



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twentyfirst Sunday after Pentecost

October 17, 2010

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

+++ *We begin our Scripture Study Class this Tuesday at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please come and join us by investing time in learning our precious faith so we can better enjoy and live it! The public is invited to participate with us, so invite a friend or neighbor.*

+++ *The next PIROHI SALE will take place on October 30. This will take the place of the November Sale. Please begin to secure orders that it is a success. The Thanksgiving Bake Sale will occur on Friday and Saturday, November 18, 19.*

+++ *We will have our annual Nativity Holy Day Gertrude Hawke Candy Sale again. We are assured of orders from Major League Baseball, so we ask our faithful to submit and secure orders early. The dead line is Sunday, November 28. Please cooperate since we lost the income from the last sale which was too small to submit. Order blanks and informational booklets are on the counter in the kitchen.*

+++ 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 this past week-end: Tithe Offering, \$459.00; Candles, \$12.00; Food Coupons, \$140.00; Holyday, \$25.00; Christian Fellowship, \$2.00, for a total of \$638.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offered their God-given treasure for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 41 adults and 13 children last Sunday.

+++ 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, Pani Lucas, Louis Pasquino, +Paul Szmaida, Debra Szmaida, George Idromenos, Kent Pasquino, Kyle Pasquino, 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 \$1578.00 from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals \$105,815.00. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite and look forward to receiving additional and increased pledges from all our devoted parishioners.

+++ Please be certain to see Helen Karpiak or 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 \$5100.00 on this project to date!

+++ The Clothing Drive is a permanent project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals 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 and fabrics.

+++ We remind our faithful only those who are present for the entire Divine Liturgy should come forward to receive Communion. The entire Liturgy means "Amen" to "Amen."

LORD



TEACH
US

God Is Merciful

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness Lamentations 3: 22, 23.

For you Lord are good and ready to forgive. Abundant is your mercy to all those who call upon you Psalms 86: 5.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and quick to show mercy. He will not always correct, neither will he keep his anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Like a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him. For he knows our creation; he remembers we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, he flourishes. For the wind passes over it and it is gone and the place afterwards knows it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness endures to children's children. To those who keep his covenant and to those who remember his commandments to obey them Psalms 103: 8 – 18.

Because my desire is for mercy and not sacrifice; for knowledge of God more than for burned offerings Hosea 6: 6.

Do not rejoice when your enemies fall, and do not let your heart be glad when they stumble or else the Lord will see it and be displeased and turn away his anger from them Proverbs 24: 17, 18.



*"...if you have faith as a mustard seed,
you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,'
and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."*

Matthew 17:20

Jesus, Our Shepherd

Some six hundred years after David composed his Shepherd Song, Psalm 23, our Lord said with quiet assurance:

"I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep...I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep" John 10: 11 -15.

This is our Lord Jesus, "...that great Shepherd of the sheep" Hebrews 13: 20. He saw us as "...sheep without a shepherd." He came "...to seek and save that which was lost" Luke 19; 10. He is the one who left the ninety-nine on the hills and went to look for the one that wandered away, forever establishing the value of one person, one soul, and the eternal Father's desire that not one of them should perish (Matthew 18: 12 – 14).

It is Christ alone who has a shepherd's heart, beating with pure and generous love that counted not his own life blood too dear a price to pay down as our ransom. He has a shepherd's eyes, that takes in the whole flock and misses not even the lone poor sheep wandering away on the mountain cold. He has the shepherd's faithfulness, which will never fail or forsake, leave us comfortless, nor flee from our presence.

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. Since the beginning of time, various religious persuasions have decreed that a lamb should give up its life for that of the shepherd. The shepherd would bring his lamb to the sanctuary, lean with all his weight on the lamb's head, and confess his sin. The lamb would be slain, a life for a life.

What irony! Now the Shepherd gives up his life for his lamb! "He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" Isaiah 53: 5, 6.

Jesus died for all sin; the most obvious sins of murder, adultery and theft as well as the secret sins of selfishness, bad thinking and pride. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross. This was the final cure for sin.

Our Creator God loves us so much that he himself took on our guilt. He internalized all our sin and healed it. When it was over, and complete, He said "It is finished" John 19: 30! There is nothing else for us to do but respond to his first shown love, enter into forgiving acceptance and now live according to his precepts and imitate his lifestyle because He not only died for our salvation, but to teach us how to live as well.

The Good Shepherd calls us to listen for the slightest sounds of life. He hears the faintest cry. If he hears nothing at all, He does not give up or go away. He does not coerce or force our response. He even lets us wander away, hoping the weariness and despair of separation will turn us around. And when we turn to him, He is there to greet us because He is there all along. "The Lord is near to all, who call upon him" Psalms 145: 18.

Yet we persistently ask, 'Why should He want me? He knows my sin, my wandering, my long habits of yielding to evil influence. I am not good enough. I am not sorry enough for my sins. I find it difficult not to sin.'

Our waywardness does not have to be explained to our heavenly Father. He is never surprised by anything we do. He sees all by a single glance, what is, what could have been, what would have been apart from our sinful choices. He sees into the dark corners and crannies of our hearts and knows everything about us there is to know. But what He sees only draws out his deeper love. There is no deeper motivation in our God than love. It is his nature to love; He can do no other, for "...God is love" 1 John 4: 8.

He lovingly invites us during this sacred time: "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" Matthew 11: 28 – 30.

