

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 11, 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

+++ We have festal anointing today on the occasion of this past week's feast day of the Transfiguration of our Lord. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we reply, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ Services of Praise also known as the Akathist to the Birthgiver of God will be celebrated Monday evening at 7:30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise.

+++ **Thursday is the most solemn feast of the Dormition of the Birthgiver of God. In anticipation, the vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please join us in prayer and praise, especially since flowers will be blessed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.**

+++ **Pirohi Schedule for the next few months: September 14; October 12, November 1 and December 7. The Bake Sales will take place on November 22 and December 20.**

+++ **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: Tithe Offering, \$423. 00; Holyday, \$10.00; Food Coupons, \$120.00; Candles, \$23.00, for a total of \$580.00, 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.**

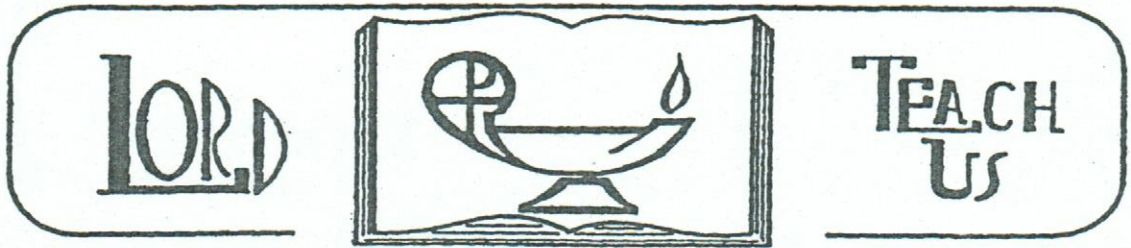
+++ **Please be certain to see a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using Shop Rite Food Coupons available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite ALL to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$5550.00 on this project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

+++ **Please remember to observe the Dormition Fast which concludes on the feast day, August 14.**



The Mother Of God

...but when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son, born of a woman, born under the law, to deliver from the law those who were subjected to it Galatians 4:4.

The Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son and name him Emmanuel Isaiah 7: 14.

Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the power of the Holy Spirit Matthew 1: 18, 21.

Why should I be honored with a visit from the Mother of my Lord Luke 1: 43?

Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary known to be his mother... Matthew 13: 55?

I am blameless in his presence, I keep sin at arm's length Psalms 18: 23.

You are beautiful my beloved and there is no blemish in you Song of Songs 4: 7.

...holy and immaculate, without stain or wrinkle or anything of that sort Ephesians 5: 27.

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary Luke 1: 26, 27.

WHAT IS A STEWARD?

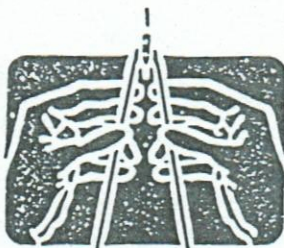
The Christian Steward believes in the joyful possibility of using all God's gifts to the fullest capacity. He sees his whole life precisely as gift—a gift freely and lovingly given by God:

- the gift of time
- the gift of abilities and talents
- the gift of material resources

The Christian Steward seeks to develop these human resources for the glory of the divine Giver and for the building up of his family in Christ, the Church.



Time



Talent



Resources

I Shall Not Pass This Way Again

I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow human being, let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

How many opportunities have you lost?

AN APHORISTIC ALPHABET

Avoid apathy.
Be bold.
Courtesy counts.
Don't discourage.
Enough's enough.
Forgive, forget.
Get going!
Have hope.
Ignore insults.
Journey joyfully.
Keep kicking!
Love life.
Make miracles.
Negate negativity.
Overcome obstacles.
Practice patience.
Quit quitting.
Resist rudeness.
Seek success.
Treasure today.
Urge understanding.
Visualize victory.
Why wait?
Xpect xcellence.
You're you!
Zoom zestfully.

Rachel and Leah

The Beautiful and the Plain

Laban, Rebecca's brother, had two daughters. The older, Leah, was a good hardworking girl but homely, with red-lidded, sore and bleary eyes. The younger was the beautiful Rachel.

Jacob, son of Isaac and Rebecca, fell in love with Rachel when first he saw her leading sheep to a well to drink. Jacob had come to his mother's homeland to find a bride. He saw Rachel and kissed her with hardly an introduction!

