



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 18, 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

+++ This Tuesday is the simple feast of St. Elias the Prophet. In anticipation, the vespereal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Monday evening at 7:30 PM for the intention of travelers and operators of vehicles of travel. Please come and join us in prayer and praise.

+++ Next Sunday the annual blessing of vehicles of travel will take place following the Divine Liturgy. Prayers will be offered for operators of the vehicles of travel as well. Our parishioners may ask friends and neighbors who wish to participate in the grace of our prayers as we bless their vehicles as well.

+++ We express our deepest sympathies and condolences to our good parishioner, Robert Gorbich on the death of his beloved mother, +Mary, this past week. We pray the merciful Lord will console Robert and his family and create for the soul of +Mary 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.

++ 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, ~~\$636.00~~; Candles, ~~\$11.00~~; Food Coupons, ~~\$320.00~~; Christian Fellowship, ~~\$3.00~~; Holyday, ~~\$40.00~~; Website, ~~\$25.00~~; Bulletin, ~~\$25.00~~; Building Fund, ~~\$1000.00~~, for a total of ~~\$2140.00~~. 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, 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 ~~\$1575.00~~ 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.

+++ There is currently a Ukrainian Icon Exhibit from the Caves Monastery in Kiev at the museum of Biblical Art in New York City until September. The museum is opened from Wednesday to Sunday each week from noon onward. Admission is most reasonable with discounts for senior citizens. Nina Harrison has additional information. Please see her if you are interested in Bus Rates for Saturday, August 14. We would like to have a thanksgiving prayer service at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manhattan, then proceed to the museum or to a restaurant for lunch before returning home.

+++ Please continue to bring used clothing and other items described in the flyers distributed a few weeks ago. Encourage your friends and neighbors to assist as this will be an ongoing fund-raiser. These items are currently being stored in the rectory and when we receive an appreciable amount, they will be turned in. It will help our parish.

+++ 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!

+++ We acknowledge with deep gratitude the gifted artistic efforts of our good parishioner, **Maria Idromenos** in creating an attractive icon of **St. Demetrios the Martyr** for our parish. It has been blessed and anointed and rested on the altar table for forty days and will be used for the first time on **October 26** on his feast day. We pray the gracious Lord continues to bless **Maria** and her loved ones with good health for **Many & Blessed Years!**

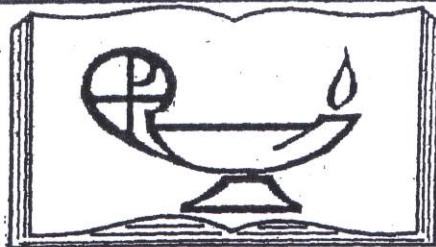
+++ We remind our faithful only those who are present for the entire Divine Liturgy should come forward to receive Communion. The entire Liturgy means "Amen" to "Amen."

+++ 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!

SUMMER MUSIC STILLS

More time to pray as days are lighter longer; to relax reading spiritual books; meditate because of the inspiration from nature and doing good works because the weather encourages us.

LORD



TEACH
US

Persecution of Jesus

One day the Pharisees and Sadducces came to test Jesus' claim of being the Messiah by asking him to show some great demonstrations in the skies Matthew 16: 1.

There is a terrible baptism ahead of me and how I am pent up until it is accomplished Luke 12: 50; Matthew 20: 22.

In God's eyes he was like tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry and sterile soil. But in our eyes there was no attractiveness at all, nothing to make us want him. We despised him and rejected him, a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way when he went by. He was despised and we did not care. Yet it was our grief he bore, our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God for his own sins! But he was wounded and bruised for our sins. He was chastised that we might have peace; he was lashed and we were healed! He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he never said a word. He was brought as a lamb to slaughter; and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so he stood silent before the ones condemning him. From prison and trial they led him away to his death. But who among the people of that day realized it was their sins that he was dying for, that he was suffering their punishment? He was buried like a criminal in a rich man's grave, but he had done no wrong, and had never spoken an evil word. Yet it was the Lord's good plan to bruise him and fill him with grief Isaiah 53: 2 – 10.

