



Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 21, 2013

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor; Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris, Cantors Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.

GLAD TIDINGS

+++ Today we have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's simple feast of St. Elias the Prophet. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ Today we have the blessing of vehicles of travel and intercessory prayers for the safety of all travelers and operators of vehicles of travel.

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

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received last Sunday: Tithing Offering, \$226.00; Bulletin, \$25.00; Holyday, \$2.00; Food Coupons, \$200.00, for a total of \$453.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 44 adults and 13 children last Sunday.

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Anna Zacharyczuk, Eleanor Korba, Michael Douglas, Robert Gorbich, Maria Garcia and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a PENNIES FROM HEAVEN Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of \$1694.00 from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ Please be certain to see a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using Shop Rite Food Coupons available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite ALL to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$5550.00 on this project to date!

+++ The Clothing Drive is a permanent on-going project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals and shoes for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing, shoes and fabrics.

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

+++ 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!

LORD



TEACH
US

Lying

Should you instead nurse bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, at least refrain from arrogant and false claims against the truth. Wisdom like this does not come from above. It is earthbound, a kind of animal, even devilish cunning James 3: 14, 15.

Truthful lips endure forever, but the lying tongue only for a moment. Deceit is in the hands of those who plot evil, but those who counsel peace have joy...lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who are truthful are his delight Proverbs 12: 19, 20, 22.

It is I who bring to nothing the signs of liars Isaiah 44: 25.

If we say we have never sinned, we make him a liar and his word finds no place in us 1 John 1: 10.

The father you spring from is the devil and willingly you carry out his wishes. He brought death to man from the beginning and has never based himself on truth; the truth is not in him. Lying speech is his native tongue; he is a liar and the father of lies. Because I deal in truth, you do not believe me John 8: 44, 45.

These must be silenced. They are upsetting whole families by teaching things they have no right to teach and all for sordid gain! A man of Crete, one of their own prophets has testified, 'Cretans have ever been liars, beasts and lazy gluttons, and this is the simple truth Titus 1: 11 - 13!

The way we can be sure of our knowledge of him is to keep his commandments. The man who claims, 'I have known him' without keeping his commandments is a liar and in such a one there is no truth 1 John 2: 4.

Costly Gift

*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in
Christ Jesus our Lord*

Romans 6: 23.

Everyone knows a Rolex watch is one of the finest time pieces made and also one of the most expensive. Many people would jump at the opportunity to own one. That is why some people who recently traveled abroad thought it would be fun, even exciting to pick up a few to give their children as souvenirs of their visit abroad.

Souvenirs? Yes. You see, these watches were "knockoffs" – imitations of the real thing easily passed off to tourists at ridiculously cheap prices. The ones they chose for their family members did have a slight difference from the actual ones you would buy at a fine jewelry store; the name on these fakes was spelled R-O-L-E-X-X.

Few things of value are inexpensive. Fewer still are free. But salvation – the most important gift of all – *is* free. Unlike the imitation Rolex, salvation is of infinite value. Yet it is free because we cannot do anything to purchase it, earn it or buy it. "I repeat it is owing to his favor that salvation is yours through faith. This is not your own doing; it is God's gift; neither is it a reward for anything you have accomplished, so let no one pride himself on it" Ephesians 2: 8, 9. We need only believe and live as saved and redeemed people in the Body of Christ.

It is paradoxical that while salvation is free, offered us in the bounds of the Body of Christ, its cost is in fact, great. Forgiveness, which is so easy for us to accept, cost the agony at Golgotha, but the glory of its grace was radiated in the tomb in Resurrection. Anyone who teaches and pursues something else is simply pushing a "knock off" of the real thing. Believers, however, are not interested in cheap fakes, but want the real thing!



TEEN BE-ATTITUDES

BE humble enough to realize
you still have a lot to learn.

BE ambitious enough to know
you can be anything you want to be.

BE easy enough on yourself
to enjoy, to laugh, to have fun.

BE mature enough to take
responsibility for what you do.

BE confident enough to see that
who you are inside is more important
than how you look outside.

BE proud enough
to take care of your body,
your mind, and your spirit.

BE wise enough
to choose your friends carefully.

BE absolutely sure that,
wherever you go, whatever you do,

YOU ARE LOVED.



Seven Signs of a Terrific Teen

Being yourself.

Choosing friends wisely

Treating others kindly.

Using good judgment.

Respecting your body.

Trying hard to be excellent.

Staying close to God.

"I Will Be Good"

Were you not made leader of the tribes of Israel?...Why then, have you not obeyed the Lord?"
1 Samuel 15: 17, 19.

