



*In our hectic world,
let our hearts be open to Jesus!*

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 1, 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 St. Pantelemon the Healer. The customary greeting is "Christ is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ We have received donations to our parish amounting to ~~\$295.00~~ in blessed memory of +Mary Gorbich, mother of our good parishioner, Bob Gorbich. To those who expressed their condolences in heartfelt generosity to the cause of the Lard, we acknowledge offerings from: Robert Gorbich, Barbara Bowker, Betty Samaris, Eleanor Korba, Paul & Helen Pallas, Father and Pani Lucas. We express our

gratitude to these devoted souls and pledge our continued prayers for their good health and repose of the soul of +Mary. Anyone wishing to make a similar offering may see Father.

+++ This Friday we have the most solemn feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. In anticipation, the vespereal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Thursday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please bring fruit and grapes to be solemnly blessed after the celebration. Come in prayer and praise to join us in prayer.

+++ 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, ~~\$544.00~~; Candles, ~~\$44.00~~; Food Coupons, ~~\$380.00~~; Holyday, ~~\$48.00~~; Special Offering, ~~275.00~~; Diocesan Dues, ~~\$150.00~~; Christian Fellowship, ~~\$1.00~~, for a total of ~~\$1442.00~~. 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, George Idromenos, 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.

+++ The first Pirohi Sale of the coming season will be on Saturday, September 4. Worker's schedule will be in next week's bulletin.

+++ Today, August 1 is the beginning of the Saviour's Fast which prepares us for the Feast of the Dormition of the Birthgiver of God. Please plan on sacrificing in fast during the two week period and plan on coming to church this Monday at 7: 30 PM for devotions in praise of the Lord and the second week in honor of the Birthgiver.

+++ 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.

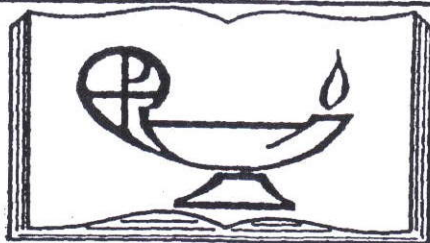
+++ Please be certain to see **Helen Karpiak** or a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in **\$20.00** denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully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

LORD



TEACH
US

Temptation

Blessed be the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proven, he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him. No one experiencing temptation should say, "I am being tempted by God" for God is not subject to temptation to evil and he himself tempts no one. Rather, each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire conceives and brings forth sin, and when it reaches maturity, it gives birth to death James 1: 12 – 15.

...and lead us not into temptation... Matthew 6: 13; Luke 11: 4.

Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works. Forty years I loathed that generation and I said, They are a people of erring heart, and they know not my ways. Therefore, I swore in my anger; they shall not enter into my rest" Psalms 95: 8 – 11.

There is cause for rejoicing here. You may for a time have to suffer the distress of many temptations, but this is so that your faith, which is more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may by its genuineness lead to praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ appears 1 Peter 1: 6.

No test has been sent to you that does not come to all men. Besides, God keeps his promise. He will not let you be tempted beyond your strength. Along with the test he will give you a way out of it so that you may be able to endure it 1 Corinthians 10: 13.

My brothers, account it pure joy when you are involved in every sort of trial. Realize that when you faith is tested this makes for endurance. Let endurance come to its perfection so that you may be fully mature and lacking in nothing James 1: 2 - 4.

Life – Style Danger!

“My point is that you should live in accord with the spirit and you will not yield to the cravings of the flesh. The flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh; the two are directly opposed. That is why you do not do what your will intends...It is obvious what proceeds from the flesh: lewd conduct, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, bickering, jealousy, outbursts of rage, selfish rivalries, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I have warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” Galatians 5: 16 – 21.

There is great danger for some who profess to be followers of the Lord. It is the danger of being deceived into thinking that we will not be held accountable for a continued life-style of sin. The revelation of God to us says, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” 1 Corinthians 6: 9, 10.