At that very moment the chief priests and other Jewish officials were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas the high priest, to discuss ways of capturing Jesus quietly and killing him. Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve apostles, went to the chief priest and asked, "How much will you pay me to get Jesus into your hands?" And they gave him thirty silver coins. "From that time on, Judas watched for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them The chief priests and, in fact, the entire Jewish supreme court assembled there and looked for witnesses who would lie about Jesus in order to build a case against him that would result in a death sentence Matthew 26: 3, 14, 16; Mark 14: 1, 48.

Eighth Sunday

The prescribed gospel narrative tells us, "...he saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity and he cured their sick" Matthew 14: 14. The crowds followed him from the neighboring town and certainly among them we a goodly number of simple curiosity seekers, not genuine believers.

Scripture observes for us that God makes His sun rise on the evil and the good. All of God's creation benefits because of God's inherent goodness and the grace-filled lives of those who sincerely and seriously follow Him.

This is what gave St. Paul such profound hope and enthusiasm. He saw every circumstance as an opportunity to introduce unbelievers to God. He wasn't the least bit timid about mentioning "the God to whom I belong and whom I serve" Acts of the Apostles 27: 23. God our heavenly Father was the source of St. Paul's authority, his wisdom, his hope, his optimism, and his enthusiastic faith commitment.

Why would he be apprehensive about saying so? St. Paul was eager as was the Lord in today's circumstances to introduce and make understandable God's love for His people. Under the circumstances, they might have thought they needed to prepare to meet Him, but St. Paul wanted the people to know Him first as Saviour, rather than as Judge.

So St. Paul was bold in his teaching and seeking after souls He knew of course, that the prophecy given him by the angel would come to pass. And when it did, the glory and the credit went to our heavenly Father. The precise fulfillment of all of blessed Paul's predictions also established his vast credibility. But it did much more than that. It put the focus where it rightfully belonged; it made those around him see in a graphic way that God was sovereignly in control of their lives.

They need to glorify Him as God and be thankful and not look upon their own limited and superficial misunderstanding which only became heavy obstacles on the road toward faith fulfillment.

All of the people included in the crowd to whom our Lord subsequently preaches owed their lives to the mercy and grace of Christ's presence among them. Among them were some who had made foolish and reckless decisions out on the sea. Just as St. Paul sailed on the Mediterranean Sea years later and was caught up in a storm, so God was going to preserve their lives as a sign from heaven. And God was going to do it for the sake of St. Paul. The angel told St. Paul "God has granted you all those who sail with you" Acts of the Apostles 27: 24.

Unbelievers in this world do not understand or grasp how blessed they are to have genuine believers around them. Who knows how many people have been spared from judgment and disaster for the sake of godly people in their midst? Even the ungodly benefit from God's people and God's grace in His people.

That was precisely the case with the men on Paul's ship. They were fellow passengers, but had a blessed soul in their midst, whom of course, they never even recognized. They were guaranteed ultimate safety because our God wanted St. Paul safely in Rome so everyone on the ship benefited from his presence. The same principle runs continually through the pages of God's revelation to us in Scripture. Because of Christ's presence among them, because of the presence of a small boy with a small lunch, thousands benefit and are fed.

God's people in the midst of an ungodly community actually protect that community from disaster. How blessed is the township and environs of Freehold because of our parish church where we worship, extol, glorify and praise our God properly! How blessed is the community in which we live because we are here singing God's praises and glorifying His name. How blessed is everyone, not only we ourselves, but even non-believers, great sinners and indifferent souls because our St. Paul Parish is a beacon in the dark, a lighthouse of faith in a barren desert.

God told Abraham He would have spared the entire cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for the sake of ten righteous people in their midst (Genesis 18: 32). Later in the same book of Genesis, Laban begged Jacob not to return to his own country. "Please stay if I have found favor in your eyes," he said, "for I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me for your sake" Genesis 30: 27. Laban did not belong to the Chosen People of God, but how perceptive was his insight!

The same principle is again evident in Joseph's experience. Potiphar, the ruler's wife says, "The Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field" Genesis 39: 5. And even when Joseph was cast into prison, we are told, "the keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority because the Lord was with him and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper" Genesis 39: 23. So even the pagan prison warden was blessed because Joseph was his prisoner, because a holy man's presence was in the unholy place.

