

ΤΟ ΔΕΙΠΝΟΝ ΕΙΣ ΕΜΜΑΥΣ



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

St. Thomas Sunday

April 11, 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

+++ Today we have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's Resurrection feasts. The greeting is "Christ Is Risen!" to which we respond, "Indeed He Is Risen!"

+++ We offer the opportunity to our parish faithful to be generous to the Lord for this feast of the glorious Resurrection. Each single person and family is invited to offer at least \$50.00 as the needs of the parish are great. We thank you in advance for your heartfelt consideration to be generously responsive to the Lord's first shown love.

+++ Next Sunday at 9:15 AM we will celebrate a Memorial Service for the repose of the soul of +John, her beloved husband, on the anniversary of his death, requested by Eleanor Korba. We pray the merciful Lord continues to comfort Eleanor and her loved ones in their loss and that He creates a blessed repose and grants Eternal Rest to the soul of +John, Christ Is Risen!

+++ With deep gratitude we acknowledge the efforts of our good parishioner, George Szmaida in rehabilitating the large kitchen dough table by affixing movable wheels and stabilizing the entire framework so it can continue to serve our needs. For this great task done in professional manner we invoke the blessing of the Lord upon George and his loved ones!

+++ We remind our faithful that at the last Diocesan Council this past summer, the Diocesan Dues were raised, due to inflation and need, from the past \$500.00 per adult individual, eighteen years and older, to \$600.00 per year. Our envelope offering system still has the old amount on it, so please disregard that figure and make your offering according to the new mandated amount. If this offering was made in the old amount, please correct it by submitting the additional amount with a notation on the envelope because the parish must send the entire amount to the diocesan chancery.

+++ 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, \$455.00; Candles, \$112.00; Kitchen, \$226.00; Great Fast Self Denial, \$30.00; Flowers, \$6.00; Holyday, \$102.00; Resurrection of our Lord, \$1084.00; Special Gift, \$1000.00, for a total of \$3015.00. 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 15 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, +Paul Szmaida, Debra Szmaida, Kent Pasquino, Kyle Pasquino, Paul & Helen Pallas, Kyra Choti, Dan, Marilyn & Rachel Korba, Eleanor Korba, Anna Zacharyczuk 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 \$1572.00 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 \$103, 715. 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 check the Sign-Up-Sheet for the weekly Christian Fellowship for the coming weeks. Simple foods without need for preparation are the best. Marilyn Korba coordinates this vital apostolate. Please assist her in making it a success by bringing your donation early so that all are present at the worship of our God.

+++ Be certain your child attends the spiritual formation classes held each Sunday following the Divine Liturgy. We make a serious attempt to share the love of our Lord with all.

+++ 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 \$5050.00 on this project to date!

+++ We sincerely thank Eleanor Kroba, Betty Samaris and Eleni Pallas for attending the township required Kitchen Safety Program so we can continue to have our kitchen facilities licensed by the Board of Health. God bless you devoted souls with continued good health for Many & Blessed Years, Christ Is Risen!

+++ 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."

+++ 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!



Resurrection

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple (the one Jesus loved) and told them, "The Lord has been taken from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him!" At that Peter and the other disciple started out on their way toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He did not enter but bent down to peer in, and saw the wrappings lying on the ground. Presently, Simon Peter came along behind him and entered the tomb. He observed the wrappings on the ground and saw the piece of cloth which had covered the head not lying with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. The disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. Remember, as yet they did not understand the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. With this the disciples went back home John 20: 1 - 10.

Since you have been raised up in company with Christ, set your heart on what pertains to higher realms where Christ is seated at God's right hand. Be intent on things above rather than on things of earth. After all, you have died! Your life is hidden now with Christ in God. When Christ our life appears, then you shall appear with him in glory Colossians 3: 1 - 4.

This is the message he has sent to the sons of Israel, the good news of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all. I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth... They killed him, finally, hanging him up on a tree, only to have God raise him up on the third day and grant that he be seen, not by all, but only by such witnesses as had been chosen before hand by God - by us who ate and drank with him after He rose from the dead Acts of the Apostles 10: 36, 37, 40, 41.