The sinful acts of the flesh is a reference to a lifestyle, not mere isolated instances or acts of sin. If believers “fall” into such acts and sincerely repent, God will forgive and restore His fellowship to them. “...if we acknowledge our sins, he who is just can be trusted to forgive our sin and cleanse us from every wrong” 1 John 1: 9. But a continued lifestyle identified with this behavior reveals an absence of God’s presence, a soul who is lost, destined to spend eternity in the lake of fire “As for the cowards, and traitors to the faith, the depraved and murderers, the fornicators and sorcerers, the idol-worshippers and deceivers of every sort – their lot is the fiery pool of burning sulphur, the second death” Revelation 21: 8. “Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God” 3 John 1:11.

The following is the incomplete list of sinful works of the flesh and their definition. The Scripture warns rather plainly that persons with these kinds of lifestyle acts will not inherit the kingdom of God. A careful reading should permit a realistic self-examination.

Adultery means to depart or break the marriage covenant. The Hebrew word for adultery, *nsaph* is similar meaning to break wedlock. The word adultery does not necessarily refer to

sex, but deals primarily with the betrayal of a sacred covenant and commitment. Adultery is a sin of unfaithfulness and describes the sinful sexual activity of a married person with another who is not the spouse.. “What I say to you is: anyone who looks lustfully at a woman has already committed adultery with her in his thoughts” Matthew 5: 28.

Fornication Harlotry, sexual impurity, sometimes used as a spiritual metaphor of idolatry. This includes premarital sex, homosexual sex, or any sexual activity outside the sanctions of marriage and describes the sinful sexual activity of single people, those not married to each other. “Shun lewd conduct. Every other sin a man commits is outside his body, but the fornicator sins against his own body” 1 Corinthians 6: 18.

Uncleanness is impurity, or foul, demonic activity. “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us purify ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, and in fear of God, strive to fulfill our consecration perfectly” 2 Corinthians 7: 1.

Lewdness is best characterized as licentiousness, lasciviousness, lack of restraint. “Athletes deny themselves all sorts of things. They do this to win a crown of leaves that withers, but we a crown that is imperishable” 1 Corinthians 9: 25.

Idolatry is image worship which is often associated with worshipping an idol, but God’s revelation to us links it to covetousness because it can also be the worship of material possessions, including self or anything but God. “Put to death whatever in your nature is rooted in earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires and that lust which is idolatry” Colossians 3: 5.

Sorcery means misuse of drugs, involvement in magic, witchcraft or that which deceives, manipulates or controls self or another. “For a sin like divination is rebellion, and presumption is the crime of idolatry” 1 Samuel 15: 23.

Hatred is hostility, opposition, enmity “Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer and you know that eternal life abides in no murderer’s heart” 1 John 3: 15; Bitterness, hatred, and unforgiveness is contrary to every principle of the faith of Christ inasmuch as those who retain

unforgiveness cannot be forgiven their own sins. “If you forgive the faults of others, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours; if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive you” Matthew 6: 14.

Contentions occur when we quarrel, wrangle, keep at variance with others, contend in arguments, debate and cause strife. “Because you are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Christ’s peace must reign in your hearts, since as members of the one body you have been called to that peace” Colossians 3: 12 – 15.

Jealousy is envy, indignation, emulating with spiteful zeal the heat of the grudge. “Jealousy is cruel as the grave, relentless as the nether world...” Song of Songs 8: 6.

Wrath is passion, as if breathing hard, with fierceness, or indignation. “...for a man’s anger does not fulfill God’s justice” James 1: 20.”...when he will repay every man for what he has done:..wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. Yes, affliction and anguish will come upon every man who has done evil” Romans 2: 8, 9.

Selfish Ambition means separating, dividing factious provocation and contention which divides the unity of believers in the Church. “Where there are jealousy and strife, there are also inconstancy and all kinds of vile behavior” James 3: 16.

Dissension is disunion, division and separation from other believers and from Christ, the Truth; it is descent into error. “I beg you to be on the watch against those who cause dissension and scandal, contrary to the teaching you have received. Avoid their company. Such men serve, not Christ our Lord, but their own bellies, and they deceive the simpleminded with smooth and flattering speech” Romans 16: 17, 18.

