



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sunday Of All Saints

May 30, 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 simple feast of the Holy Spirit. The customary greeting now is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ Today as the nation celebrates Memorial Day, we also join in the remembrance and pray for all of our countrymen who served our defense and for those who sacrificed their lives for our nation's freedom. We celebrate a Memorial Service for the repose of their souls, asking the merciful Lord create for them a blessed repose and Eternal Memory!

+++ 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 ~~\$50.00~~ per adult individual, eighteen years and older, to ~~\$60.00~~ 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.

+++ We had a Bake Sale this past Friday, May 28 in time for the Memorial Day celebration. We thank all who secured orders, came to make and deliver them and who in every way supported the success of this event. We pray the gracious Lord continues to bless our devoted souls with good health for Many & Blessed Years!

The next and last Pirohi Sale for the season will be on Saturday, June 12.

+++ A special Birthday offering for the Church is taken after the gospel reading today. May your offering show our appreciation for the gift of salvation we have in Christ through His Body and Bride, our blessed Church!

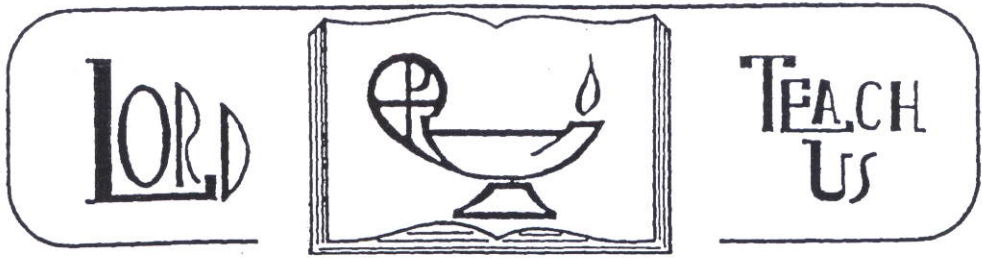
+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support 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, ~~\$515.00~~, Candles, ~~\$30.00~~, Food Coupons, ~~\$400.00~~, Flowers, ~~\$20.00~~, Pentecost Offering, ~~\$138.00~~, Christian Fellowship, ~~\$3.00~~, Special Gift, ~~\$1000.00~~, for a total of ~~\$2114.00~~. 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, +Paul Szmaida, Debra Szmaida, Maria Idromenos, Anna Zacharyczuk, Marilyn Korba, Maria Garcia, 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 ~~\$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 ~~\$104,715.00~~. 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.



COMFORT IN SCRIPTURE

Everything written before our time was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from the lessons of patience and the words of encouragement in the Scriptures. Romans 15:4

God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress. Psalm 46:2

Indeed our purpose in writing this is that our joy may be complete. 1 John 1:4

My son, forget not my teaching, keep in mind my commands; for many days, and years of life, and peace, will they bring you. Proverbs 3:1, 2

Of this wisdom it is written: "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9

My son, to my words be attentive, to my sayings incline your ear; let them not slip out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them, to man's whole being they are health. Proverbs 4:20-22

My comfort in my affliction is that your promise gives me life. Psalm 119:50

Had not your law been my delight, I should have perished in my affliction. Psalm 119:92

Faith, then, comes through hearing, and what is heard is the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye. Psalm 19:8, 9

Never will I forget your precepts, for through them you give me life. Psalm 119:93

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

You came down from on high, O merciful Lord. You accepted the grave for three days to deliver us from our passions. O Lord, our resurrection and our life, glory be to You! Troparion, Sunday of All Saints.

Your Church, throughout the world, O Lord, is clothed with the blood of Your martyrs as with fine linen and purple robes. And so, the Church cries out to You, O Christ our God: "Send down Your goodness upon Your people; grant peace to Your Church and great mercy to our souls" Troparion, Sunday of All Saints.

To You, O Lord, Author of the whole creation, the universe offers the God-bearing martyrs as the first fruits of nature. Through their prayers and the intercession of the Mother of God, preserve Your Church, Your dwelling place, in perfect peace, O most Merciful One! Kontakion, Sunday of All Saints.

Make vows to the Lord and fulfill them Prokimenon, Sunday of All Saints.

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Communion Hymn, Sunday of All Saints.