"Philip," Jesus replied, "after I have been with you all this time, you still do not know me? "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" John 14: 9.

The Feast of the Holy Resurrection

This is the Day of Resurrection; and for me a fitting beginning. Let us all be united in heart, and let us give glory to God on this solemn festival. Let us address as brothers even those who hate us, as also those who love us, and have helped us, and have suffered anything on our behalf. Let us forgive all things in the Resurrection.

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ; today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him; today I am given life with Him. Yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise again with Him. To-day let us offer Him Who has suffered and Who has risen for us — you think perhaps I was about to say gold or silver, or precious things, or shining stones of rare price, the frail material of this earth, which will remain here, and of which the wicked and those who are slaves of earthly things and of the prince of this world possess the greatest part—rather, let us offer Him ourselves, which to God is the most precious and becoming of gifts. Let us offer to Him what is made in the image and likeness of His Image. And let us make recognition of our own dignity. Let us give honor to Him in Whose likeness we were made. Let us dwell upon the wonder of this mystery, that we may understand for what Christ died.

Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become Gods because of Him, since He for us became man. He took upon Himself a low degree that He might give us a higher one. He became poor, that through His poverty we might become rich. He took upon Himself the form of a servant that we might be delivered from slavery. He came down that we might rise up. He was tempted that we might learn to overcome. He was despised that we might be given honor. He died that He might save us from death. He ascended to heaven that we who lie prone in sin may be lifted up to Him.

Let each one of you give all to Him: offer all to Him Who gave Himself in exchange for us; as the price of our Redemption.

**(St. Gregory Nazianzus
ON THE HOLY PASCH)**



WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Though the grave had been sealed, from the grave You arose, O Christ our God, our Life, and though the door had been locked, You appeared among the disciples, O Resurrection of all, thus You restored for us an upright spirit according to Your great mercy. Troparion, Sunday of St. Thomas.

Thomas placed his own restless hand into Your life-giving side, O Christ God, and since You entered although the doors were locked, he cried out to You with the other apostles: "You are my Lord and my God!" Kontakion, Sunday of St. Thomas.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to His wisdom there is no end. Prokimenon, Sunday of St. Thomas.

When the doors were closed and the disciples were gathered together, You suddenly appeared in their midst, O Jesus our Almighty God. You granted them peace and filled them the Holy Spirit; You commanded them to wait and not depart from Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high. Therefore, we cry out to You, O Lord: Glory to You, our Light, our Resurrection, and our Peace. Vesper Hymn, Sunday of St. Thomas.

Even though the doors were closed, You came to Your disciples, O Christ, and Thomas, called the Twin, was not with them. Therefore, he did not believe what they told him. You did not deem him unworthy for his lack of faith, but in Your goodness, You confirmed his faith by showing him Your pure side and the wounds in Your hands and feet. He touched them, and when he saw You, he confessed You to be neither an abstract God nor merely human: and he cried out: My Lord and my God, glory to You! Vesper Hymn, Sunday of St. Thomas.

On the eighth day the Saviour came to the doubting disciples. He granted them peace and said to Thomas: O Apostle, come and touch My hands which were pierced by nails. How wonderful is this doubt of Thomas! It brought the hearts of believers to the knowledge of God. Therefore, he cried out with fear: My Lord and my God, glory to You! Vesper Hymn, Sunday of St. Thomas.

The Resurrection Icon

None of the four canonical Gospels record the actual Resurrection of Christ—they only relate the discovery of the empty tomb by the myrrh-bearing women and His later appearances to the disciples. Traditional Byzantine icons faithfully follow the Gospels by not picturing the precise moment of Christ's emergence from the tomb. Instead it is the "Descent into the Abyss" that has become the Resurrection Icon. Christ descended into the Abyss (Hell or the Underworld) to free the souls of all the righteous men and women who lived before he opened the gates of Heaven through His Cross. This event is described in the first hymn of Resurrection Matins: "When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, You Destroyed the Abyss by the radiance of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the depths of the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out: 'O Giver of Life, Christ, our God, glory be to You.'" (Resurrection Troparion 2)



