

OUR LORD EXPECTS MUCH FROM US

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Thirty Third Sunday after Pentecost

January 20, 2013

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

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Anna, Ryan, Betty, Mary, Beth, Debra and Michael.

+++ 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, \$282.00; Candles, \$9.00; Diocesan Dues, \$130.00; Parish Dues, \$50.00; Holy Day, \$15.00; Energy, \$100.00; Food Coupons, \$200.00, for a total of \$786.00. 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! The attendance was 44 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, Eleni Pallas, Anna Zacharyczuk, Marilyn Korba, Eleanor Korba, Michael George, Maria Garcia 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 **\$1694.00** 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 \$5550.00 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.**

+++ **Please pray the Lord our God grants us an enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.**

+++ **The next Pirohi Sale will be Saturday, February 2.**

+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!

+++ **Those who would like their homes blessed are asked to advise Father as soon as possible.**

**HELP
IN
TIME
OF
NEED**

SUGGESTED READINGS

SPIRITUAL STANDARDS

Great Themes of Scripture

The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1-17
The Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5-7
The Golden Rule	Matthew 7:12
The Greatest Commandment	Matthew 22:36-40
The Righteousness of Faith	Romans 3:19-28
The Royal Law	James 2:8
	Romans 13:8-10
Christ's New Commandment	John 13:34, 35
Christian Love	1 Corinthians 13

Reference

DYNAMIC DOCTRINES

God's Greatness and Man's Weakness	Isaiah 40
The Twofold Revelation of God	Psalms 19
Man's Universal Guilt	Romans 1:18-2:16
Atonement	Leviticus 16
	Romans 5
The New Birth	John 3
Justification	Ephesians 2:1-10
	Galatians 2:16-21
Christ, the Good Shepherd	Psalms 23
	John 10:1-18
Christ's Intercession for His Own	John 17
	Hebrews 7:25
The High Priestly Work of Christ	Hebrews 9:11-15
	Hebrews 4:14-16
Christ's Humiliation and Exaltation	Philippians 2:5-11
Resurrection of the Christian Dead	1 Corinthians 15
	1 Thessalonians
	4:13-18
The Second Coming of Christ	Matthew 24
	2 Thessalonians
	1:7-2:12
The Last Judgment	Revelation 20:10-15
The New Heaven and New Earth	Revelation 21 and 22

SUGGESTED READINGS HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

<i>Great Themes of Scripture</i>	<i>Reference</i>
The Creation	Genesis 1 and 2
The Fall of Man	Genesis 3
The Flood of Noah	Genesis 6-9
The Call of Abraham	Genesis 12:1-9
Deliverance of Israel from Egypt	Exodus 11-14
Dedication of the Temple	2 Chronicles 5-7
The Babylonian Captivity of Israel	2 Chronicles 36
Revival of Israel after Captivity	Nehemiah 8 and 9
Promises of the Coming Messiah	Isaiah 9:2-7
	Psalms 22
	Isaiah 53
The Birth of Christ	Matthew 1:18-2:23
	Luke 1:26-2:40
The Triumphal Entry	Luke 19:28-44
The Last Supper	Mark 14:12-26
The Garden of Gethsemane	Matthew 26:36-46
The Betrayal of Jesus	Matthew 26:47-56
The Arrest and Trial of Jesus	John 18:12-19:16
The Death of Christ	Luke 23:26-56
	John 19:16-42
The Resurrection of Christ	Luke 24
	John 20
The Ascension of Christ	Acts 1:1-12
The Coming of the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:1-21
The Conversion of Paul	Acts 9:1-31
The Heroes of Faith	Hebrews 11

PRACTICAL PRECEPTS

Christian Home Relationships	Ephesians 5:22-6:4
A Model Wife and Mother	Proverbs 31:10-31
Marriage and Divorce	Matthew 19:3-9
	Malachi 2:14-16
The Sin of Adultery	Proverbs 6:23-33
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15:11-32
Employer-Employee Relationships	Colossians 3:22-4:1
Business and Professional Principles	Psalms 15
	Proverbs 3:1-12
Separation from Worldliness	2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Decisions on Doubtful Things
Christian Fruitfulness
Heavenly Wisdom
Christian Responsibilities
Christian Stewardship
Christian Witnessing

Prevailing Prayer

Heavenly Priorities
Brevity of Man's Days
Consequences of Forgetting God
The Causes of War
The Value of the Soul

1 John 2:15-17
Romans 14
John 15
James 3:14-18
Romans 12 and 13
2 Corinthians 8 and 9
Matthew 28:18-20
John 17:18-20
Matthew 6:5-15
Philippians 4:6, 7
Matthew 6:25-33
Psalm 90
Hosea 4:1-11
James 4:1-4
Mark 8:36, 37

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT

ITSELF

2 Timothy 3:15, 16 "And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,"

Psalms 19:7 "The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple."