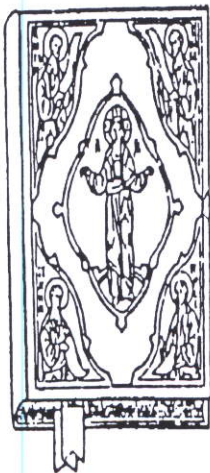
Come, O believers, let us today stand in order and rejoice with true worship. Let us extol with praises the memory of the all-honored, all revered saints, saying aloud: Rejoice, O glorious apostles, prophets, martyrs and bishops! Rejoice, O company of the righteous and just! Rejoice, rank of honored women! Vesper Hymn, Sunday of All Saints.

You are the pillars of the Church, and the fulfillment of the gospel, O divine ranks of martyrs. By your deeds you have fulfilled the words of the Saviour; for through you the gates of Hell, once opened against the Church, have now been closed; and through the shedding of your blood, you dried up the sacrifices poured out for the idols. And having built up the faith of believers through your martyrdom, you filled the heavenly spirits with admiration. You stand before Christ, wearing your crowns; intercede with Him for our souls Vesper Hymn, Sunday of All Saints.

SCRIPTURE

TRIVIA

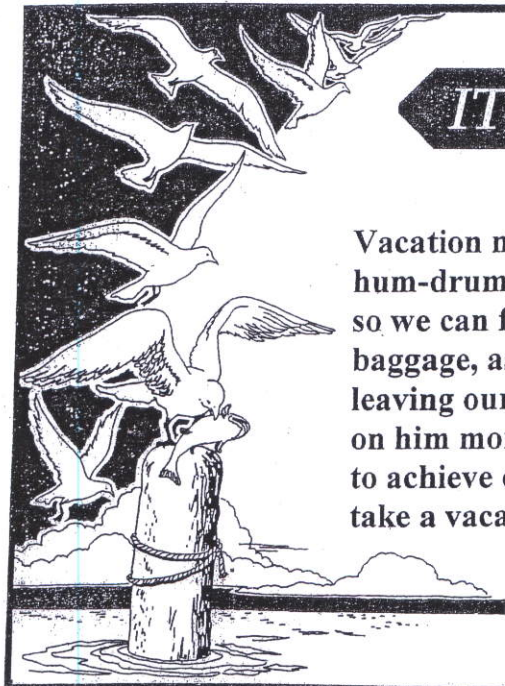
QUIZ



1. Name at least five fruits the Holy Spirit produces in us at our Chrismation.
2. Who said, "We've lost; look the whole world has gone after him?"
3. All those who listen, but do not obey Jesus are compared to a man who builds his house on what?
4. According to St. Luke, on Pentecost, what was the Holy Spirit going to impart to the disciples?
5. It was seven weeks between what two great New Testament events?
6. How did the Apostles choose a replacement for Judas?
7. St. Paul writes that if we are living by the power of the Holy Spirit, we should follow the Holy Spirit's leading us in every part of what?
8. What happened about nine o'clock in the morning on Pentecost Sunday?
9. Which gate leads to eternal life?
10. Who was the first Christian in Asia Minor?
11. In what New Testament Book do we find the conversion of Saul?
12. What did the coming of the Holy Spirit sound like on the day of Pentecost?
13. Is the Kingdom of heaven selective about who enters?

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. (Galatians 5: 22,23)
2. The intimidated Pharisees. (John 12: 19)
3. The sand. (Matthew 7: 26)
4. Power to testify about Jesus to the entire world. (Acts of the Apostles 1: 8)
5. Jesus' Resurrection and the Day of Pentecost. (Acts of the Apostles 2: 1)
6. By drawing straws. (Acts of the Apostles 1: 24-26)
7. Our lives. (Galatians 5: 25)
8. The Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples making them Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 2: 4,15)
9. The narrow one. (Matthew 7: 14)
10. Epaenetus. (Romans 16: 5)
11. Acts of the Apostles.
12. Like the roaring of a mighty wind. (Acts of the Apostles 2: 2)
13. Emphatically yes! (Matthew 13: 47-50)



IT'S VACATION TIME!!

Vacation means to empty out or vacate our regular hum-drum activity and be recreated or renewed so we can function authentically, without unnecessary baggage, as human beings. Vacation does not mean leaving our Creator God out of our lives, but concentrating on him more and more so we are enriched by his grace to achieve our rightful destiny. Be certain you do not take a vacation *FROM* God, but with him!