photo in color on front cover

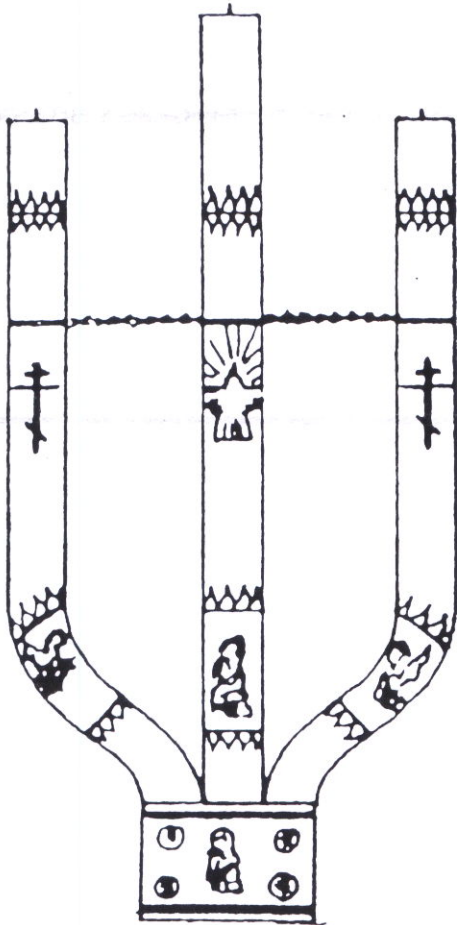
In the center of the icon against the black background of the Abyss, stands Christ, clothed in shining white garments and surrounded by a radiant halo of blue. His divinity overcomes the darkness of the realm of Death. He stands upon the shattered gates of the kingdom of death. Scattered around are the broken locks and chains that used to bind fallen mankind; they show that "Death has no more power over Him." (Romans 6:9)

In the Icon, Christ grasps the hands of Adam and Eve, drawing them to the immortality that they lost in the Garden of Eden. The raising of Adam and Eve foreshadows the resurrection of all flesh. "Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will come to life again." (1 Cor. 15:22)

Christ also frees all those who put their faith in His coming. That is why prophets and kings stand on either side, pointing out the promised Messiah and Savior they eagerly awaited. In Christ all humanity is raised. Through our baptismal union with Christ, our own death is only the passage to eternal life.

The Resurrection Icon proclaims the divinity of Christ who conquered Death by His death. It is a comforting promise of our own victory over death through the power of God.

WHAT IS THIS?



The Trinity Candle is unique to liturgical usage among Orthodox faithful of Slavic origin. Typifying as it does our fundamental belief in the Triune God, it plays a vital enhancing and educational, instructional role in our celebrations. It is carried in all processions and public manifestations of faith. During the Divine Liturgy it is an accessory to the ordinary candles utilized in worship. It is brought out and held three times during the most solemn and important portions, specifically at the reading of the Epistle and Gospel lessons, as well as in the processions of the Little and Great Entrance. At Theophany, it is utilized in the solemn blessing of water by the priestly celebrant who dramatically immerses it into the sanctified water prior to its distribution to the faithful. In the Resurrection procession at the Matins service of the Great Day, it is carried in miniature version by the priest as well, where it symbolizes the light of Christ's Resurrection shining forth from the empty tomb into our world as evidence of the concerted efforts of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity to redeem us, "Let us cleanse our senses and see Christ resplendent with the inaccessible light of His Resurrection...Today all things are filled with light, heaven and earth and the world beneath" which we sing at the festal Matins.

The Day of Resurrection

This is the day of Resurrection! Earth, tell it abroad,
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright,
The Lord in rays eternal, Of Resurrection light,
And listening to His accents, May hear so calm and plain,
His own "All Hail!" and hearing, May raise the victor strain.
Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph
And all there is therein. Let all things, seen and unseen,
Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord is risen, Our joy that has no end!
Then praise we God the Father, And praise we Christ His Son,
With them the Holy Spirit Eternal Three in One;
Till all the ransomed number fall down before the throne
And honor, power, and glory ascribe to God alone!