Laban welcomed him into their home. He did not pry into Jacob's affairs, or ask uncomfortable questions about why he had left home. He inquired after Rebecca and was so friendly that Jacob never doubted his kindness and was confident in his relationship with him. Naturally, he joined Laban in the fields, and he worked so well that soon Uncle Laban offered him a permanent job.

"Tell me what shall your wages be" Genesis 29: 15? "All I want in the world is to marry your daughter," said Jacob. "My elder daughter Leah?" "No, Rachel. I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel" Genesis 29: 18. Seven years Jacob

worked faithfully, until at last the day came when he could claim Rachel as his wife. Laban arranged the wedding feast. In those days a bride wore a heavy veil until the moment she was first alone with her husband. When finally Jacob was alone with his bride, he raised her veil to kiss her and groaned because the woman under the veil was Leah.

Jacob had been tricked. He, who had defrauded his father into blessing him instead of Esau, was now a victim himself, cheated of seven year's hard labor and married to the wrong woman! "How could you do this to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you" Genesis 29: 25? Uncle Laban explained blandly that custom decreed a younger daughter could not marry until the elder already had a husband. "You could not marry Rachel. So I gave you Leah," he said calmly in the face of Jacob's anger. "Finish the bridal week for this one, and then I shall give you the other, too" Genesis 29: 27.

Since at that time God allowed men more than one wife at a time, Jacob agreed. Laban smiled craftily. "You may marry Rachel at once in return for another seven years of service with me" Genesis 29: 27. Tricked again, into seven year's more unpaid labor on the farm! But he gladly responded because of his love for Rachel.

Jacob married Rachel, and with two wives to keep house, settled down to work in the fields. And the Bible says that when God

saw that Leah was disliked, He blessed her with children. Leah had six sons and a daughter while Rachel had none. Rachel grew jealous and peevish, and complained to Jacob and to God, "Give me children or I shall die" Genesis 30: 1! Two sisters, so different, loving the same husband, yet the Lord seemed to shape the soul of each by this marriage so that each in her own way became more and more perfect.

Leah, who had known the heartache of being unattractive and disliked, was fruitful. She found soulful content when God blessed her with children. Her smiling patience became true beauty so that Jacob came to love her. "Leah bore a son and she named him Reuben; for she said 'it means the Lord saw my misery; now my husband will love me'" Genesis 29: 32. And Rachel, whose beauty had unaided then made life easy for her, learned to pray and rely on God for true happiness and fulfillment. And then the Lord sent her children, too. "She bore a son and said 'God has removed my disgrace' So she named him Joseph, meaning 'may the Lord add another son to this one for me'" Genesis 30: 23, 24.

When the second seven years were over, greedy Laban tried to deceive Jacob into working still longer without payment or a share of the profits. Finally Jacob and Rachel and Leah, their large family and servants, had to escape from Laban as from an enemy. They set out for Jacob's own land after having been away for such a long period of time. It would be a happy homecoming!

On the way, Jacob's name was changed and his destiny made plain. His vocation was spelled out once again. On a moonless midnight in a mountain pass, Jacob found himself wrestling with someone he did not know, an angel of the Lord Hosea 12: 5. And the angel, not being able to overpower him, blessed Jacob, and changed his name to the one the whole world knows as Israel which means "one who contended or struggled with God and prevailed," which is the definition of a faithful believer.

Rachel and Leah became the mother and foster-mother of Israel's twelve tribes. Twelve sons Jacob/Israel had, and from his children came all the Chosen People. At this point, one son was yet to be born. When the journey to Jacob's home was nearly over, Rachel gave birth to a boy named Benjamin, and then died. She was buried in Bethlehem. Jacob marked her tomb with a pillar, still to be seen today as a site of pilgrimage.

Rachel's own sons lived in history, the greatest being Joseph with his coat of many colors. And centuries later, the evangelist recorded Herod's slaughter of the innocent babies of Bethlehem, recalling a prophecy of Rachel weeping for the children of Israel, "...a cry was heard at Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation: Rachel crying for her children; no comfort for her, since they are no more" Matthew 2: 18. But from Leah's son, Judah and his tribe, by the mysterious selection of God's will, divine providence decreed that the Nativity of Jesus Christ our Saviour would come.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Angelic powers descended to Your grave, and the guards fell down and appeared dead. Mary came to the grave seeking Your most pure body. You conquered and despoiled the Abyss without being touched by it. You, the Giver of Life, met the Virgin. O Lord, risen from the dead; glory be to You!
Troparion, Resurrection Tone Six.