WHATEVER YOU
DO IN WORD
OR IN WORK,
DO ALL IN
THE NAME
OF THE

LORD
JESUS
CHRIST

Healing Prayers that Cannot Fail

Sometime ago, the husband of a devoted friend died; he was only fifty two years old and just a short four months prior had been in what appeared as good health. But his diagnosis of rapidly spreading cancer was a crushing blow to the tranquillity of his family. Physicians immediately pronounced what appeared to all as a death sentence and it seemed so hopeless that everyone admitted finding it difficult to pray for his healing.

This was not the first time this feeling of helplessness was encountered. Years before, another family friend was dying of liver disease, an affliction he had brought upon his own body through the abuse of alcohol. His loved ones raised an important question circulating in the inner recesses of their soul. "Should I even pray for healing?" everyone seemed to be saying silently after visiting this man in the hospital.

None of his friends were alone in finding it difficult to pray for healing in a situation such as this. But they all sought guidance and counseling from their priest. The deep concern was shown in common prayer for guidance. Here is what the consensus turned out to be:

Our sins lead us to death. This particular man thought he was making himself feel better by overindulging alcohol. His convoluted logic told him that since one drink made him feel good and relaxed, five drinks would be five times as good. Over a period of years, the abuse took its toll. "The commandment that should have led to life brought me death" (Romans 7:10). What was begun in this man's life as an innocent indulgence led to foreboding results as it inevitably does for all of us. "Sin found its opportunity and used the commandment: first to deceive me, then to kill me" (Romans 7:11). So prayer and example of the believer is necessary to lead back and return the detoured soul to the Saviour. "Did this good thing then become death for me? Not that either! Rather, sin, in order to be seen clearly as sin, used what was good to bring about my death. It did so that, by misusing the commandment, sin might go to the limit of sinfulness" (Romans 7: 13).

Pray for healing, no matter what the circumstances, no matter what the attitude of the person afflicted. After all, God's Word tells us, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). But how? How can we get past those things that discourage us, like a doctor's diagnosis or our all too human temptation to look at what we perceive as obvious conditions?

We must look for and listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit. "...before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24). We must place our faith and trust in the Almighty, All Powerful God Who calls us to walk and live and trust by faith. "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and will do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to

His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon you, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that heals you” (Exodus 15:26). If the person had truly known of the love of God, he would have followed and pursued God’s wishes for His life. Our intercessory prayers can bring about a change in outlook and response to the misled soul.

If it is possible, we must spend time with the person talking and praying, always uplifting their faith commitment to Christ and strengthening it. “Confess your faults to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed” (James 5:16). After having reoriented the person to Christ, after having returned the afflicted soul to trust in the Lord, release them, believing and having profound faith that God will respond. “Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:5). Encourage the afflicted soul to pray as well. “If anyone among you is suffering hardship, he must pray. If a person is in good spirits, he should sing a hymn of praise” (James 5: 13). Then we will be in a position to ask the priest to visit and pray as well. The sick person will be of the same heart and mind. “Is there any sick among you? He should ask for the priests of the church. They in turn are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. This prayer uttered in faith will reclaim the one who is ill, and the Lord will restore him to health. If he has committed any sins, forgiveness will be his” (James 5: 14, 15).

Finally, it becomes necessary for us to relinquish our faith and trust in the Lord and offer it wholly to Him. We must bow to God’s will and sovereignty. Healing will inevitably come, either to the physical body or through physical death that leads to everlasting life. But we must be careful there is no death in the soul because this can only lead to everlasting torment. “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). That is why restoring the spiritual life of the sick person is vital. It is the first step towards physical cure. “And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not my will, but Your will be done” (Matthew 26:39).

In our prayer life, we must listen to the silent voice and movement of our God and loving Creator. We must strengthen ourselves and the sick person by our intercessory prayer. We must offer our own spiritual strength if this is necessary. We must submit to the will of the Lord. We must trust that He will respond for the good of the sick soul because a cure will only take place if it is His will for the salvation of the afflicted. Then, together with the soul who needs a cure, we must together bow to God’s will and accept it as the best result for the eternal destiny of their soul. We cannot develop the negative attitude our prayers were not answered as we wished them. If we align our wishes, our hopes, our aspirations with those of our Heavenly Father, He will see our sincerity and seriousness and grant the request which best suits the circumstances. After all, He does not desire the death of a sinner, but that they repent and have life.