St. John Damascene

Did You Know That ...

...the message of the Resurrection cannot be written in the past tense because it is God's love that echoes in our lives?

...it is difficult to say what is impossible because the dream of yesterday is the hope of today, and the reality of tomorrow?

...Christ is the resurrection and the life and whoever believes in Him though he die, yet shall he live; and whoever lives and believes in Him shall never die?

...to a friend's house, the road is never long which is why we love to go to church?

...no one could tell me where my soul might be; I searched for God, and He eluded me; I sought my brother, and found all three?

...we should be brave because there is much to dare?

...people are like stained glass windows; they glow and sparkle when it is sunny but when the sun goes down, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within?

...many a quitter makes a place for the go-getter?

...the place to be happy is here; the time to be happy is now; the way to be happy is to help make others so?

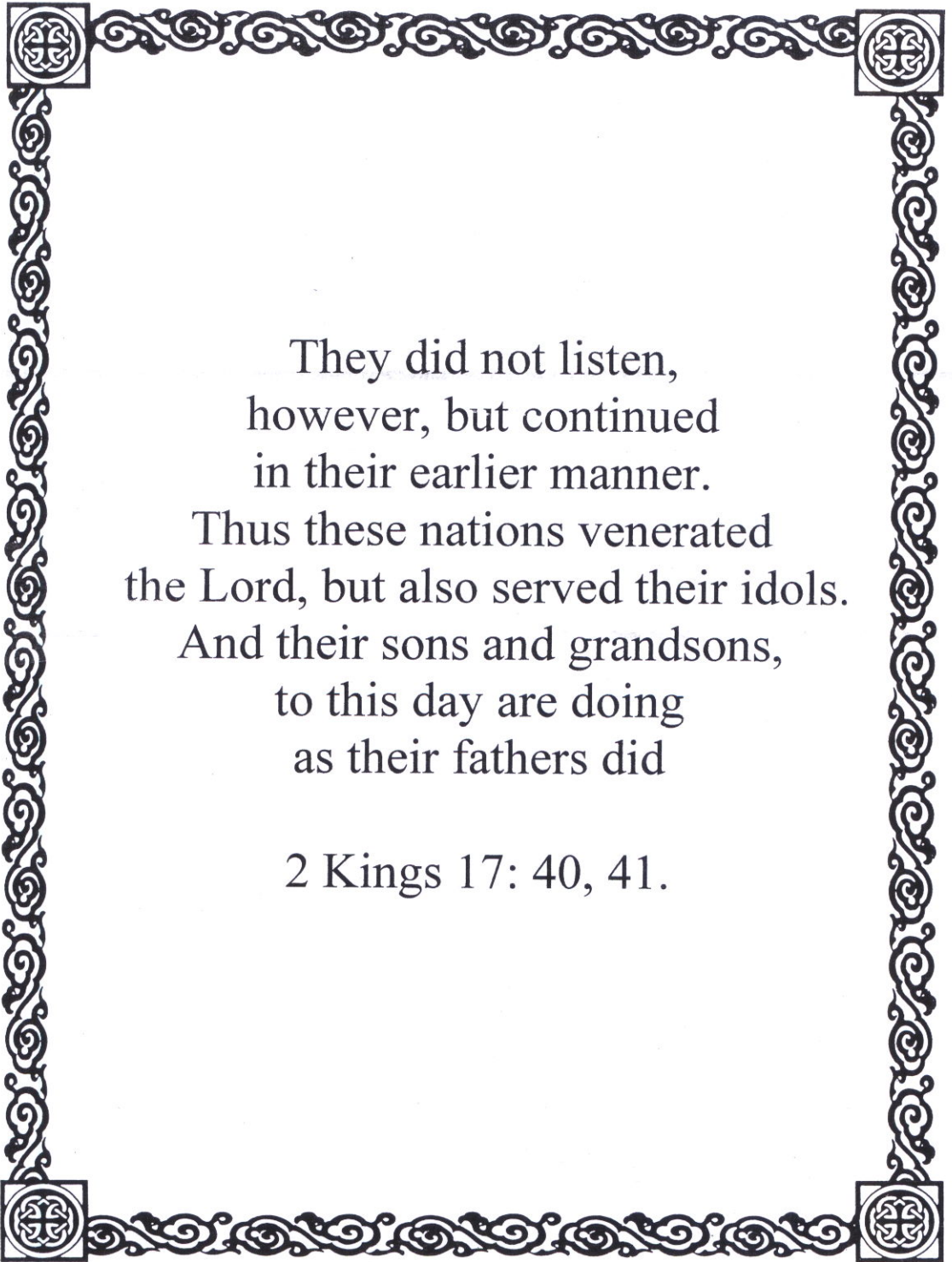
...nothing can shake the loyalty we owe Christ?

