

Ὁ^ς γὰρ
ΠΑΝΤΕ

ΛΕΗΜΩ^Ν



All - Merciful
ST. PANTELEIMON

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 24, 2011

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 Wednesday is the simple feast of St. Pantelemon the Great Martyr and Healer. The vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in anticipation on Tuesday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please join us in prayer and praise to venerate the relic of the saint and be anointed with the oil of St. Sabas Monastery in Jerusalem.

+++ The annual blessing of vehicles of travel takes place TODAY after the Divine Liturgy.

+++ Today we have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's simple feast of St. Elias the Prophet.

+++ 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: Tithe Offering, \$616.00; Candles, \$28.00; Holyday, \$15.00; Food Coupons, \$320.00; Christian Fellowship, \$3.00, for a total of \$982.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offered their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 44 adults and 13 children last Sunday.

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Pani Lucas, Ryan Pallas, Bob Gorbich, Debra Szmaida, Paul Szmaida, and Pani Bulezta.

+++ 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 \$1617.00 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 \$107,815.00. 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 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 \$5300.00 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.**

+++ We remember 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!

LORD



TEACH
US

Encouraging Your Spouse

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness Hebrews 3: 13.

And let us consider how we may encourage one another on toward love and good deeds Hebrews 10: 24.

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification Romans 14: 19.

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up Romans 15: 1, 2.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ Galatians 6: 2.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing 1 Thessalonians 5: 11.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight Philippians 1: 9.

Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more 1 Thessalonians 4: 1.

Wisdom Of
The



Byzantine
Fathers

IF IT is true that those who are entrusted with civic government subvert their cities and ruin themselves as well, unless they are wise and very watchful, what about the man whose task is to adorn the bride of Christ? How much strength in himself and from above do you think he needs to avoid complete failure?

No one loved Christ more than Paul; no one showed more earnestness than he; no one was endowed with more grace. Yet for all that he went in fear and trembling for his authority and those who were under it. He says, "I fear lest, as the serpent beguiled Eve, so your thoughts should be corrupted from the simplicity which is towards Christ."¹ And again, "I was with you in fear and in much trembling."² Yet he was a man who had been "caught up to the third heaven",³ and shared in the unspeakable things of God,⁴ and endured "deaths"⁵ every day he lived after his conversion. He was a man who did not want to use the authority given him by Christ in case one of the believers should be offended.⁶ St. John Chrysostom

A Symbolic Interpretation of the rites of the sacramental Mystery of Baptism



The priestly celebrant, vested in white vestments for the most solemn initiation occasion because it is the color and symbol of heavenly joy. In the sacramental Mystery of Baptism, the Church rejoices the one baptized becomes a communicant of the Body of Christ.

The baptized is given a new identity with a Christian name, the name of a saint so he might benefit by this patronage and spiritual support as well as example which he is challenged to emulate.

Since the giving of a name is most important in a person's life, the day which commemorates the saint whose name he bears is celebrated as the person's "name day" or "feast day" and so it becomes for the baptized a festive celebratory time. It is on this day the help of God and patronal saint is invoked to lead a life worthy of the

name. Christians consider their patron saint as another guardian, like their angelic protector; hence a person's name day is also sometimes called his "angel's day."

In ancient times even among pagans, names of great heroes were given to the child so that he would be inspired to great deeds.

The priest then places his hand on the head of the child since the imposition or laying on of hands symbolizes divine protection, as is well explained in the simultaneous prayer that accompanies this action.

The priest performs the rite of exorcism which is expressed in with the practice of blowing and breathing. The priest breathes upon the child to signify the blowing out or expulsion of the devil; then he breathes upon the

child to signify the inbreathing of the Holy Spirit.

The priest, while inbreathing the Holy Spirit, is actually blowing out and expelling the devil. Breathing is the symbol of life. In the beginning God breathed the breath of life into Adam, so now in Baptism the breath of spiritual life is breathed into the soul.

The God parents with the child turn around and face the west, the place of darkness and perdition and are asked to renounce satan. The west is the place where the sun sets, light ends and darkness begins. Darkness symbolizes sin and satan. The priest asks them the same question three times: "Do you renounce satan....?" Each time the sponsors respond, "I do renounce him."

They then turn about to face the east once again, in the direction of the sanctuary and are asked to declare their belief in and service to Christ. The East is where the sun rises and light appears. Christ is called "Orient", that is east, in Scripture and in the liturgical life of the Church. He also calls Himself the "Light of the world" who enlightens all men with the light of His salutary teaching and example. When the sponsors turn around to face the east and the tabernacle where Christ is enthroned in the

sacramental Mystery of the Eucharist, the priest asks three times; "Do you believe in Christ and promise to serve Him?" Three times they respond on behalf of the baptized, "I do believe in Christ and promise to serve him." Then they recite the Profession of faith, the Creed, which enunciates all the major dogmas of Christian faith.

The Servant of God



Is Baptized

The priest then blesses the baptismal water and the Oil of Catechumens. As water, which long ago submerged the entire human race, symbolizes purification, and the oil produced from

the olive tree, a branch of which was brought to Noah in the ark by the dove as a sign of reconciliation, symbolizes mercy, the combination of both these symbols signifies that purification of man by water takes place through the mercy of God.