These are powerful, wonderful guidelines for healing prayers that cannot fail! And of course, it has a two way effect: “My brothers, the case may arise among you of someone straying from the truth, and of another bringing him back. Remember this: the person who brings a sinner back from his way will save his soul from death and cancel a multitude of sins” (James 5: 19, 20). How far reaching are our prayers!

Do Not Dodge the Culture War

Many were bemused by the recent stir Robert Dole provoked with his criticism of popular culture as they were earlier by Dan Quayle's similar foray, along with the pundits in every weight class to join the fray. Of course many in the life of the Church have been writing in the same vein for many years, but have been ignored and even vilified because they are not household names and do not carry any more weight than the truth of Christ given to us in His Revelation to the world.

How do we define popular culture? We should make it a whole lot broader than that of Dole. Unlike Dan Quayle, we should include the National Collegiate Athletic Association along with the pathetic Murphy Brown. It is not just pop music, movies, and television shows that are the problem. It is also the distorted world view that the news media gives us, whether through television, tabloids, or the supposedly respectable print media. It is also, and we cannot stress this too much, the never ending love feast of the media and spectator sports, which insists that we give our undivided attention to a sports world that celebrates greed, hypocrisy and violence.

No one really denies that our popular culture is mindless, violent, and drenched with sexual perversion.

Now let's take the main point of the controversy. No one really denies that our popular culture is absolutely mindless, violent and drenched with sexual perversion, not even many of the richly rewarded perpetrators, though they are quick to exempt their own excesses. The question is whether popular culture affects behavior, especially the behavior of young people. Our popular culture, say those who argue for the negative, merely reflects the sorry state of our society; it doesn't actually make it that way.

It is time for nuances. Let us go all the way and put it in the form of scholastic disputation. To wit: "Our popular culture by itself does not make our society mindless and drenched with sex and violence." Conceded, it does not. There are too many other factors involved: turning away from religious faith; alcohol and drug abuse, loss and abdication of parental control, crass materialism and an obsession with fire arms figuring prominently.

There is no question but that our popular culture does make a major contribution to the mindlessness, the sex and the violence that afflict our society and does aggravate all the other factors that cause these ills. To reflect, we must not forget is to intensify. Without the reflector, the lamp in the spotlight would lose most of its power.

Taking sexual promiscuity for a moment, popular culture, by reflecting the promiscuity that is undoubtedly widespread in our society to the exclusion of anything to the contrary, puts intense pressure

upon young people who refuse to conform. Just as the media have made sportsmanship a quaint and outdated virtue, they have done the same for virginity before marriage and fidelity within marriage.

Mention is made of attendance at a convention some years ago dealing with pornography. A black Baptist minister gave the initial presentation and he emphasized: "If the foundation be not sound, how may the building stand? Not long ago, adults were careful about the words and phrases they used and the subjects they talked about when children were within earshot. Why? Because they believed that the innocence of children was something precious, something to be protected at all costs until they had gradually achieved maturity enough to deal with the evils the world would expose them to."

Let us determine as believers to carry on a never-ending struggle against the conformity that our popular culture seeks to enforce.

If we feel this way as concerned parents, then we should adopt the following parenting practices:

- * We will be careful what movies our children see.
- * We will know what kinds of music they are listening to.
- * We will watch the TV shows they watch.
- * We will be careful how we introduce them to sports, whether as spectators or participants.
- * We will take every opportunity to challenge them with regard to entertainment, recreation and reading.

One of the things culture does, for good or ill, is to promote conformity. Christianity, resting as it does upon the conviction that, as St. Paul expresses it, "the foolishness of the Cross is stronger than the wisdom of men," is by its nature counter cultural even when the culture is much less blatantly anti-Christian than the one in which we presently find ourselves. So, let us take pride, then, in being counter cultural, and let us determine to carry on a never ending guerrilla struggle against the conformity that our popular culture seeks to enforce on us who are believers. And with regard to our blessed children, the most potent weapon we have to use in their defense is our own Christ-committed example.

Religious Education is the basis upon which the Church places its hope for reviving thorough spiritual values.