...what you are to be you are now becoming?

...if you love the things you do, you will keep doing better and bigger things?

...habit is a cable; we weave a thread of it each day and at last we cannot break it?

...if you do not know who your grandfather was, remember it is more important to remember what his grandson will be?



They did not listen,
however, but continued
in their earlier manner.

Thus these nations venerated
the Lord, but also served their idols.
And their sons and grandsons,
to this day are doing
as their fathers did

2 Kings 17: 40, 41.



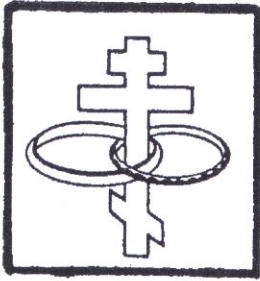
Birthday
Wishes!

We are pleased to greet those of our faithful communicants who celebrate their birthday this month. Our Lord has offered these souls yet another year of blessed life. The most obvious way He blesses us and participates in our life is by sharing His divine life with us in the Eucharist at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Thus we can gather together and offer thanks to Him for yet another year of life blessed by His most gracious hands. Today, we prayerfully remember in the Divine Liturgy the following souls who celebrate their birthday during the month

April 9 Maria Garcia
April 16 Sophia Idromenos
April 19 Kyra A. Choti

With a prayerful heart and grateful soul, our parish faith community asks the Lord to continue to bless these birthday celebrants with good spiritual and physical health for the coming year. We invite all to add their intercessory prayers so that with one voice and one heart we may also participate in the grace and joy of their celebration. As we wish them a happy and blessed celebration of their birthday, our ardent prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless them for

Many and Blessed Years



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 of April. 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:

April 26 Stephen & Mary D. Demyan

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,
Christ Is Risen!**

A WORTHWHILE WALK

The third day following the Crucifixion of Christ was an emotional and confusing time for His followers. They had seen His suffering and passion. They witnessed His death upon the Cross. They knew that His broken Body was hurriedly prepared for burial and placed in the tomb of a secret disciple named Joseph of Arimathea. But suddenly, there was a “buzz” among the followers of Jesus. Mary Magdalene claimed to have seen the Risen Lord with her own eyes! Furthermore, other disciples maintained that they had gone to Christ’s tomb and found it empty. It is no wonder that Luke and Cleopas -- as they walked the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus -- were deeply engrossed in conversation about these mysterious happenings -- so engrossed that they failed to notice that they were joined by an equally-mysterious “Stranger.”

As they continued towards their destination, the disciples were amazed that they had to explain to their new Companion what had been going on in Jerusalem. “Are you the only one who doesn’t know what has happened the past few days?” they quipped. Indeed, the “Stranger” really did know, for He was Jesus Himself, unrecognizable to Luke and Cleopas at the time. He chides them for their lack of faith, and proceeds to remind them that “. . . the Christ had to suffer these things before entering into His glory.” When they finally arrived in Emmaus, the disciples implored Him to spend the night. As they sat at the table to eat, the Lord broke bread and gave it to them. Suddenly Luke and Cleopas knew: Christ was in their midst! At that moment, He vanished from their presence. It was true! Christ had risen! Luke and Cleopas were filled with such joy that they immediately returned to Jerusalem to share this stunning news with their friends. This remarkable story, found only in the Gospel of St. Luke, is read at the Divine Liturgy on Bright Tuesday.