When one of the Russian czars was a child, he did not know he was in line for the throne of imperial Russia. His instructors, trying to prepare him for the future, were frustrated because they could not motivate him. He just did not take his studies seriously. Finally, his teachers decided to tell him that one day he would become Czar of all Russia. Upon hearing this, the czarovich quietly said, "With God's grace, I will be good." The realization that he inherited this high calling gave him a sense of responsibility that profoundly affected his conduct from then on.

A fine young man who was very immature during his first years of marriage and made life miserable for his wife and brought great concern for his parents began in time pondering the implications of being a father. He grew up over night. He said, "I suddenly realized that before long this baby would be calling me 'Daddy' and I decided I had better make myself worthy of the name."

Saul was chosen from among the people of Israel by God as their appointed king. In giving him this position as leader of his special nation, our heavenly Father honored him greatly, even beyond measure. But Saul did not think about the kind of attitude that should accompany his high calling and heavenly appointed vocation. If he had, he would not have pounced on the loot of battle as if he were the leader of an outlaw gang.

As believers, we are children of our heavenly Father and joint-heirs with Christ. We are the inheritance of Christ's death and Resurrection. We have a noble calling to live up to. We must first recognize it, embrace it and with heavenly grace, live it. Baptized believers should always keep in mind who they are. This will help us say as the young czarovich said, "With God's grace, I will be good!"

A child of the eternal King should always display manners and sensibilities of the heavenly court for that is our true citizenship!

LIVING LIGHTS

...among whom you shine like the stars in the sky while holding fast to the word of life
Philippians 2: 15, 16.

In one of his books, Sir Walter Scott tells of a chieftain from the Highlands who was guest in the home of an English friend. As they were seated at dinner, the conversation turned to the six solid silver candlesticks adorning the table. The host rather crudely began to taunt the chief saying, "I am sure you do not have such magnificent candlesticks." The Highlander replied, "I not only have more, but better ones." The host, of course, did not believe him and said that the next time he came to the chief's castle he wanted to see them.

Well, the day finally arrived when the Englishman did visit the chief. While he and his friends were ushered into the banquet hall, he wondered what kind of candlesticks could be more beautiful than his own. Just as he thought about it, there in the room was one tin holder. But his attention was immediately diverted to another sight. Behind every seat stood a big strong Highlander, holding in his right hand a drawn sword and in his left a blazing torch. One of them came forward and turned to the visitor and said, "Behold the chandeliers of my father's house. These are my six brothers. Not one of these men knows any laws but those of his chief's command. Would you dare compare them to the richest ore that was ever dug out of a mine? Immediately the friend realized what the chief had meant. Living candlesticks, men of sterling character, were of more value to him than the finest, richest silver.

As Christians, we are sinners redeemed by the Saviour's blood so that we can be living lights. No one can have a greater assignment or vocation. May our devotion to Christ permit the light of God's love to shine through us in this sin-darkened world.

Our baptism calls us with a divine vocation to be the light of the world in our particular place in life, to lift up the lamp of the gospel message that others may see the light of Christ. Does your life shed light or cast shadows?

The Fight Against Fear

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me Psalms 23: 4.

In his landmark book, *The Denial of Death*, author and anthropologist, Ernest Becker argues that all of our anxieties and fears are rooted in our dread and fear of death, even on a subconscious level. Although he is not a follower of Jesus Christ, his scholarly study could serve as a commentary on the second chapter of the Hebrew Epistle, particularly "...that by his death he might rob the devil, the prince of death, of his power and free those who through fear of death had been slaves their whole life long" Hebrews 2: 15. Both speak of man before embracing Christ.

Everyone knows something about fear. And certainly the men and women we meet in God's revelation to us in Scripture were also subject to fear, ranging from a mere tremor or anxiety all the way to terrifying panic. But there is never a need to panic, even in the face of death. Our Lord has experienced death and conquered it! He has entered the realm of death and overcome it!

St. Paul tells us that Jesus "...was made a little lower than angels...that he, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" Hebrews 2: 9. Through his death, Christ defeated "...him who had the power of death, that is the devil." Granting us our "release from the fear of death" Hebrews 2: 14, 15.

Who is not victimized by his fears? Recall, then, the wonderful, dread-dispelling promise of Scripture, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" Isaiah 41: 10.

If we do believe that Jesus lives in Resurrection, victory and triumph, we do not have to fear death.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad. With his arm the Lord has won victory. By His death, the Lord has conquered death. He has become the first-born of the dead, He has delivered us from the depths of the Abyss and has granted great mercy to the world Troparion, Resurrection Tone Three.

Today, You arose from the grave, O merciful Lord. You rescued us from the gates of death. Today, Adam sings in exultation and Eve rejoices. With them, the prophets and patriarchs ever praise the might of Your divine power Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Three.

Sing praise to God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Three.