As parents and children, it is vital both have the same love for Christ and His salutary teaching. Parents can only communicate the values of the Saviour to their children with the prayerful hope the children will thoroughly make them their own. This of course means parents must not only appreciate, but also love the values of Christ themselves. Children must be taught how important Christ is in the lives of their parents. When they see the values of the Saviour holding an important place in family life, they will be most inclined to pursue and make these their own values.

*Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.*

ISAIAH 64:8 NRSV

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 NIV

*I will be glad and rejoice in your love,
for you saw my affliction
and knew the anguish of my soul.
You have not handed me over to the enemy
but have set my feet in a spacious place.*

PSALM 31:7-8 NIV

*And the God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ,
after you have suffered a little while,
will himself restore you and make you strong,
firm and steadfast.*

1 PETER 5:10 NIV

On The Mystery of the Holy Trinity and the Eucharist

The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the mystery of the perfect and absolute sacrifice because it is the mystery of Absolute Love. God is Trinity precisely because God is Love. The whole of the Father's essence is eternally "given away" to the Son, and the whole of the Son's Life is in having the essence of the Father as His own, to exist as the perfect image of the Father; and, finally, this mutual sacrifice of perfect love, this eternal Gift of the Father to the Son, is the very Spirit of God - the Spirit of Life, of Love, of Perfection, of Beauty, of the whole inexhaustible depth of Divine Essence. The mystery of the Trinity is necessary and essential for the proper understanding of the Eucharist, and first of all, its sacrificial character. God so *loved* the world that He gave (*sacrificed*) His Son to us, to bring us back to Himself. The Son of God so loved His Father that He gave Himself to Him. His whole life was a perfect, an absolute sacrificial movement. He performed it as God-Man, not only in His Divinity, but in His humanity, which He assumed out of a divine love for us. In Himself, He thus restored human life to perfection, as a *sacrifice of love to God*, a sacrifice not of fear, not of any kind of "interest," but of love and love alone. And finally, this perfect life as love, and therefore as sacrifice, He gave to all who accept Him and believe in Him, restoring in them the initial relationship man had with God. The life of the Church, which is really just His life in us and our life in Him, thus is necessarily a sacrificial life, an eternal movement of love towards God. The essential attitude and the essential act of the Church, which is the new humanity restored by Christ, is therefore, the Eucharist, the act of perfect love, thanksgiving and sacrifice.

It is in worthy reception of the Eucharist that we grow in understanding the mystery of the Trinity and it is only by the grace of the Holy Trinity that the Eucharist has meaning for us as believers.

SPOTLIGHT ON A MYSTERY

Here is a mystery for you to solve. How can you tell a person is a Christian? We're looking for clues. You can tell nurses by the uniforms they wear and the kind way they take care of others. Some nurses are Christians, some are not. A nurse's uniform is not a clue. Mail carriers are easy to spot by the bag they carry and by their faithfulness to the people they serve. Some mail carriers are Christians, some are not. A mailbag is not a clue. You can tell a physician because he or she usually wears a stethoscope and gives shots and medicine to make us well. Some doctors are Christians, some are not. A stethoscope is not a clue. Police officers are easy to spot. They wear a badge and keep us from getting lost or hurt. Some police officers are Christians, some are not. A badge is not a clue. So, how do you know a Christian? Like nurses, Christians are kind and care for others. Like mail carriers, Christians are faithful to the people they serve. Like doctors, Christians want to help others be happy and healthy. And like police officers, Christians try to keep others from getting lost or hurt. Christians are followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus said His followers must let their light shine before the world. He means the world should be able to tell by their love they belong to Him. The Light is the clue! You can tell a Christian by the light of Jesus Christ that shines through all that he or she may do. Are you truly a Christian? Is the light of your Christian virtue shining today?

What Do You Hate?

The Lord loves those that hate evil
Psalms 97: 10.

An old-country priest told a story of a mother in a remote village, distant from civilization. Coming from a long line of priests, he recalled the events related to him by his grandfather/priest serving in that same place a few generations before.

A young inexperienced mother was washing clothes beside a stream in a heavily wooded area near the village. She had gone there to enjoy the shade because it was a hot day. Her only child was playing nearby. Suddenly, although pre-occupied with the laundry, she realized he was gone. She called his name several times as she scoped the area around her. There was no answer. Alarmed, the mother ran to their house, but the child was not there.