All the people regardless of their spiritual status before God in today's preaching episode were blessed, simply because Christ was there, simply because other believers were there, simply because they had the opportunity to hear God's word explained to them by the Son of God Himself!

And the men in St. Paul's ship were blessed because of him. Though they were lost at sea, without a clue where they were or where they might end up, they now had hope.

They had a leader in whom they could be confident. They had someone who was not afraid to step up and take initiative for the salvation of their souls. They had someone who had demonstrated good judgment, who could speak with God's authority, and knew how to strengthen and affirm others, and who gave them encouragement and shared enthusiasm. All believers can benefit in their soul-saving roles in the same way.

As the story proceeds, all who accompany St. Paul on his sea journey defer to him more and more as they recognize his association with the grace of God, as events make it clear that the hand and blessing of God were on him. It is natural that God's people want to hear the Lord on the mount preaching to, and teaching his people. It is obvious all on the storm tossed ship want to follow someone with the faith strength of St. Paul. Pessimism, indifference, fear, confusion, personal inadequacy melt away in the presence of securely based faith commitment to the Lord to whom we offer praise never-ending and glory with His eternal Father and life-giving Spirit. Amen.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

One of the interior attitudes of an Orthodox believer is that of being a pilgrim. Every baptized person is called to live the life of an ascetic. A pilgrim experiences a feeling of restlessness, of being displaced from one's true homeland in heaven. A pilgrim is a wanderer who continuously without end explores the deepest part of his or her being seeking to discover the one God who dwells within. In this respect our Orthodox Church views each one of us as being called to an ascetic/monastic life, a life of ceaseless exploration of and preoccupation with the divine.

Early Christian writers of the first four centuries paid more attention to Mary's act of faithfulness at the Annunciation than to the revelation of her Divine Motherhood at the Nativity of Christ. For from the moment of Mary's "Yes" at the angelic visit, she began a journey, a pilgrimage into mystery. She had nothing on which to take hold except the promise and Word of God, His promise of enduring faithfulness. She could only trust in his past performance of unfailing love.

Our parish continually invites all our parish faithful to join us as pilgrims, as we sometimes seek to leave the familiar place of our hearts, in our homes, and to travel into the land where the Word of God calls us to the place of the unexpected, the unfamiliar perhaps, to the land of salvation mystery, to the place where the Divine Liturgy is being celebrated for our intention on holydays. We are called to enter into the mystery of the feast day, to witness and be enraptured by the descriptive hymnology and scriptural fulfillment. We are invited to participate liturgically in the worship of our God as happened when the actual salvific event being recalled and commemorated, occurred. We are given the grace to participate in actual lives of the saints, in the momentous events of their pilgrimage lives that our own be enriched and augmented by heaven's grace. Holydays give us insight into divine will. Holydays open God's heart for our better understanding. Holydays are a time to immerse ourselves in salvation history, to witness and participate in the glorious pageant of the ongoing mercy of God active among us.

How greatly we cheat ourselves of the astounding riches of heaven when we look upon feast days from a distance, separating ourselves thereby from the blessings of God, Who only desires

that we be enriched as we celebrate the intervention of heaven on man's daily, even mundane earthly life. How greatly our God loves us, desires our company and wishes us to join with him. How earnestly He makes provision that He is among us. How wrong we are to invent excuses for remaining isolated from God when we should be in His presence, in His care, embraced by His love. How neglected our soul in experiencing no enervating heavenly strength, no inspiration towards salvation, no warmth of the Holy Spirit in the isolated, cold, sinful world.. How impoverished the soul of the so-called believer who thinks he has done his best for God only at Sunday worship, but is not sustained by God's presence during the week or when salutary events are commemorated and recalled. How isolated from the Light of the world, the soul, like a flowering bloom, becomes limp and wilted without heavenly nourishment and sustenance.

How we favor the triumph of evil, the victory of the devil when we absent ourselves from the worship of God, as we ally ourselves with other faint-hearted and indifferent believers, watching from the not-so-distant sidelines because their lives are so vastly different and superior and ill-filled with more compelling excuses for staying away from the august privilege of divine worship. How incomplete we enjoy making the praise of faithful believers because our vital praise is not joined with theirs!

