



**26 ACTS OF KINDNESS**

# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 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 today's solemn feast of the Nativity of the Birthgiver of God. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we reply, "He Is And Shall Be!"

**+++ Beginning, tomorrow, Monday and every Monday following, we will have prayerful devotions before the Myrrh bearing icon at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to be present in praise. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.**

**+++ 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. Order sheets are available in the kitchen. Preparations will take place Thursday morning at 7:00 AM. We ask all to solicit orders to assure success.**

**+++ 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, \$107.00; Pennies From Heaven, \$10.00, Holyday, \$45.00; Candles, \$16.00, for a total of \$198.00, 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, Subdeacon Daniel & Marilyn Korba, Juliana Nederostek, Debra Szmaida, 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 \$1705.00 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 \$5600 on this project to date!**



## Disagreements / Arguments

*Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret, it leads only to evil* Psalms 37: 8.

*In your anger, do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry* Ephesians 4: 26.

*A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense* Proverbs 19: 11.

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you* Ephesians 4: 31, 32.

*Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is mine to avenge, I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good* Romans 12: 19 - 21.

*But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips* Colossians 3: 8.

*A patient man has great understanding, but a quick tempered man displays folly* Proverbs 14: 29.

*For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace* 1 Corinthians 14: 33.

## Seize The Day

Living in the past is a waste of precious and limited resources of time and energy. It evaporates the treasures of soul. Time and energy applied to the past is time and energy taken away from the present. Apply your resources to make progress toward your goals.

Too many squander time living lives from the rearview mirror. We ask ourselves, "What should have been? What might have been if only I had...?" This hopeless squandering steals time and energy.

If you feel the need to worry or live in the past, do so for a specific amount of time each week and then STOP. Redirect your precious time and energy to actions that will help make progress toward the paramount goal of salvation of your soul.

One of the leading advice columnists provides some pertinent information and advice. A writer talked of being older and wanting to return to medical school and of being eight years older before getting the medical degree. The columnist replied, "And how old will you be in eight years if you don't go back to school?"

Many, many people, in reflecting on the past, emphasize how important it is to have a dream and to follow it – not for money, not for prestige, not for someone else's dream, but for yourself. A piece of you withers and dies if you do not. This is precisely what the Fathers of the Church

spoke about when they said only he is genuinely human who associates himself wholly in the quest for salvation with God's grace. If we do not take seriously the challenge of the Lord to secure heavenly citizenship for ourselves it is simply because we have lost an important portion of our own humanity.

That is why we never give up in our struggle to achieve the salvation of our soul!

## Influence

My life shall touch a dozen lives  
Before this day is done,  
Leave countless marks of good or ill,  
Ere sets the evening sun.  
This, the wish I always wish,  
The prayer I always pray:  
Lord, may my life help other lives  
It touches by the way.

## Difference

In truth, the only difference between those who fail to achieve salvation and those who have succeeded lies in the difference of their habits. Good habits are the key to all success. Bad habits are the unlocked door to failure. Thus, the first law we ought obey, which precedes all others, is "I will form good habits, Godly habits and become their slave." I will espouse them devotedly and live up to their challenge that I slowly be bettered and improved in body and soul. The

difference will be perceived not only here and now, but for all eternity.

## If

If I had to raise my child all over again, I'd finger paint more, and point the finger less.

I'd do less correcting and more connecting.

I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.

I would care to know less, and know to care more.

I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.

I'd stop playing seriously and seriously play.

I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.

I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.

I'd build self-esteem first and the house later.

I'd teach less about the love of power and more about the power of love.

I'd invest more time with them in God's presence than buying presents.

## True Value

I would rather be ashes than dust! I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry rot. I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet. The proper function of man is to live for God's glory, not simply to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them; I shall invest my time in achieving man's proper destiny: eternity with God.