"O Lord and Master of all, show this water to be water of repentance, the bath of rebirth, the renewal of the spirit, so that all who are baptized with this water may put off their old selves and assume the new; that they become likened to your death and become partakers of your Resurrection and be numbered among the first born who are written in heaven and may thank You, God in the glorious Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen."

After blessing the water and oil the priest anoints the child with the oil and makes the sign of the cross on the child's forehead, chest, back, ears, hands and feet so that the child "...may understand and accept the truths of faith,...love God and neighbor as himself...carry his cross willingly...listen to and accept the teachings of the gospel and faith,...do the right thing at all times ...and walk in the way of the commandments...."

In the Old Covenant, oil was used to anoint kings and priests; it symbolizes

divine election, approval and consecration of a person to God. In the aforesaid anointing, we have a total consecration of both body and soul to the service of God.

Anointing with oil symbolizes strength and power. In ancient times athletes before entering the arena anointed their bodies. Here it symbolizes the integration of the grace of God with the anointed; divine assistance which helps one live the consecrated and devoted Christian life.

The act of baptism itself is performed with the immersion of the child into the water. Water is the agent and symbol of purification and life. Immersion signifies the child dies to sin and is buried with Christ in order to rise again with Christ and live with Him and in Him (Romans 6: 3 - 11; Colossians 2: 12, 13).

"The servant of God, (Name), is baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

The child is then given a white baptismal robe which is called the "robe of righteousness." The white garment symbolizes the purity of the newly baptized person's soul, which has been cleansed. It also serves as a reminder that he must preserve

righteousness, innocence and integrity throughout all his life.

"The servant of God, (Name), is clothed with the garment of righteousness in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

The person or the sponsors are presented with a lighted candle which signifies the baptized has entered the light of Christ from darkness, "For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord" Ephesians 5: 8. His faith should be living and active, literally burning itself out for the sake of Christ. His daily life should be a shining and compelling light to his neighbor. "Let your light so shine before men, in order that they see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" Matthew 5: 16. He must strive to resemble the wise virgins of the parable who met the Bridegroom with their lamps burning and were admitted into the wedding hall" Matthew 25: 1 - 13.

"Take this lighted candle and strive throughout your entire lifetime to shine brightly with the light of faith and of good deeds so that when the Lord comes, you may go forth to meet Him together with all the saints and may enter unhindered into the court of

his heavenly glory and reign with Him forever. Amen."

"O Lord our God, Who through the fulfillment of the baptismal font, by your goodness sanctifies those who believe in You, bless this child and permit your blessing to descend on him. As you blessed King David by the hand of your prophet Samuel, bless also the head of your servant (Name), through my sinful hand, filling and inspiring him with your Holy Spirit, that as he increases in stature, even to a ripe old age he may give glory to You and behold the good things of Jerusalem all the days of his life. For to You is due all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen."



Planning A Vacation ?

Almost everyone does! And whether it be FISHING, TRAVELING, CAMPING - or any other avenue of escape - most all of them take us away from home and the things connected with everyday living.

We hope you get your vacation wish this year. Get the most out of it by attending Liturgy and receiving communion as often as you can. Don't forget to use your "vacation" offering envelope before you go. After all, the church's bills (like your own) must be paid whether you are home or not.

Having fulfilled this obligation, you can enjoy your leisure and recreation all the more. *There is no substitute for a clear conscience.*



**GOD WILL LISTEN
TO YOUR
PRAYER AT ANY
TIME
OR PLACE**

*More things are
wrought by prayer
than this world
dreams of. Let
thy voice rise
night and day.*

— Alfred, Lord Tennyson

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Let us the faithful praise the Word eternal with the Father and the Spirit. Let us adore Him Who was born from the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to ascend the cross as a man, and to suffer death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection Troparion, Resurrection Tone Five.

O Saviour, You descended into the Abyss. Being the Almighty, You destroyed its power. Being the Creator, You raised the dead and dulled the sting of death. Adam was delivered from the curse and we all cry out to You: "O Lord, Lover of mankind, save us!" Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Five.

You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Five.

The Lord, Who bestows Resurrection upon the race of men was led like a lamb to the slaughter. The powers of the Abyss trembled; its gates opened. Christ the King of glory entered it. He said to those in chains: "Come out!" To those in darkness, He said, "Let light surround you!" Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

We offer You this evening worship, O Light Who never fade! In the fullness of time You filled the world with light, Your flesh being a mirror of Your splendor. You descended into the Abyss, dispelling its darkness. You revealed the light of Your Resurrection to the world. O Lord, Giver of light, glory be to You! Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

O Virgin most pure, you are a temple, palace, the throne of the King. Through you, Christ the Lord has appeared. He is the Sun of Justice and the Saviour. He willed to enlighten those in darkness, those fashioned in His image by His hand. We beseech you, worthy of our praise, You are His mother. Intercede for the salvation of our souls Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