Heresy is a choice for separation, to take error to one’s self, or to prefer dishonesty. Heresy is a term which describes false teachings, but it means more than simply that. It is a proclivity or preference for that which brings disunity to the Body of Christ and draws persons apart into

dissenting groups. Heresy does not necessarily have to be false teaching, but can be pressing opinions which serve to divide, rather than unite God's people. "In times past there were false prophets among God's people, and among you also there will be false teachers who will smuggle in pernicious heresies. They will go so far as to deny the Master who acquired them for his own, thereby bringing on themselves swift disaster. Their hateful ways will allure many away. Through them the true way will be made subject to contempt" 2 Peter 2: 1, 2.

Envy is spiteful ill-will. "I fear that when I come I may not find you to my liking, nor may you find me to yours. I fear I may find discord, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, slander and gossip, self-importance, disorder. I fear that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you and I may have to mourn over the many who sinned earlier and have not repented.... 2 Corinthians 12: 20, 21.

Murder indicates slaughter, unjust killing and depriving someone of life. "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" John 8: 44.

Drunkenness describes intoxication, being under the influence of liquor or drugs, being drunk. It is during this time that man is susceptible to descending deeper into sin since his inhibitions are weakened. "Avoid getting drunk on wine, that leads to debauchery. Be filled with the Spirit" Ephesians 5: 18.

Revelries is riotous wild- partying with no dignity or sensible purpose. "Already you have devoted enough time to what the pagans enjoy, living lives of debauchery, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and wanton idolatry. It is no wonder that those blasphemers are surprised when you do not plunge into the same swamp of profligacy as they" 1 Peter 4: 3, 4.

God's revelation to us in Scripture warns, "...they who do such thing shall not inherit the kingdom of God" Galatians 5: 21. It goes without saying this is an extremely serious warning affecting man's destiny.

Unfortunately, there are so-called professing believers, people who do go to church on Sundays, who assume that because they call Jesus their Lord, He will wink graciously at these so-called "character flaws." However, Jesus warned that not all who profess to be his followers

would be saved, only those who live their lives in accordance with His teaching. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven" Matthew 7: 21.

Of one's lifestyle consists of works and simple activity of the flesh, there is only one thing that can detour a dreadful destination. Repentance with absolute forsaking of the fleshy life-style of sin and debauchery must take place. Repentance means to "...turn around and walk in a new lifestyle" 2 Corinthians 7: 10. Any person who truly repents and confesses his sins is empowered by the Spirit of God to walk in a new lifestyle. Scripture testifies that "...old things pass away and all things become new" 1 Corinthians 5: 17. Instead of justifying continued sinful behavior, those who wish to follow Christ must forsake a lifestyle of sin and walk in the newness of Christ's life. "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires" Romans 6: 12.

No one should misunderstand. We are not implying believers will never stumble into sin or imperfection. "I am writing this to keep you from sin. But if anyone should sin, we have, in the presence of the Father, Jesus Christ, an intercessor who is just" 1 John 2: 1. But the genuine experience of God's forgiveness produces good works in us. "Do you want proof, you ignoramus, that without good works faith is dead" James 2: 20? In effect, a godly change in a person's lifestyle becomes necessary if the presence of the Holy Spirit is sustained. The same Holy Spirit who imparts grace to forgive and wash away all your sins "The law of the spirit, the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has freed you from the law of sin and death" Romans 8: 2, also brings a new nature, to which we are to yield our lives. "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" Galatians 5: 16.

The grace of God and forgiveness is available for all manner of sin, whatever it may be. Jesus will forgive all sins we devoutly with repentance, reverently confess in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation. We must also remember to forsake them as well. "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" Proverbs 28: 13. True and genuine repentance means we will make every effort not to repeat our former sins and will seek to walk in the nature of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Such was David's desire in his repentant prayer, "Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" Psalms 50: 9, 10.