## Difficult

A little girl was always lying. She was given a St. Bernard dog and she went out and told all the neighbors she had been gifted with a lion. She was not satisfied unless she elaborated and added to the truth. Her mother called her and said, "I told you not to lie. Now go upstairs to your room and tell God you are sorry. Promise Him you will not lie again. And really mean it this time."

She went upstairs and said her prayers and then after a while, came down. Her mother said, "Did you tell God you are sorry?"

The little girl said, "Yes, I did. And God said that sometimes He, too, finds it hard to tell a dog from a lion."

## Prayer In The Morning

*Morning by morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation*

Psalms 5: 3.

Praying people are naturally drawn to the Book of Psalms, for it is full of prayers. Those who have a prayer life resort to the example set by David. And those who are serious about it are similarly rewarded. Some are prayers of adoration, but most are prayers that pour from the lips of a person who is surrounded by oppressive threat.

The psalms depict a dangerous and treacherous world, where evil lurks not only in nature's storm and wind, but also in the inner hatreds that boil within the human soul. The world of the psalms is one of hatred, suspicion, attack, even murder. In other words, it is a world much like ours. So the prayers of the psalms fit into our current lives, so many times misery self-afflicted.

What a way to start the day when living in such a demented world! What a heaven-inspired activity which takes us into the presence of our Creator God! One of the blessings we experience as God's children is that we can simply approach him with our requests, lay them at his feet and wait with eager expectation to how and in what way He will answer our needs. Sometimes we are embarrassed to come so often, but our requests are not ignored, even though they are so very frequently the same.

Immediately we notice how affectionately and intimately the Psalm establishes a connection between prayer and the House of God. The House of God has always had special meaning for believers. It is the place where his glory dwells, where his presence is especially experienced and felt. Every morning we pray as individuals and on Sundays and holy days we gather with the faith believing people of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and encourage one another to continue bringing requests to God. Prayer encouraged by the body of believers, what a way to the start our day! Prayer begun with expectation. What a positive mark of faith response!

O Lord our God, you use your Church to encourage your people to bring their requests each day, each morning. How can we thank you enough for the expectation that fills our soul as we wait for your loving answer.

## COME TO ME

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest*  
Matthew 11: 28.

If only there were someone to talk to. No, if only there were someone to cry with. Everyone is so busy. Where can you go when your heart is broken? When your life seems shattered? Sometimes we get caught in a trap of our own making. We make many mistakes, and each mistake builds on another – and when we try to get help, we have to admit how much we have bungled and failed and that is so so hard.

“Come to me...” Jesus says. “When you are in trouble, come to me.” “When you just think you might be in trouble, even then, come to me.”

The gospels encourage us to turn to the Lord when people do not understand, when we are nearly paralyzed by guilt or when life itself seems unworthy of our serious and continued efforts.

Jesus understands. He is serious when he says to all of us prodigal sons and greedy people, “Come to me...”

Where are you now? What has happened to you? How have you become separated? You have made decisions that seemed so good at one time, but you have plunged deeper and deeper into failure. The mire of sin has surrounded you and caught you in its trap. And now there is not one to help you, no one you can turn to.

“Come to me...” Jesus says invitingly, even insistently. “Do not be afraid to bare your inmost feelings. I understand. I will pay for your sin and help you put your life back together because I love you.”

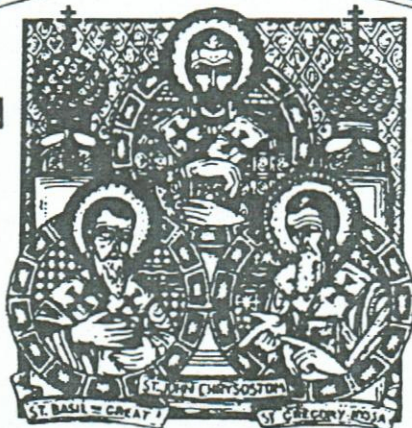
We all need help from Jesus. So we must simply come, no matter what we have done, no matter how much we stink from the putrid smell of sin, no matter how far we have strayed away, let us return to him. Let us come back to Christ!