As we seek the familiar places of our heart and soul, the place of earthly contentment and fulfillment, we are naturally led to our parish church where God's love is aflame for our benefit. There we find the land where the Word of God calls us to the further land of the unexpected, the unfamiliar, to the land of mystery where all our expectations, needs and wants are fulfilled beyond our imagination. Our homes can offer some familiar temporary partial contentment, but it is only in our spiritual home that the soul finds its only resting place. Our family members are good company, but far better company are the angels and saints of the Church, in the parish church when the Holy Trinity is being worshipped, praised and glorified. We ought seek firstly the permanent company of God's chosen rather than the chancy presence of family members at home and often-times mistakenly perceived obligations to them. Heavenly, permanent values are far superior to temporary, earthly ones. Stay at home spouses, parents or children cannot and will not save our souls; only our God can!

Our God did not establish the holydays and feast day celebrations for a particular, special, chosen few. They are to enrich and ennoble all who are baptized, all who wish to invest the time of their lives in thinking about, in celebrating noble events in our salvation history for our

own soul enrichment. Each of us possesses an unquenchable hunger to hold and embrace love just as a mother does the child in her womb, God's very own life-giving Word. In Mary's "Yes" to our heavenly Father, this very human longing and aspiration and the divine offer come together. So it is with each of us pilgrim believers. We believe that it is God who calls, who invites and leads and sustains us. And if we place at the disposal of this good God, our minds, our hearts and our body, He will, in a most intimate manner, shape and redirect our entire lives for our own good and His glory! Other souls will also be affirmed in faith commitment.

May the glorification of our God above all else be paramount in our hearts and souls. May the heavenly kingdom, our permanent place of soul location inspire us. May God's love attract us. May the company of serious fellow believers invite us. May we walk together as pilgrims each day because every Sunday and every holyday we walked, worshipped, praised and sang in God's presence.

We call upon the angels and saints of heaven to gently guide and inspire our journey to salvation by their intercessory prayers.

TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

FOR every Christian
and for every human being,
Mary is the one who first "believed,"
and precisely with her faith
as Spouse and Mother
she wishes to act upon all those
who entrust themselves to her
as her children.

And it is well known that
the more her children persevere and progress
in this attitude,
the nearer Mary leads them
to the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph 3, 8)

And to the same degree
they recognize more and more clearly
the dignity of the human being in all its fullness
and the definitive meaning of the human vocation.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

You have destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened paradise to the thief. The sorrow of the women You turned to joy. You commanded Your apostles to proclaim to all: "Christ our God is risen, granting great mercy to the world" Troparion, Resurrection Tone Seven.

No longer can the might of death rule over men; Christ has come destroying and crushing its power. The Abyss is now in chains. The prophets with joy unite in proclaiming "The Saviour has appeared saying to those who believe: 'Come forth, you faithful, to the Resurrection'" Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Seven.

May the Lord give strength to His people; may the Lord bless His people with peace Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Seven.

The Apostles saw the Resurrection of the Creator. They were amazed and sang the angelic hymn of praise. This is the glory of the Church; the devil has been defeated. This is the wealth of the kingdom. O Lord, You suffered for us; glory be to You! Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

Christ fulfilled the prophecies of David. On Sion He manifested His greatness to His disciples. He showed Himself praised and glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, first as the Word before He became man; now incarnate He died for us as man. He rose by His own power. He is the Lord and Lover of mankind Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

Mother of God, you became a mother outside the law of nature. In birthgiving you remained a virgin. This is beyond understanding and human speech. Words cannot describe the wonder of your birthgiving. More glorious is the nature of conceiving, O Pure One! The manner of your birthgiving is beyond our understanding. For when God wills, the laws of nature are broken. We firmly believe you to be the Mother of God. We hasten to you in prayer: Intercede for the salvation of our souls Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

O Christ, You descended into the Abyss; You despoiled death and arose on the third day; You raised us with you; We glorify Your all powerful Resurrection. O Lord, You alone love mankind Vesper Hymn, Tone Seven.

