthew 2:2

John 1:29, 37

Revelation 5:12

I Peter 1:20

I Corinthians 15:45

Matthew 2:6

Acts 5:31

Hebrews 2:10

Romans 11:26

John 14:6; Colossians 3:4

John 12:35

John 1:4

John 8:12

Luke 2:32

Revelation 5:5

Head

Head of the Church (Now
the Church is his body, he
is its head)

Head of every man

Head of every Sovereignty
and Power

Hidden manna

High priest

Holy One

Holy One of God

Holy servant Jesus

Hope

I am

Image of God

Image of the unseen God

Immanuel

Inexpressible gift

Innocent

Israel's comforting

Jesus

Jesus Christ who is just

Jesus has entered before us

Jesus the Nazarene

Just One

King

King of Israel

King of kings

King of nations

King of righteousness

King of the Jews

Lamb of God

Lamb that was sacrificed

Lamb without spot or stain

Last Adam

Leader

Leader and Savior

Leader who would take them
to their salvation

Liberator

Life

Light

Light of men

Light of the world

Light to enlighten the pagans

Lion of the tribe of Judah

John 6:51	Living Bread
I Peter 2:4	Living stone
Luke 1:25	Lord
John 20:28	Lord and my God
Romans 14:9	Lord both of the dead and of the living
Acts 7:59; I Corinthians 12:3	Lord Jesus (Jesus is Lord)
Acts 10:36	Lord of all men
I Corinthians 2:9	Lord of Glory
I Timothy 6:15	Lord of lords
II Thessalonians 3:16	Lord of peace
Ephesians 2:21	Main cornerstone
John 19:6	Man, The
I Timothy 2:5	Mediator
John 1:41; 4:25	Messiah
Hebrews 8:2	Minister of the sanctuary and of the True Tent of Meeting
II Peter 1:20; Revelation 2:29	Morning Star
Matthew 2:23	Nazarene
Hebrews 1:12	Never change
Revelation 22:16	Of David's line
Ephesians 4:5	One Lord
John 10:16	One shepherd
John 1:14	Only Son of the Father
I Corinthians 5:8	Passover
Hebrews 1:3	Perfect copy of his (God's) nature
I Corinthians 1:25	Power and the wisdom of God
Luke 1:69	Power for salvation
I Peter 2:6	Precious cornerstone
Hebrews 5:6	Priest for ever (You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever)
Acts 3:15	Prince of life
Luke 1:76	Prophet of the Most High
Hebrews 1:3	Radiant light of God's glory
I Timothy 2:6	Ransom
Romans 3:25	Reconciliation
Hebrews 7:25	Remains for ever
John 11:25	Resurrection
II Timothy 4:8	Righteous judge
Luke 1:78	Rising Sun
Revelation 22:16	Root of David

I Timothy 6:15	Ruler of all
Revelation 1:5	Ruler of the kings of the earth
II Peter 2:20; 3:18	Savior
I John 4:14; John 4:42	Savior of the world
Romans 15:8	Servant of circumcised Jews
I Peter 2:24	Shepherd and guardian of your souls
Philippians 2:7	Slave
Galatians 4:5	Son
Matthew 1:1	Son of Abraham
Matthew 1:1	Son of David
Luke 1:36	Son of God
John 1:45	Son of Joseph
John 5:27	Son of Man
Mark 6:3	Son of Mary
Mark 14:61, 62	Son of the Blessed One
II John 3	Son of the Father
Matthew 16:17	Son of the living God
Luke 1:32	Son of the Most High
Mark 5:7	Son of the Most High God
Colossians 1:14	Son that he loves
Matthew 17:5	Son, the Beloved
I Corinthians 10:4	Spiritual rock
I Peter 2:8	Stone rejected
I Peter 2:8	Stone to stumble over
Matthew 23:11	Teacher
Hebrews 9:16	Testator
I John 5:20	True God
John 1:9	True light
John 15:1	True vine
John 14:6	Truth
Revelation 3:15	Ultimate source of God's creation
John 14:6	Way
John 12:24	Wheat grain
I Corinthians 1:25	Wisdom of God
John 1:1	Word
Revelation 19:14	Word of God
John 1:14	Word was made flesh
I John 1:1	Word who is life



ACTS OF KINDNESS CANNOT BE MINIMIZED!

Many of us have heard the phrase "**LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT.**" The message implied by that saying is that sometimes seemingly insignificant acts and gestures of caring are the things that solidify a relationship.

This phrase could very well be viewed as a perfect motto for Christian living. Our Lord instructed us to "love our neighbor." While acknowledging the importance of all of God's laws, Christ was quick to point out something new for His followers to consider: "**A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU; THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.**" (John 13:34)

Loving one another is best expressed precisely in the "little things" of life. Visiting someone who is ill does not require a monumental effort on our part. A greeting card . . . a word of kindness . . . a concerned phone call . . . a sincere and warm smile . . . an expression of gratitude. These are all "little things," but in the eyes of our Saviour, they are larger than life. "**FOR AS MUCH AS YOU DID THESE THINGS FOR THE LEAST OF MY BRETHREN, YOU DID THEM FOR ME.**" (Matthew 25:40)

When questioned about his obsession with detail on his sculptures, Michelangelo replied: "Little things make perfection and perfection is not a little thing!" May we remember that all of our small contributions towards making this world a better place will one day earn us a "better place" in the world to come!