GOD

Psalms 99:9 "... for the LORD our God *is* holy."

1 Timothy 1:17 "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

Isaiah 45:21, 22 "... And *there is* no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; *there is* none besides Me.

Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other."

MAN

Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

Isaiah 43:7 "Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

HEAVEN

Revelation 21:3, 4 "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:27 "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

SIN

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."

Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden *His* face from you, so that He will not hear."

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

HELL

2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."

Revelation 20:15 "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

HELP IN TIME OF NEED

The Way of SALVATION	John 14:6 Acts 16:31 Romans 10:9
Comfort in Time of LONELINESS	Psalm 23 Isaiah 41:10 Hebrews 13:5, 6
Comfort in Time of SORROW	2 Corinthians 1:3-5 Romans 8:26-28
Relief in Time of SUFFERING	2 Corinthians 12:8-10 Hebrews 12:3-13
Guidance in Time of DECISION	James 1:5, 6 Proverbs 3:5, 6
Protection in Time of DANGER	Psalm 91 Psalm 121
Courage in Time of FEAR	Hebrews 13:5, 6 Ephesians 6:10-18
Peace in Time of TURMOIL	Isaiah 26:3, 4 Philippians 4:6, 7
Rest in Time of WEARINESS	Matthew 11:28, 29 Psalm 23
Strength in Time of TEMPTATION	James 1:12-16 1 Corinthians 10:6-13
Warning in Time of INDIFFERENCE	Galatians 5:19-21 Hebrews 10:26-31
Forgiveness in Time of CONVICTION	Isaiah 1:18 1 John 1:7-9

CHRIST—HIS ADVENT

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Matthew 1:21-23 "And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the LORD through the prophet, saying:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

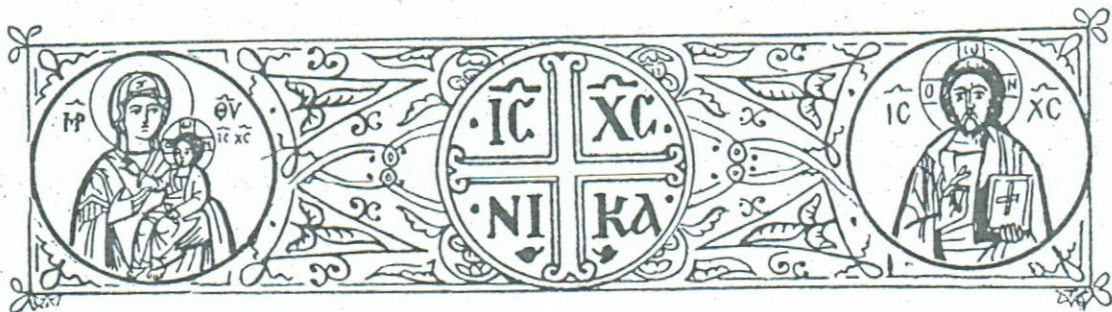
Luke 2:10, 11 "Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

CHRIST—HIS PERSON

John 10:30 "I and My Father are one."

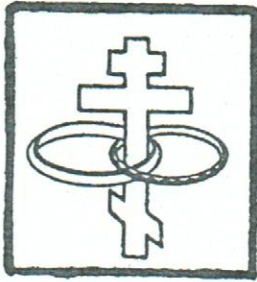
John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."