Frantically, the woman dashed back to the forest. There she finally found the small child, but it was too late. The youngster had been killed by a wolf. Heartbroken, she picked up his lifeless body, drew him close to her heart and tenderly carried him home. Oh, how that woman in her pain, hated wolves.

Every faithful believer should have a similar hatred for evil. "I will not set before my eyes any base thing. I hate him who does perversely; he shall not remain with me. A crooked heart shall be far from me; evil I will not know. Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret him will I destroy. The man of haughty eyes and puffed up heart I will not endure. My eyes are upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me. He who walks in the eyes of integrity shall be in my service. He shall not dwell in my house who practices deceit. He who speaks falsehood shall not stand before my eyes. Each morning I will destroy the wicked of the land and uproot from the city of the Lord all evildoers" Psalms 101: 3 - 8.

Yet how many parents, mothers and fathers, who are so careful to guard their youngsters from physical harm do not notice the evil forces that threaten their spiritual welfare. As a result, they leave them unprotected. They show little concern for the kinds of friends their children make, the magazines they read or the TV programs they watch. But whenever these influences are bad, they should be seen as a deadly threat and we should protect our children from them. It is not wrong to hate what is evil and wrong, for if we do not hate and avoid evil, we cannot love our God!

Did You Know That ...

...people who are always in hot water seldom cut much ice?

...if you fool folks to get their money, it is fraud; if you fool them to get their votes, it is called politics?

...you are making progress only if every mistake you make is a new one?

...you should not be afraid to be vulnerable; if you will not open the door, how will anyone come in?

...every child gets what's coming to him; he grows up to be a parent himself?

...the truly interesting man is the one who has genuine compassion for people?

...those born in America can never have the truly glorious experience of becoming an American?

...it seems some days that some people were put in this world for no other reason than to aggravate us?

...laziness generally attacks every part of a person except his tongue?

...when a person grows up to like himself, he generally grows more tolerant of others?

...a lot of sins would not have occurred if folks knew as much as they thought they did?

...taxes are a method used by our government to artificially induce the rainy day everyone is saving for?

...he is without humility who only sees it in himself?

...you cannot pass into the arms of faith if you continue to stay in your spiritual rut?

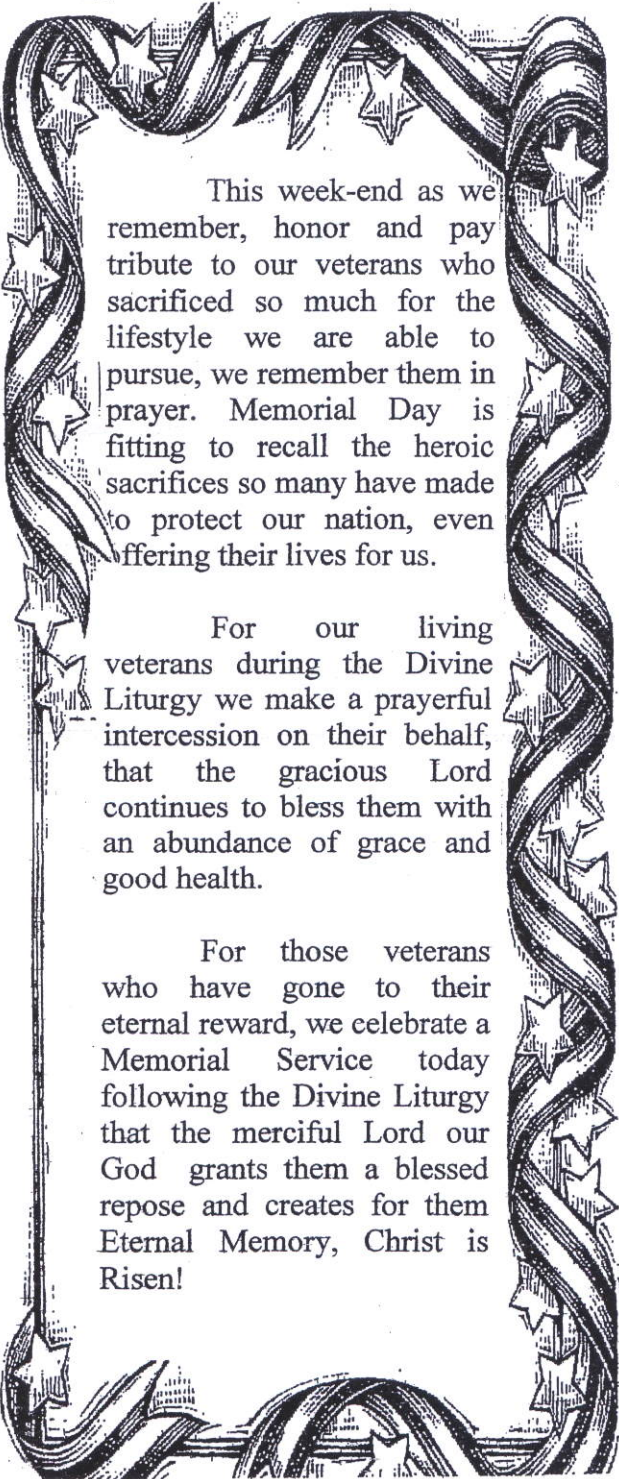
...it is far wiser and cheaper to spiritually educate a child well than to mend adult men and women?



