



# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 10, 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

+++ *We had our monthly Pirohi Sale this past Friday. It was a limited success due to fewer orders received. We sincerely thank all who helped with orders, making them and delivering them. Please be assured of our prayers for good health with God's blessing.*

+++ Prior to the Divine Liturgy today, a Memorial Service is celebrated for the repose of the soul of +Terry Young at the request of Robin Pasquino. We pray the gracious Lord continues to comfort Robin

## When We Do Not Know What To Say

*To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend*  
Job 6: 14.

A high school teenager sat in the family car in the funeral home parking lot for several minutes. It seemed like an eternity because he wasn't sure how to respond when his father put his head in his hands and moaned, "I don't know what to say!"

A friend from their church had been in a car accident. She had survived, but her three daughters had all died when a truck hit their vehicle. What could they possibly say to their friend at a time like this?

In God's revelation to us, we are told that during Job's time of grieving, his three friends came to mourn with him and to comfort him. For the first seven days they sat and wept with him because he was in deep sorrow. "Then they sat upon the ground with him seven days and seven nights, but none of them spoke a word to him; for they saw how great was his suffering" Job 2: 13. Their presence alone was a comfort to him.

But then, they began to lecture. They told Job he must have sinned grievously and that God was punishing him. They thought it was important for him to understand their insights about his troubles. "As I see it, those who plow for mischief and sow trouble, reap the same. By the breath of God they perish and by the blast of his wrath they are consumed" Job 4: 8, 9.

When Job was finally able to respond, he told his friends what he needed from them. His were simple and pure human needs in time of trouble. They coincide with the needs of every human being in similar circumstances. He

asked for reasons to continue hoping. "What strength have I that I should endure, and what is my limit that I should be patient. Have I the strength of stones or is my flesh of bronze" Job 6: 11?

He sought kindness. "A friend owes kindness to one in despair, through he have forsaken the fear of the Almighty. My brethren are undependable as a brook, as watercourses that run dry in the wadies; though they maybe black with ice and with snow heaped upon them, yet once they flow, they cease to be; in the heat they disappear from their place" Job 6 : 14 - 17.

He looks for words that did not presume guilt. "Think it over; let there be no injustice. Think it over; I still am right. Is there insincerity on my tongue, or cannot my taste discern falsehood" Job 6: 29, 30?

When we encounter circumstances of similar nature, may we remember the story of Job and his friends when we do not know what to say.

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Dear Lord, grant me sensitivity  
to people in their grief and pain.  
To weep with them and exhibit your love  
in ways mere words can never attain.

*When another soul is grieving, simply listen and never lecture!*

*Then go home and pray for their intention.*



## God's Tool

*When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then you knew my path*

Psalms 142: 4.

I walked a mile with pleasure;  
she chatted all the way,  
but left me none the wiser,  
for all she had to say.

I walked a mile with sorrow,  
and never a word said she;  
but, oh, the things I learned from her  
when sorrow walked with me!

Our greatest difficulties in life usually turn out to be our greatest opportunities. Suffering and glory, testing and usefulness are always associated in God's revelation to us in Scripture and in the teaching, therefore of our blessed Church. It has been discovered discerningly that "The steel that has suffered most is the best and the strongest. It has been in the red-hot furnace again and again; it has been on the anvil; it has been right in the jaws of the vise; it has felt the teeth of the hasp; it has been ground by the emery; it has been heated and hammered and filed until it does not even know itself, but finally it comes out a splendid useful knife!

If man only recognized it what are called their 'misfortunes' are God's riches blessings, for they are the modeled influences which give shapeliness and edge, and durability and actual power!

Are you almost overwhelmed? Is your spirit gravely troubled? Do not despair. Our heavenly Father knows all about it and is in this trial with you. The path, though dark and ominous at times, is most plain to him. Take courage, trust, his good leading and example and you will be enlarged and made better in distress.

When our God plans to do something wonderful He begins with a difficulty; when He is going to do something spectacular, He begins with an impossibility, or so it seems to us. Follow where He leads!