To know and understand our God is like this and to have the privilege of entering in communion with him is the rest He speaks of. There is no more profound lesson than this: He is the only One we actually need.

The word *Shepherd* carries with it thoughts of tenderness, security, and provision; yet it means nothing as long as I cannot say with full conviction, "The Lord is *MY* Shepherd."

What an enduring and profound difference that monosyllable makes; all the difference in the world. It means that I can have all of God's attention all of the time, just as though I am the only one in the world. I may be part of a flock, but I am one of a kind. It is one thing to say, "The Lord is a Shepherd," but it is entirely something else to say

and profess, "The Lord is *MY* Shepherd." When we think about it faith is a matter of personal pronouns. St. Thomas the Apostle knew it well when he said, "My Lord and my God" John 19: 28. This is the faith that saves.

Ruth 1:1-18

Psalms 146

Hebrews 9:11-14

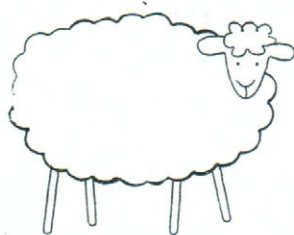
Mark 12:28-34



*Thank you, Lord,
for those who
walked with you
and denied you,
who sought
forgiveness,
who served in
anonymity
and in failure.
Inspire us to count
our losses as gain,
and our deaths as
new life in
Jesus Christ
Amen.*

HE MAKES ME
LIE DOWN IN GREEN
PASTURES;
HE LEADS ME ,
BESIDE THE STILL
WATERS.

Psalm 23:2



*Wisdom Of
The*



*Byzantine
Fathers*

If you are praised, be silent. if you are scolded, be silent. If you incur losses, be silent. If you receive profit, be silent. If you are satiated, be silent. If you are hungry, also be silent. And do not be afraid that there will be no fruit when all dies down; there will be! Not everything will die down. Holy energy will appear; and what energy! St. Simeon New Theologian.

From solitude and silence are born tender contrition, and meekness; the activity of these in the human heart may be compared to that quiet water of Siloe, which flows without notice or sound, as the prophet Isaiah speaks of it: "...the waters of Siloe that go softly" Isaiah 8: 6 St. Seraphim of Sarov.

Response to God in prayer will disclose itself mysteriously. Do not worry about what will come next; you will discover it when it comes St. Simeon New Theologian.

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

Joshua 24:15

ARIUS, THE NON-BELIEVER SAYS:

**If we follow our own example, we will
not get messed up by the bad example of
others!**



AS A MAN SOWETH,
We must not hope to be mowers,
And to gather the ripe gold ears,
Unless we have first been sowers
And watered the furrows with tears.

It is not just as we take it,
This mystical world of ours,
Life's field will yield as we make it
A harvest of thorns or of flowers.

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE



Did You Know That ...

...if you earnestly eat Godly food, you will become godly?

...diplomacy is the art of letting someone have your way?

...gratitude is when memory is stored in the heart and not in the mind?

...every gypsy likes to praise his own violin?

...suffering is not a punishment, it is a result?

...imagination is the highest kite one can fly?

...mourning stops when one's grief is fully expressed?

...careless flattery is the kind that exhausts you in your effort to try and believe it?

...to live is to suffer and to survive is to find meaning in suffering?

...to choose one's attitude in any set of circumstances can never be taken away from man?

...people are as happy as they makeup their minds to be?

...when you look at the universe, you know there is an architect?

...the only cure for grief is Godly action?

...habit if not resisted soon become necessity?

...idleness is the stupidity of the body and stupidity is the idleness of the mind?

...happiness is not a reward; it is a consequence?

...man often considers the actions, but God weighs the intentions?

...the only time people dislike gossip is when you gossip about them?

THE CHURCH'S VERSION OF RIP VAN WINKLE!

Do you remember the story of Rip Van Winkle - the man who fell asleep and found when he awoke that some twenty years had passed? The Lives of the Saints tell us a marvelous story about the 7 YOUTHS OF EPHEBUS, whose "*slumber time*" far exceeded Washington Irving's fictional character!

They lived during the reign of the Emperor Decius in the 3rd century. Being childhood friends, it was natural for them to serve together in the army. When the Emperor paid a visit to Ephesus one day, he insisted that all citizens offer a sacrifice to the pagan Roman gods. The 7 youths refused, admitting they were followers of Christ. They were stripped of their military dignity, but allowed to go free. Decius had hoped they would "*come to their senses*" but instead the boys fled and hid in a cave on the outskirts of the city. When the enraged emperor discovered what had happened, he had the entrance of the cave sealed, leaving the boys to suffer an inevitable death.

Miraculously, the Lord placed the 7 youths into a deep sleep, which lasted 2 centuries! When a land owner opened the cave's entrance, he was amazed to find the "*sleepers*," who themselves did not realize that 200 years had passed. A container that was secretly put in the cave by a Christian guard while the cave was being sealed revealed the details of what had happened so long ago. Their awakening came at a time when a certain faction in the Church was expressing doubts about a general resurrection of the dead, maintaining that the bodies of the deceased would disintegrate and could not be united to their souls. In effect, God revealed the mystery of the resurrection of the dead and offered a glimpse of eternal life through the 7 youths. It is said that after the emperor himself came to speak to them, they laid back down and fell asleep again - this time until the 2nd Coming.

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