Memorial Day

Established as a national observance after the Civil War to remember those who defended the nation in rebellious war strife, this holiday continues to remind us particularly of those who went off to war and offered their lives, who did not return to benefit from their own heroic efforts. It is named after the Latin root word for *remember* which calls upon us to never overlook or take for granted their noble efforts.

Let us offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their sacrifices as well as an intercessory petition for the repose of their souls. May their memory and valiant efforts never be forgotten!



This week-end as we remember, honor and pay tribute to our veterans who sacrificed so much for the lifestyle we are able to pursue, we remember them in prayer. Memorial Day is fitting to recall the heroic sacrifices so many have made to protect our nation, even offering their lives for us.

For our living veterans during the Divine Liturgy we make a prayerful intercession on their behalf, that the gracious Lord continues to bless them with an abundance of grace and good health.

For those veterans who have gone to their eternal reward, we celebrate a Memorial Service today following the Divine Liturgy that the merciful Lord our God grants them a blessed repose and creates for them Eternal Memory, Christ is Risen!

In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row,
that mark our place; and in the sky
the larks, still barely singing, fly
scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
love and were loved, and now we lie in
Flanders Fields.

Take up your quarrel with the foe:
to you from failing hands we throw
the torch; be yours to hold it high.
If you break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.

John McCrae



A Prayer for Our Nation

God Bless America
and keep us safe and free..
Safe from all our enemies,
wherever they may be...
Teach us to walk humbly
And closer in Thy ways,
Give us faith and courage
And put purpose in our days,

Make each one of us aware
That each must do his part,
For in the individual
Is where peace must have its start –
For a better world to live in
Where all are safe and free
Must start with faith and hope and love
Deep in the heart of me.



UNITED WE STAND

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

The word "saint" has an interesting connotation. When we think of the men and women who are classified as such, it is understandable that we would think of those "spiritual giants" who are "bigger than life" in terms of our Faith. St. Nicholas . . . St. John the Baptist . . . SS. Constantine and Helen . . . we could go on and on with an unending list of those who have had such a lasting impact on the Church. Yet these men and women - and others like them - did not walk around with visible halos over their heads; nor did they spend their every waking moment in prayer and fasting! The saints were "flesh and blood" human beings like all of us. Like us, they, too, were sinners. Like us, they, too, faltered and failed as they followed Christ. Still, their sainthood was earned through perseverance in perfecting the virtues and overcoming the vices that are still a part of our daily lives.

Our Church Calendar is filled with the names of those who distinguished themselves in their spiritual efforts to such a degree that they drew enough attention to merit official canonization and classification as a saint. On this Sunday of All Saints, we are reminded, however, that there are many saints whose names are known only to God. We will not find their stories in the volumes of Church History; nor will their faces ever be depicted on sacred icons. But those who quietly went about the "business" of doing God's work are remembered today with the same reverence afforded others whose spiritual accomplishments have received wide acclaim.

Today, our Holy Orthodox Church reminds us that sainthood is certainly well within our grasp. If our lives are Christ-like in nature, the world may not remember our deeds after we are gone - but the Lord surely will!

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