Meekness

Asked to name the most severe temptation in a monastery, one monastic responded swiftly and instinctively, "Anger!" St. John Climacus says that a monk in community is like a hard edged stone constantly rubbing against others like itself. Eventually, these sharp rocks are worn smooth and polished by the friction. St. Basil the Great says something similar in his *Long Rules*. He praises community life by asking his monks how they could possibly keep the commandment of love unless they lived with genuinely annoying people. You do not need to live in a monastic community to appreciate this very patristic insightful humor. Few of us are so meek that we can confidently lay claim to the reward of the third Beatitude. A careless word from a spouse, a nuanced expression of a friend, a child doing childish things, a noise not welcomed. How long we could make this list!

And how far detoured would the items on such a list lead us from the true purpose for which the Father gave us the *gift* of anger? Anger is the proper response to all that is unholy, ungodly, unjust. It is a kind of psychic pain response meant to alert us to the presence of real spiritual danger. But once the danger is recognized and steps taken to avert it, what place has anger in our lives? None. Once the Temple was cleansed of its money-changers, the Lord was able to return to that meekness which enabled him to forgive on the Cross.

Ours is indeed an angry age. "I'm offended" has replaced "I disagree" in both private conversation and in public discourse. Anger today seems to have claimed the prerogatives that were once reserved for reason. Since we think so little we reason even less. We permit past ghosts of infantile behavior to surface with vehemence and justify them with our publicly disclosed anger. God's revelation to us as well as the insights of the Fathers warn us that rage reduces us to the level of snarling beasts, but since we rarely hold a mirror up to ourselves when so inflamed, we do not believe God or his spokesmen. Today many seem to see in anger's very irrationality its highest quality. They thus speak to themselves, "I have a *right* to be angry; you *made* me angry." And yet the wise counsels of Christian ascetics remind us that in fact no one can really *make* us angry. No one has the power to take away what our God has given us, that Resurrection assurance that life and justice are ultimately stronger than death and iniquity. Christian asceticism also teaches us the only "right" guaranteed to humans is the right to God's love. Grounded in God's own Word, this alone stands sure and steadfast. Every time we attempt to invest some lesser thought with the quality of a divine promise, we are bound for sorrow as we unleash torrents of ill-will within ourselves. The final answer to chronic anger is not more human justice. It is greater, deeper, profounder faith in the Lord's boundless love, mercy and justice.

Did You Know That ...

...we should love our spouses when they least deserve it because that is when they really need it?

...you should not marry the person you think you can live with; marry only the individual you think you can't live without?

...marriage is the union of two people one of whom never remembers birthdays and the other who never forgets them?

...love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same promising direction?

...one of the best hearing aids a man can have is an attentive wife?

...a woman works ten years to change a man's habits and then complains he is not the man she married?

...marriage is not only spiritual communion; it is also the practical remembering to take out the trash?

...marriage in the Church is being Christ to each other?

...we can only get off to a good start in life when Christ is at the starting line and at the finishing one as well?

...all that we do in our lives should be motivated by fulfilling Christ's will?

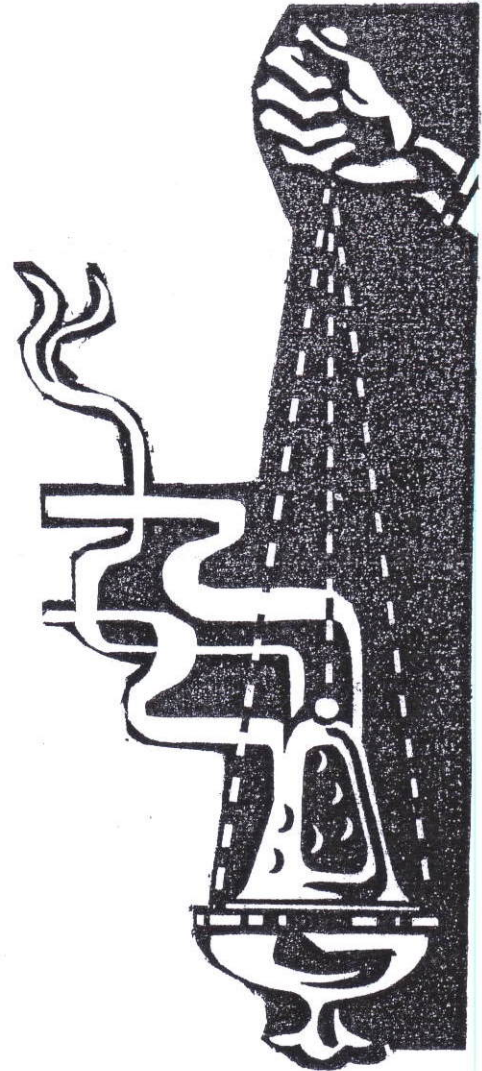
..."I love you" is the expression we all need to hear more often?