Where to Look in the Bible

Afraid.....	Psa. 34:4, Matt. 10:28
Angry.....	Matt. 5:9, 22
Anxious.....	Psa. 46, Matt. 6:19-34, Phil. 4:6
Blue.....	Psa. 34
Bored.....	Psa. 104:23, 33, 34
Bereaved.....	Matt. 5:4, II Cor. 1:3,4
Depressed.....	Psa. 34
Discouraged.....	Isa. 40, Psa. 23 ;Matt. 5:11, 12, II Cor. 4:8-18
Faith Fails.....	Matt. 8:26, Heb. 11
Friend Fails You.....	Psa. 41:9-13, Psa. 27; Luke 17:3, 4
God Seems Distant.....	Psa. 139
Growing Old.....	Psa. 71
In Danger.....	Psa. 91, Psa. 118:5, 6
Jealous.....	Isa. 3:13-18
Life Seems Empty.....	John 15
Need Companionship.....	Psa. 23, Heb. 13:5, 6
Needing Guidance.....	Psa. 32:8, Prov. 3:5, 6
Prayerful.....	Psa. 4, Psa. 42, Luke 11:1-13
Sick or in Pain.....	Psa. 38, Matt. 26:39; Rom. 5:3-5, II Cor. 12:9, 10
Sleepless.....	Psa. 4:4-48
Sorrowful.....	Psa. 51, John 14, Matt. 5:4; II Cor. 1:3, 4
Tempted.....	Psa. 1, Matt. 26:41, I Cor. 10:12-14, Phil. 4:8
Thankful.....	Psa. 100, I Thes. 5:18, Heb. 13-15
Worried.....	6:19-34, I Peter 5:6, 7
You Feel Cheated.....	Psa. 103
You Need Forgiveness.....	Psa. 51

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The Byzantine Fathers of the Church were wont to emphasize how ancient and how venerable marriage is in the sight of our God because it was established yet in paradise before the fall of Adam and Eve and brought to blessed perfection by Christ in Cana of Galilee. Its grace survived the sin of our first parents and it remains a sign of the presence of the Holy Trinity in our midst. It is a living symbol of the deep and abiding love between Christ and His Bride, our blessed Church. It is characterized in the liturgical life of the Church as a happy martyrdom. And it is precisely for this reason the sacramental Mystery of Marriage is such a joyous event. On the third Sunday of this month, we honor those of our good parishioners who observe their marriage anniversaries this month. They are specially remembered in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and subsequently receive an individual and personal blessing of the Lord at its conclusion. Celebrating this month are:

January 19 Stephen & Shirley Glassie

We gratefully give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for having guided and strengthened the marriages of these believers, and their cooperation with sacramental grace to remain faithful to one another over the years. Like all who are faithful to Christ, they recognize the presence and necessity of the Holy Spirit not only in the marriage, but in subsequent family life as well. As we praise our God for their witness in our midst, let us also join them with our prayers and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lord. May they continue to praise His Holy Name by their love and devotion to one another for

Many and Blessed Years

One of the results of an extended lifetime is the joy it introduces with renewal of God's grace and blessings in old friendships and acquaintances. Thus we recognize and celebrate once again the avid love of our heavenly Father for each of us today.

On January 19, 1963, the marriage of Stephen & Shirley Glassie was solemnized at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Levittown, Pa., where Father Robert E Lucas was shepherd at the time.

Recently, both Shirley and her husband Stephen contacted Father by telephone, having tracked him down over the internet seeking to receive a fiftieth anniversary blessing to honor the Lord once again in their lives.

Since we honor those celebrating marriage anniversaries on the third Sunday of the month and since it is just a day after their actual anniversary, Father invited them to our parish for the Divine Liturgy at which they would be honored to receive the blessing of the Body of Christ for their fidelity to one another over the past fifty years.

They are with us today and we praise our God for granting them the necessary grace to remain faithful to one another in their family life which is blessed with four children. We honor them for accepting heaven's blessings and being eager to offer thanks to our God for all the help and assistance provided over the span of their golden wedding anniversary celebration.

May the Lord our God continue to offer them ongoing good physical and spiritual health for Many & Blessed Years!

LIVING A FRUITFUL LIFE

While going from Bethany to Jerusalem for the final time prior to His Passion, the Gospels tell us that Christ became hungry. Seeing a fig tree in the distance, He approached it, hoping to partake of some of its fruit. Finding the tree with nothing on it except leaves, our Lord responded with this stern admonition: "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." (Matthew 21:19) Immediately, the fig tree withered up and died.

This incident should serve as a vivid reminder of what our Lord expects of all of us. He has bountifully bestowed His blessings upon us in various measures, giving us all our own particular talents, skills and abilities. We must never forget, however, why God has blessed us in this manner. We, too, must "bear fruit" in a tangible way, using our God-given gifts for the benefit of everyone. The Lord certainly does not want us to selfishly concern ourselves solely with our own needs, wants and interests.

Are we truly living a fruitful life? Are we willing to labor for those around us? Remember: we must give an accounting for everything that has been given to us. In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul reminds us: "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given us, LET US USE THEM." Indeed, our spiritual gifts must be used properly. We certainly do not want to face the wrath of the Lord one day as the unfruitful fig tree did!