A symbol of the pure Virgin and bride is revealed in the Red Sea: There, Moses divided the waters; here Gabriel is the minister of a wonder. There, Israel crossed the deep as on dry land; here the Virgin gives birth and remains a Virgin. There, the sea remained uncrossable after Israel passed; here, the immaculate one remains a Virgin after the birth of Immanuel. O immortal and eternal God, have mercy on us! Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

VESPER VERSES ACCORDING TO THE EIGHT TONES

TONE 5

1. By your precious cross, O Christ,
You have put the devil to shame
By your resurrection, You destroyed the sting
of sin;
You saved us from the gates of death.
We praise You, the only-begotten Son.
2. The Lord who bestows resurrection upon the
race of men was led like a lamb to the
slaughter.
The powers of the Abyss trembled; its gates
opened.
Christ the King of glory entered it.
He said to those in chains : " Come out! "
To those in darkness, he said : " Let light
surround you! "
3. Truly, it is a great wonder :
Because of his love for man, the Creator
suffers.
Now He is risen again—immortal.
Come, all you nations and peoples,
Let us bow to Him in worship.
Because of his love, He saved us from error,
And we have learned to praise
One God in three Divine Persons.
4. We offer You this evening worship, O Light
who never fade!

In the fulness of time, You filled the world with
light,
Your flesh being a mirror of your splendor.
You descended into the Abyss, dispelling its
darkness.
You revealed the light of your resurrection to
the world.
O Lord, giver of light, glory be to You!

5. Let us praise Christ, the Author of our salvation :

By his resurrection from the dead,
He has saved the world from error.
The angelic host rejoices; the deceit of the
demons vanishes;
Adam fallen is raised again.

6. The guards were told to deny the resurrection :

Bribed with money they were told to say :
“ While we slept, his body was taken away. ”
When has a naked and embalmed body ever
been stolen,

Leaving the burial cloth in the tomb?
Do not be deceived—learn from the prophets
and understand

That Christ is truly the Savior of the world
and the almighty Lord.

7. O Lord and Savior,

You despoiled the Abyss and conquered Death.
You enlightened the world by your cross :
Have mercy on us!

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

A symbol of the pure Virgin and bride
Is revealed in the Red Sea :

There, Moses divided the waters;
Here, Gabriel is the minister of a wonder.
There, Israel crossed the deep as on dry
land;
Here, the Virgin gives birth and remains a
virgin.
There, the sea remained uncrossable after
Israel passed;
Here, the Immaculate One remains a virgin
after the birth of Immanuel.
O Immortal and eternal God,
You appeared as man :
Have mercy on us!

At the Apostichon

1. O Christ our Savior,
Not leaving heaven, you became man.
You suffered and died for us because of your
love.
We extol you in song!
You crushed the gates of the Abyss;
You arose on the third day
Granting salvation to our souls.
2. O Christ, Giver of life,
From your side pierced by the lance
There flowed pardon, salvation, and life for all.
Accepting death, you gave us eternal life :
Your burial has made us free.
Being God, you raised us with you in glory.
We cry out to you :
“ O Lord, Lover of mankind, glory be to
you! ”
3. O Christ, Lover of mankind,
Your death and descent into the Abyss are
marvels.

You conquered death by raising with you in
glory

Those bound for ages by the chains of death.

Grant to us who praise your resurrection

The forgiveness of our sins; make us worthy
of paradise :

You alone love mankind.

4. O Lord, You suffered for us;

On the third day you rose from the dead.

Heal our bodily passions;

Raise us from our sin, and save us :

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 Virgin most pure,

You are a temple, palace, the throne of the
King.

Through you, Christ the Lord has appeared.

He is the Sun of Justice and the Savior.

He willed to enlighten those in darkness,

Those fashioned in his image by his hand.

We beseech you, worthy of our praise,

You are his mother.

Intercede for the salvation of our souls.

A GREAT HEALER OF BODIES & SOULS

ST. PANTELEIMON was born in the latter part of the 3rd century in the city of Nicomedia. His was a divided household, for his father was a pagan and his mother a devout Christian. After the death of his mother, Panteleimon studied medicine under the tutelage of the renowned physician Euphrosynus. His medical skills were noted by the Emperor Maximian, who planned to name Panteleimon his royal physician when his training was completed. But the young doctor fell under the influence of a priest named Hermolaus, who had other plans for him! Hermolaus provided him with a different type of "schooling," teaching him about the Christian Faith every chance he got. Once while walking down the street, Panteleimon encountered a dead child, who had been bitten by a venomous snake. He prayed to God, promising that he would be baptized if the little boy would be brought back to life. God granted this miracle, and Panteleimon kept his promise.

Panteleimon dedicated his life to healing the sick and helping the needy. He took no payment for his labors - he always carried out his treatments in the Name of Jesus Christ. Sadly, not everyone was pleased with the work of this amazing unmercenary. Other physicians, driven by jealousy, reported to the Emperor that Panteleimon was a Christian. Maximian arrested him and ordered his execution, but God spared him from death several times. Others who witnessed this converted to Christianity themselves, further enraging the Emperor. Finally, this great healer was put to death by beheading - but not before the executioner's sword was rendered useless until Panteleimon completed his final prayer.

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