...one important responsibility of each spouse in marriage is to help the other become what God has intended them to be?

...spouses should be, after Christ, each other's best friend?

...marriage is not only for this short life time, but a fulfilling union for all eternity?

**Let us
become
fragrant
with
the
Incense
of
Prayer**



Summer Scripture Challenge

Struggling in prayer is an essential part of spiritual growth. Just as a child struggles to balance so they may walk, we, too struggle that we may walk faithfully with the Lord. The pull between doing our own will and discovering God's will, stretches, exercises, and challenges us. How else can we enter into a deeper relationship with our heavenly Father if we do not seek his voice? We can speak to our God through prayer.

This summer, take 31 days to learn how to pray. Each day corresponds with a scripture citation. The greatest benefit would be to read the revelation of God to us along with the associated text.

Keep a journal to write your thoughts and prayers so that you can share your insights and questions with other believers or inquirers. You may enlarge your understanding of prayer. Perhaps you will add new verbs to your vocabulary of prayer. Either way, your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ will deepen.

Have a blessed summer!

- ☐ **Day 1** Luke 11:1 The Only Teacher
- ☐ **Day 2** John 4:23-24 The True Worshipers
- ☐ **Day 3** Matthew 6:6 Alone with God
- ☐ **Day 4** Matthew 6:9 The Model Prayer
- ☐ **Day 5** Matthew 7:7-8; James 4:3 The Certain Answer to Prayer
- ☐ **Day 6** Matthew 7:9-11 The Infinite Fatherliness of God
- ☐ **Day 7** Luke 11:13 The All-Comprehensive Gift
- ☐ **Day 8** Luke 11:5-8 The Boldness of God's Friends
- ☐ **Day 9** Matthew 9:37-38 Prayer Provides Laborers
- ☐ **Day 10** Mark 10:51; Luke 18:41 Prayer Must Be Specific
- ☐ **Day 11** Mark 11:24 The Faith that Takes
- ☐ **Day 12** Mark 11:22-23 The Secret of Believing Prayer
- ☐ **Day 13** Matthew 17:19-21 Prayer and Fasting
- ☐ **Day 14** Mark 11:25 Prayer and Love
- ☐ **Day 15** Matthew 18:19-20 The Power of United Prayer
- ☐ **Day 16** Luke 18:1-8 The Power of Persevering Prayer

- ☐ **Day 17** John 11:41-42; Psalm 2:7-8 Prayer in Harmony with God
- ☐ **Day 18** Matthew 22:20; Genesis 1:26 Prayer in Harmony with the Destiny of Man
- ☐ **Day 19** John 14:12-14 Power for Praying and Working
- ☐ **Day 20** John 14:12-13 The Chief End of Prayer
- ☐ **Day 21** John 15:7 The All-Inclusive Condition
- ☐ **Day 22** John 15:7 The Word and Prayer
- ☐ **Day 23** John 15:16; James 5:16 Obedience: The Path to Power in Prayer
- ☐ **Day 24** John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24,26 The All-Powerful Plea
- ☐ **Day 25** John 16:23-24; John 16:26-27; Jude 20-21
- ☐ **Day 26** Luke 22:32; John 16:26; Hebrews 7:25 Christ the Intercessor
- ☐ **Day 27** John 17:24 Christ the High Priest
- ☐ **Day 28** Mark 14:36 Christ the Sacrifice
- ☐ **Day 29** I John 5:14-15 Our Boldness in Prayer
- ☐ **Day 30** I Peter 2:5; Isaiah 61:6 The Ministry of Intercession
- ☐ **Day 31** I Thessalonians 5:16-18 A Life of Prayer