## **The Lord Gives, The Lord Takes Away**

*...the Lord gave and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord*  
**Job 1: 21.**

Here is the acme and pinnacle of resignation to the will of our heavenly Father, the climactic victory of faith. Job had suddenly lost all his possessions, and then in a moment his ten children were taken from him. Greater calamity can hardly be imagined. Under such blows it is no wonder brave men have fallen down. But Job recognized in all this the hand of the Lord and though stricken down with unspeakable grief, he asked not for the reason why, but worshipped God all the more, and acknowledged that since our heavenly Father had given him everything he enjoyed in life, He also had a right to do as He pleased in his infinitely wise purpose, which man so many times cannot understand, and so he says with sincerity and seriousness of heart: "Naked came I out of my mother's womb and naked shall I depart; the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

This is the victory of faith. It is easy to praise our God when all goes well but the real test of faith is our reaction when all goes badly in our lives. Many are in the deep sorrow of bereavement. Some of them say, "It is very easy to talk about victory in bereavement when one is not himself experiencing it." All realize keenly that this is true but bitterness and rebellion in the soul will not ease heartache at the death of a loved one. Only complete trust in him who makes no mistakes or has no second thoughts gives us rest.

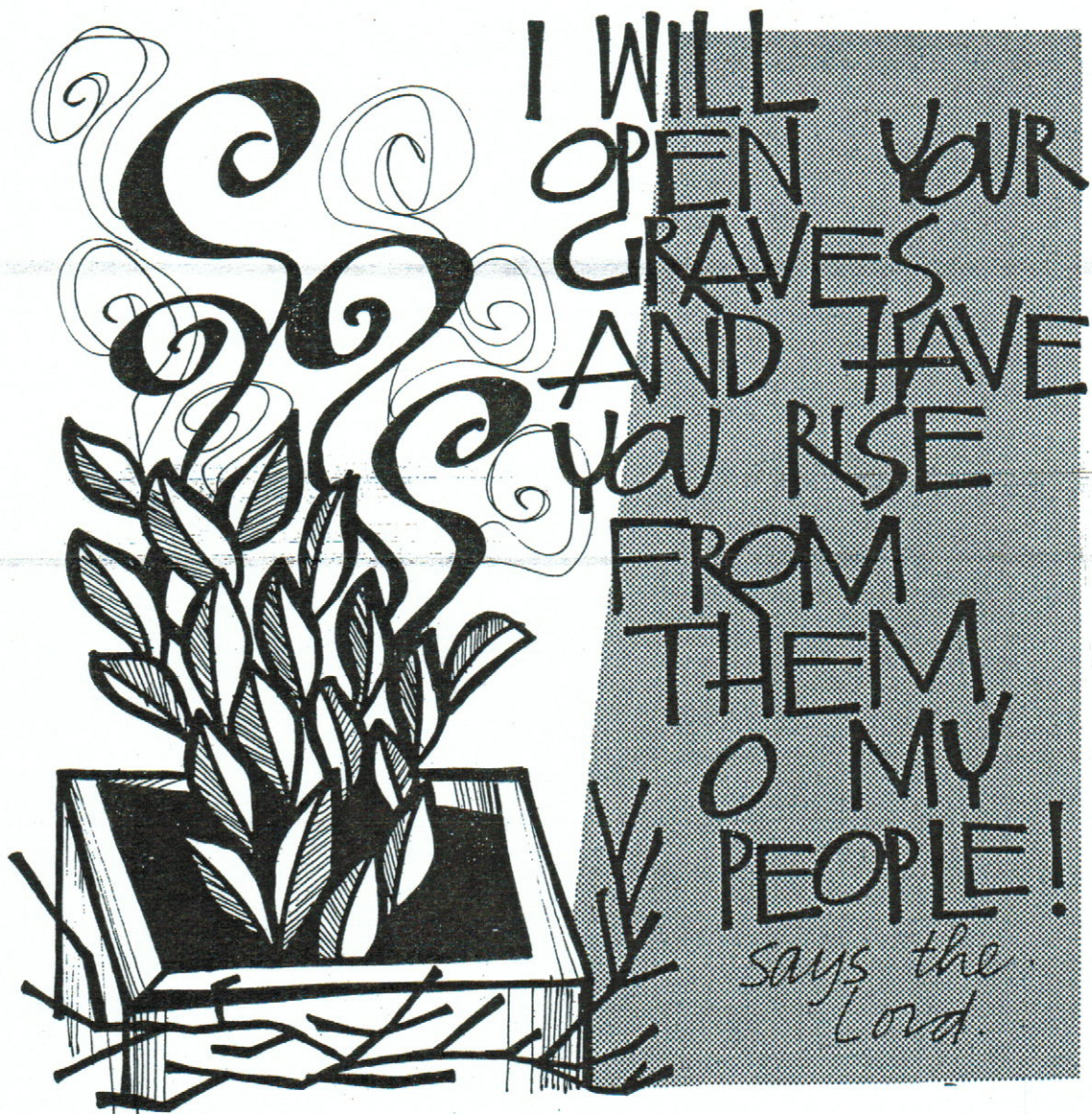
In a central European village during the absence of the father of the household, during the infamous influenza epidemic around the time of the first world war, two boys died and their mother laid them on the family bed as was the practice until their father would return in a matter of hours. When the husband came home and she met him at the door, saying, "Sometime ago a friend entrusted some jewels to my care and today he wanted them back. Should I have given them to him?" Surprised, the husband said, "Of course, they belonged to him. He had a right to claim them." Thereupon she led him to the bed. For a few moments he was speechless with grief and then lifted his eyes to heaven and repeated the words of Job: "The Lord gave and the Lord took away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Faith draws the poison from every grief and takes the sting out of every loss.