Christ our God, the Life-giver with His life-giving hand raised all the dead from the valley of death, granting Resurrection to all mankind. He is the Saviour, the Resurrection, the Life and the God of all *Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Six.*

Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance *Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Six.*

O Lord, You are present everywhere; Where can we poor sinners flee? Heaven is where you dwell; in the Abyss, You conquered death; in the depths of the sea, Your powerful hand is there, O Lord. We come to You, and we worship You saying: "O Lord, risen from the dead, have mercy on us!"
Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.

We take pride in Your Cross, O Christ; We praise and glorify Your Resurrection. You are our God and we know no other *Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.*

Who would not call you blessed, Mother of God! Who would not praise your virginal birthgiving? The only-begotten Son, born of the Father before all ages, has become incarnate of you in a manner beyond understanding. God by nature has taken the nature of man for us, not divided into two persons. He has two natures without mixture or confusion. O most pure and holy, intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls *Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.*

Christ willed to save us from corruption; He was crucified, buried in the tomb. The faithful women sought Him. In tears they said: "O Saviour of all, how did you accept burial? How were you stolen, how taken away? Which place holds Your life-giving body? Appear to us, O Lord, as You promised. Wipe away our tears *Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.*

ORTHODOX LANGUAGE

Aer The largest of the three veils utilized for covering the chalice and offering plate before, during and after the celebration of the Eucharist. It represents mystically the burial shroud of Christ. When the Creed is proclaimed, the priestly celebrant gently waves it over the chalice and offering plate, in front of his eyes, covering them as it were, as the mysteries of the Holy Spirit are being enunciated and revealed, symbolizing the descending inspiration of the Holy Spirit as profound and salutary dogmas and truths are enumerated. It is generally of the same fabric construction as the vestments and has a cross placed at its very center, is trimmed with contrasting galoon and may be embellished with fringe.

Affinity The spiritual relationship which exists between an individual and his spouse's relatives. The marriage creates a spiritual more than physical relationship. It also describes the relationship between Godparents or sponsors and Godchildren. Orthodoxy considers affinity an impediment to marriage for which a dispensation cannot be issued by a diocesan bishop.

Alpha-Omega The very first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, symbolizing the beginning and the end, or the divinity and eternity of Christ as revealed in Scripture, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the One who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" Revelation 1: 8. It is one of the monogram symbols of the Saviour.

Apostolic Succession The direct, continuous and unbroken line of succession transmitted through the bishops of the Church from the Apostles which links and unites them to Christ. The bishops, who form a collective and collegial body, that is, leadership of the Church, are considered successors of the Apostles, and consequently, the duties and powers entrusted to and inherent in the Apostles are transmitted through "the laying on of hands" or consecration of bishops to priests who are empowered by ordination to the priesthood. This is a most important consideration in validity of sacred orders and which renders so many so-called Christian groups totally invalid. Every Orthodox bishop, and as a result, all the priests he commissions, can trace their spiritual lineage back to the Apostles and thus to the Source of salvation, Christ Himself.

Ascension A moveable solemn feast day, occurring forty days following the Resurrection of our Lord, which commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven, His return to be seated at the right of the Eternal Father and the completion of His earthly ministry. Having achieved the salvation of mankind, it was imperative that He return to His rightful place so that the Holy Spirit could be sent upon the disciples for the establishment of the vehicle of salvation and the manifestation of His Body, the Church. It occurred in the Mount of Olives and is recorded in the *Acts of the Apostles* (1: 12).

Did You Know That ...

...the best way to break a bad habit is to drop it?

...television has proved that people would rather look at anything than each other

...by freeing up our prayerful imagination, we learn we can do much more than we thought?

...in striving for lasting quality, we do not cut corners because we do everything best the first time?

...stick-to-it-ivity means we should not quit too soon in our prayer life, but hang in there until our Lord provides us with an answer?

...having fun in life also means doing what is pleasing in the sight of our Lord?

...sometimes the best investments are the ones you do not make?

...dollars go further when accompanied by Christian sense?

...it makes the task more interesting when people tell us it can't be done?

...if only we stop trying to be happy, we'd have a pretty good time?

...nothing is quite so annoying as to have someone go right on talking when you make a serious effort to interrupt?

...a gossip is one who talks to you about others; a bore is one who talks to you about himself; and a brilliant conversationalist is one who talks to you about yourself?

...lost days and years are worse than lost dollars?

...success or failure in the spiritual life is caused more by the mental attitude than by mental capacities?