Even More Notes

**SPEAK,
LORD**
YOUR SERVANT IS
LISTENING!

A Bend in the Road

When we feel we have nothing to give,
and we're sure that the song has ended,
When our day seems over and the shadows fall
and the darkness of night has descended,
Where can we go to find the strength
to valiantly keep on trying?
Where can we find the hand that will dry
the tears that the heart is crying?
There's but one place to go and that is to God,
and dropping all pretense and pride,
We can pour out our problems without restraint
and gain strength with Him at our side.
And together we stand at life's crossroads
and view what we think is the end,
But God has a much bigger vision,
and He tells us it's only a bend,
For the road goes on and is smoother,
and the pause in the song is a rest,
And the part that's unsung and unfinished
is the sweetest and richest and best.
So rest and relax and grow stronger,
let go and let God share your load,
Your work is not finished or ended,
you've just come to a bend in the road.



Birthday
Wishes!

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

August 1 Anna Sabo

August 3 Maria Pashos

August 9 Kent Pasquino

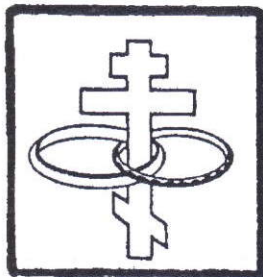
August 16 Maria Idromenos

August 29 Robert Henry

August 30 Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba

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

Many and Blessed Years!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The Byzantine Fathers of the Church were wont to emphasize how ancient and how venerable marriage is in the sight of our God because it was established yet in paradise before the fall of Adam and Eve and brought to blessed perfection by Christ in Cana of Galilee. Its grace survived the sin of our first parents and it remains a sign of the presence of the Holy Trinity in our midst. It is a living symbol of the deep and abiding love between Christ and His Bride, our blessed Church. It is characterized in the liturgical life of the Church as a happy martyrdom. And it is precisely for this reason the sacramental Mystery of Marriage is such a joyous event. On the third Sunday of this month, we honor those of our good parishioners who observe their marriage anniversaries this month of August. They are specially remembered in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and subsequently receive an individual and personal blessing of the Lord at its conclusion. Celebrating this month are:

August 14 Subdeacon Daniel J. & Marilyn Korba

We gratefully give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for having guided and strengthened the marriages of these believers, and their cooperation with sacramental grace to remain faithful to one another over the years. Like all who are faithful to Christ, they recognize the presence and necessity of the Holy Spirit not only in the marriage, but in subsequent family life as well. As we praise our God for their witness in our midst, let us also join them with our prayers and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lord. May they continue to praise His Holy Name by their love and devotion to one another for

**Many and Blessed Years,
Christ Is Risen!**

MARTHA OR MARY: WHO SHOULD WE IMITATE

It is quite common for siblings to be totally different. Sometimes, it's truly hard to imagine how children growing up in the same house can be so opposite in how they think and how they act. The Gospels give us a perfect example of this in the story of two sisters: Martha and Mary. Undoubtedly you remember Lazarus, the dear friend of our Lord - Martha and Mary are his sisters. The Evangelist Luke relates an incident where Jesus visits their home in Bethany. Martha appears to be burdened with the responsibility of preparing for His arrival. We all know how stressful entertaining can be, and surely Martha wanted everything to be *"just right"* for their special Guest. And where was Mary when Martha was working and worrying? She was seated at our Lord's feet, listening to Him speak. An exasperated Martha finally could take it no more! *"Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to help me."* (Luke 10:40) Who could fault her for her outburst? Well, apparently Christ did, for He gently admonishes her with these words: *"Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."* (Luke 10:41-42)

I imagine most of us are like Martha: worried and troubled about many things. Our goal, however, should be to become like Mary: someone who fully understands that nothing is more important than hearing the word of God and keeping it. Didn't our Lord Himself tell us that worrying about anything will *"... not add a single cubit to our stature?"* Didn't He also say that those who have *"chosen that good part"* will be considered *"blessed"* by Him? IN REALITY, WE MUST BE *"DOERS"* OF THE WORD AS WELL AS *"LISTENERS"* OF THE WORD.

There's room for a little of *"Martha"* and *"Mary"* in all of us!