From bondage, sorrow and the darkness of sinful night, let us approach the Lord so that into his freedom, gladness and light we might find the warmth of embrace, understanding and forgiveness after repentance.





Wisdom Of  
The



Byzantine  
Fathers

"And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns and put it on his head and they put on him a purple robe, and said, 'Hail, King of the Jews! 'And they hit him with their hands" John 19: 2, 3. What sort of garland did Christ Jesus...submit to on behalf of humanity? One made of thorns and thistles, as symbol of our sins, produced by the soil of the flesh. However, the power of the cross removed these thorns, blunting death's every sting in the Lord's enduring head...For after the gall, He tasted the honeycomb. He was not greeted in heaven as the king of Glory until He had been condemned to the cross as King of the Jews. The Father first made Him a little lower than the angels for a time and then crowned Him with glory and honor. If you owe your own head to Him ...repay if you can; He presented His for yours...if you can't be crowned with thorns, you may never be crowned with flowers Tertullian.

An so, after receiving their instructions and being fully assured through the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, as well as confirmed in faith by the Word of God, they went forth, equipped with the fullness of the Holy Spirit, to preach the Good News that the kingdom of God was close at hand St. Clement of Rome.

One belief  
One team  
One focus;

**Salvation**

**In**

**JESUS**

**CHRIST!**

# Did You Know That ...

...a great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but where they ought to be?

...persistence, by God's promise, trumps talent and looks every time?

...it is only in failing over and over again that we can learn to succeed in the spiritual life?

...if you want to be successful, meditation and introspection is necessary because then God will lead you where you ought to go?

...if you are going to think, it is best to think big?

...we should give God what is right, not what is left?

...seven days without prayer makes one weak?

...you are called by God to holiness, unless you foster doubts about God's goal for you?

...when people are wrapped up in themselves they make pretty small packages?

...you cannot love God without being generous with your money?

...every truth without exception is from the Holy Spirit?

...if you ask, God will show you the locked and bolted doors in your life?

...you cannot have negative and positive images balanced in your life?

...humility is the mother of salvation?

...a good listener never heard a bad sermon?

...you respond more often to fears than to hopes?

...some people refuse to praise God in all things?

## ACTS OF KINDNESS: IT'S THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

**C**hristians are taught to look for the good in everything, and that somehow, God always allows things to happen for a reason. Admittedly, that is sometimes very difficult to understand, as is the case in the massacre of the 20 school children and 6 adults in Newtown, Connecticut. In its aftermath, however, something positive and uplifting came from a simple idea suggested by Ann Curry -- a TV journalist and anchor woman on NBC news. She challenged everyone to do "26 Acts of Kindness" -- one for each person killed so senselessly at the Sandy Hook Elementary School. She thought that this would be a wonderful way of honoring the memory of those innocent victims. Amazingly, her campaign caught on. Literally hundreds of thousands of people embraced this wonderful concept. They started doing little things -- like putting a gift card on someone's car windshield at a mall and leaving a 100% tip at a restaurant for the waitress. People have even paid tolls for the driver behind them! Yes, so many people bought into Ann Curry's promise that "Doing good will make you feel good." Without shedding any negative light on the "26 Acts of Kindness" campaign, it is difficult not to think how truly sad it is that we need a tragedy to get us thinking about doing good deeds. We often are too preoccupied with ourselves and our problems to respond to, or even recognize, the needs of our own family and friends -- let alone total strangers.

What did Christ teach about this? In Matthew 25:35, Christ tells us: "I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, thirsty and you gave Me something to drink. I was a stranger and you took Me in . . ." Doing acts of kindness is the Christian way of life. We do them because this is how we are supposed to live. We do them because Christ lived this way, and we follow His example. Don't let a day go by without doing something good for someone else. Truly the world will be a better place if we do.