O Christ our Saviour, by Your Cross the might of death has vanished; the deceit of the devil has been broken; the human race saved by faith. Therefore we offer You unceasing praise Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

I glorify the power of the Father; I extol the power of the Son; I sing a hymn to the power of the Holy Spirit, One Divinity, indivisible, uncreated, equal in essence and reigning forever Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

Although unworthy, we stand in Your temple, O Christ our God. We offer our evening hymns of praise; We proclaim loudly: "O Christ our God, Lover of mankind, You have enlightened mankind by Your resurrection; deliver Your people, save them from the hands of Your enemies" Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

By the good pleasure of the Father, by the work of the Holy Spirit, as a Virgin you conceived the Son of God. He was born of the Father before all ages. In you, He became man for us. You gave Him birth without a father; You nourished Him as a child. Never cease to intercede with Him that He save our souls from affliction Vesper Hymn, Tone Three.

VESPER VERSES ACCORDING TO THE EIGHT TONES

TONE 3

1. O Christ our Savior,
By your cross the might of death has vanished;
The deceit of the devil has been broken;
The human race saved by faith.
Therefore we offer You unceasing praise.
2. O Lord our God,
By your glorious resurrection creation has
been enlightened,
Paradise has been opened.
The universe extols You and offers You
unceasing praise.
3. I glorify the power of the Father;
I extol the power of the Son;
I sing a hymn to the power of the Holy Spirit,
One Divinity, indivisible, uncreated,
Equal in essence and reigning forever.
4. We bow in worship to your cross, O Christ;
We praise and glorify your resurrection.
Through your wounds we were all made well.
5. We sing a hymn to the Savior :
He was crucified for us, He rose on the third
day,
He bestowed great mercy upon us.
6. Christ descended to the Abyss.
In these words he announced the good tidings :
“ Have confidence now, for I have conquered.
I am the resurrection :

I will set you free by breaking the gates of
Death. ”

7. Although unworthy, we stand in your temple,
O Christ our God.
We offer our evening hymns of praise;
We proclaim loudly :
“ O Christ our God, lover of mankind,
You have enlightened mankind by your
resurrection :
Deliver your people,
Save them from the hands of your enemies. ”
8. Glory be to the Father ✝, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.
Amen.

O Lady most honorable,
How can we not stand in wonder :
You gave birth to the Incarnate God;
He was born of the Father before all ages.
You gave him birth and remained a virgin.
He is perfect God and man,
The two natures are joined intact,
Neither losing any of its properties.
Therefore, O Virgin Mother,
intercede with him to save us.
We believe and confess you are the Mother of
God.

At the Apostichon

1. The sun was darkened at your passion,
O Christ;

The light of your resurrection enlightened
creation;

It overwhelmed it with joy

Receive an evening hymn of praise from us :

You alone love mankind.

2. Your life-giving resurrection, O Lord,
Has given light to the universe.
It has renewed our corrupt nature.
You delivered us from Adam's curse.
We cry out : " O Lord Almighty, glory be
to You! "
3. As God, You are without change,
Yet You suffered in the changing flesh.
The earth could not bear to see You on the
Cross;
It trembled in fear and sighed in praise of
your long-suffering.
You descended to the Abyss; you rose on the
third day.
You granted life and great mercy to the world.
4. You accepted death to save our race from
death, O Christ our God!
On the third day You rose from the dead.
You raised with You those who recognized
You as the true God.
You enlightened the world.
O Lord, glory be to You!
5. Glory be to the Father ✝, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and
forever. Amen.

By the good pleasure of the Father,
By the work of the Holy Spirit,
As a Virgin you conceived the Son of God.
He was born of the Father before all ages.
In you, He became man for us.
You gave Him birth without a father;
You nourished Him as a child:
Never cease to intercede with Him
That He save our souls from affliction.

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE!

Have you ever heard the old saying: "WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY?" The life of ST. CHRISTINA is a testimony to the truth of these words.

St. Christina was born in 200 A.D. Her father, Orvanos, was a wealthy, unscrupulous Roman soldier, who both hated and feared Christianity. Orvanos was so determined to keep Christ's message from his daughter that he erected a huge tower and kept her imprisoned within its walls! Servants were carefully instructed NEVER to mention Jesus Christ and His teachings in the presence of his daughter.

As she grew older, Christina sensed that others did not live or believe as she was being forced to

do. Her life of confined luxury became an increasingly unhappy one for her. One day, an angel of the Lord was sent to St. Christina and revealed to her the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the same time, other "news" reached her ears: her father had been killed in battle.

Free at last, Christina dismissed all of her deceitful servants and sold her inheritance, sharing it with the poor. She now had a mission in life: to share her story and her new-found knowledge of the Saviour with pagans everywhere.

Scores of converts were won over by St. Christina's example. Her efforts, however, did not please the Roman authorities. She was arrested, tortured and finally martyred for her belief in 234 A.D.