...good advice to a believer is to believe perpetually?

VESPER VERSES ACCORDING TO THE EIGHT TONES

TONE 6

1. O Christ, You conquered the Abyss, You ascended the cross,
You raised those who stood in the shadow of death.
You are the only one free among the dead.
From your light you give life.
Almighty Savior, have mercy on us!
2. Today Christ has conquered death.
He is risen as he said;
He has given joy to the world.
Let us all sing a hymn and say
“ O Source of life, unapproachable light,
Almighty Lord, have mercy on us! ”
3. O Lord, you are present everywhere :
Where can we poor sinners flee?
Heaven is where you dwell;
In the Abyss, you conquered death;
In the depths of the sea,
Your powerful hand is there, O Lord.
We come to you, and we worship you saying :
“ O Lord risen from the dead, have mercy on us! ”
4. We take pride in your cross, O Christ;
We praise and glorify you resurrection.
You are our God :
We know no other.

5. Glory be to your power, O Lord!
You have destroyed the power of death;
You have renewed us by your cross;
You have granted us life and great mercy.
6. We bless the Lord at all times;
We sing of his resurrection :
By accepting the cross, He has destroyed
death.
7. By your burial, O Lord,
You have broken and destroyed the bonds of
death.
Your resurrection has enlightened the world.
O Lord, glory be to You!
8. Glory be to the Father ✝, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.

Who would not call you blessed, Mother of
God?

Who would not praise your virginal birth-
giving?

The only-begotten Son, born of the Father
before all ages,

Has become incarnate of you in a manner
beyond understanding.

God by nature has taken the nature of man
for us.

Not divided into two persons, He has two
natures

without mixture or confusion.

O most pure and holy, intercede with him

That He may have mercy on our souls.

At the Apostichon

1. Your resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
The angels in heaven praise with hymns!

Make us on earth also worthy with a pure heart
To extol and give glory to You.

2. You broke the gates of the Abyss; You broke
its bonds :
You are God almighty.
You raised our fallen race.
We sing to you :
“ O Lord, risen from the dead, glory be to
You! ”
3. Christ willed to save us from corruption :
He was crucified, buried in the tomb.
The faithful women sought him.
In tears they said :
“ O Savior of all, how did you accept burial?
How were you stolen, how taken away?
Which place holds your life-giving body?
Appear to us, O Lord, as you promised.
Wipe away our tears. ”
While they wept, an angel appeared saying :
“ Enough tears : go tell the disciples the news :
The Lord is risen
Granting forgiveness and mercy to the
world. ”
4. Freely you accepted death;
You conquered death by your burial;
You arose on the third day in glory as God;
You granted eternal life and mercy to the
world.
5. Glory be to the Father ✚, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.

Christ is the Lord, my Maker and Savior.
He came from your womb in my likeness,
O most pure Lady.
He freed Adam from the ancestral curse.
O Virgin since you are the mother of God,
We never cease calling upon you.
As the angel, we also say :
“ Hail, Lady, Advocate, shield and salvation
of our souls! ”

“THE MOTHER OF LIFE HAS BEEN TRANSPORTED INTO ETERNAL LIFE. . .”

Uery few of the major events in the life of the Mother of God have any scriptural basis. Instead, we rely on what is referred to as “Holy Tradition” to provide us with the details of these blessed and meaningful happenings.

Such is the case of the great Holy Day of the **Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. When the Theotokos sensed that her earthly life was coming to a close, she summoned all of the Apostles to be with her in Jerusalem. Only Thomas failed to arrive in time to see her before she departed this life. Sorrowfully, he requested the opportunity to see the body of the Virgin, which had already been buried for three days. To the amazement of the Apostles, her body was nowhere to be seen in the tomb in which she had been placed! While this mysterious and miraculous matter has not been formally defined as a doctrine of the Church, it has long been our tradition that the Mother of God was taken directly into heaven.

The classic Byzantine Style icon of the Dormition depicts the Virgin lying on her death-bed, surrounded by the Apostles. In the background, we see Christ, receiving into His arms the soul of His Blessed Mother. As many as four haloed bishops may be shown behind the Apostles: James, the first Bishop of Jerusalem, Timothy, Hierotheus and Dionysios the Areopagite, the latter three being disciples of the Apostles. Some icons of this great feast day also depict an unbeliever named Athonios, who allegedly tried to disrupt the funeral procession of the Theotokos, only to have his hands cut off by an angel!

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