VESPER VERSES ACCORDING TO THE EIGHT TONES

TONE 7

1. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord :
He has crushed the power of death;
He has enlightened the human race.
Let us cry out with the angels of heaven :
“ Our Maker and Savior, glory be to you! ”
 2. You suffered the crucifixion and burial for us,
O Savior.
Being God, you put Death to death by your
death.
Therefore, we bow to your resurrection,
O Lord.
Glory be to you!
 3. The Apostles saw the resurrection of the
Creator.
They were amazed and sang the angelic hymn
of praise.
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This is the glory of the Church;
The devil has been defeated.
This is the wealth of the Kingdom.
O Lord, you suffered for us :
Glory be to you!

4. Arrested by sinful men, O Christ,
You are still my God; I am not ashamed.
Seeing You scourged, I will not deny You;
Seeing You on the cross, I will not hide.
I praise your resurrection : your death is life
for me.
Almighty Lord, Lover of mankind, Glory be
to You!
5. Christ fulfilled the prophecies of David.
On Sion He manifested his greatness to his
disciples.
He showed Himself praised and glorified
With the Father and the Holy Spirit,
First as the Word before He became man;
Now incarnate He died for us as man.
He rose by his own power.
He is the Lord and Lover of mankind.
6. O Christ, you freely descended into the Abyss.
As God and Lord, You conquered Death.
You arose on the third day.
You freed Adam from the bonds of death.
He cried out in song and said :
" Glory be to your resurrection; You alone
love mankind! "

7. O Lord, You were buried in the tomb as asleep.
Powerful and strong, You arose on the third
day.

You raised Adam from the corruption of
death :

You are the Almighty Lord.

8. Glory be to the Father ✙, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.

Mother of God : you became a mother outside
the law of nature.

In birthgiving you remained a virgin.

This is beyond understanding and human
speech.

Words cannot describe the wonder of your
birthgiving.

More glorious is the nature of your conceiving,
O Pure One!

The manner of your birthgiving is beyond our
understanding.

For when God so wills, the laws of nature
are broken.

We firmly believe you to be the mother of God.

We hasten to you in prayer :

Intercede for the salvation of our souls

At the Apostichon

1. You rose from the dead, O Savior of mankind.
Through your body, you raised mankind.
O Lord, glory be to you!

2. Let us worship the Lord :
He has risen from the dead and enlightened
mankind.
By his resurrection, He has freed us from the
suffering of the Abyss.
He has granted us life and great mercy.
3. O Christ, you descended into the Abyss;
You despoiled Death and rose on the third day;
You raised us with you :
We glorify your all powerful resurrection.
O Lord, you alone love mankind.
4. O Lord, you were awe-inspiring :
Even when in the tomb as asleep,
Being all powerful, you rose on the third day.
You raised Adam who cried out :
“ Glory to your resurrection; You alone love
mankind! ”
5. Glory be to the Father ✚, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.
O most pure Lady :
All on earth take refuge under your protection.
We cry out to you : Mother of God and our
hope,
Deliver us from our many sins
And save our souls.



THE PROPHET ELIAS: THE SECOND FORERUNNER

The Prophet Elias is one of the most fascinating and mysterious characters in the Bible. Although born some 900 years before the Birth of Christ, Elias nonetheless makes a significant impact on the New Testament - and beyond!

We read about the Prophet Elias primarily in the First and Second Book of Kings. Little is known about his early life - he merely appears on the scene one day and immediately confronts King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, admonishing them for their pagan practices. He is forced into exile, fleeing for his life. He eventually returns to challenge the priests of Baal to a contest to prove whose deity is more powerful. The God of Elias emerges victorious, causing the death of scores of those who served the false god. Numerous miracles are attributed to this great prophet. In his efforts to destroy the pagan culture that has consumed God's people, Elias prayed to God that He would not send any rain upon the earth until the people repented. This draught was to last for 3 1/2 years, and did not end until Elias interceded before the Lord. It was also through his intercession that the son of the widow of Zarephath - who had taken care of the prophet during part of his exile - was brought back to life.

Elias made a dramatic departure from this world, being taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot. According to Holy Tradition, the Prophet Elias will be the "Second Forerunner" - returning to earth to proclaim the Second Coming of Christ. He will preach repentance and the Book of Revelation tells us he will be slain by the Antichrist - a sign that the end of the world is near.