# Diseases in the Bible

Here are just a few illnesses mentioned in the Bible and some of the people who suffered because of them.

Disease or Condition	People Who Had It	Law or Advice Concerning the Disease	The Treatment
<b>Dropsy</b> (also known as <i>edema</i> —a disease where the body swells with fluid)	While at the home of one of the Pharisees, one of the guests had this condition (Luke 14:2).	This disease is mentioned only in the New Testament.	Although the Pharisees complained, Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath.
<b>Fever</b>	Peter's mother-in-law had a fever (Mark 1:30-31).	In the Old Testament, some fevers were considered punishment for disobedience (Leviticus 26:16).	Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:30-31).
<b>Internal or regular monthly bleeding</b>	Unnamed woman who touched the hem of Jesus' robe bled for 12 years (Mark 5:29).	The person was considered unclean for seven days or as long as the bleeding continued (Leviticus 15:25).	Two turtledoves or two pigeons had to be offered (Leviticus 15:28-30).
<b>Leprosy</b> (skin diseases, including Hansen's disease)	While traveling, Jesus met ten lepers (Luke 17:11-13).	The person had to tear his or her clothes and cry out "Unclean!" (Leviticus 13:45-46).	Jesus healed the ten lepers and told them to show themselves to the priest (Luke 17:14-17).
<b>Sores or boils</b>	Job suffered from painful sores (Job 2:7).	Leviticus 13:1-39	The priest has to examine the area. The person could be quarantined for seven days (Leviticus 13:2-21).
<b>"Incurable" or "horrible" disease</b> (This could be tuberculosis—"consumption" in the <i>King James Version</i> —or some other disease lacking a cure.)	The people of Israel who grumbled against Moses and Aaron (Numbers 16; Psalm 106:15)	This type of disease was considered a punishment for disobedience (Leviticus 26:16).	Obedience to God is the only way to prevent this (Leviticus 26:14-15).
<b>Withered limbs</b>	At the synagogue, Jesus saw a man with a withered hand (Matthew 12:9-10).	Because God promised to allow diseases as a result of disobedience, such a health issue might have been considered a curse.	Jesus healed the man to show his compassion.



# Did You Know That ...

...no one who follows Christ will ever stray from God?

...true love has no strings attached?

...we should be what God intends for us to be and not pretend to be what we are not?

...the dearest friend we have on earth is but a shadow compared to Christ?

...no one is too old or too young to witness for Christ?

...we should not despair because of evil around us because God will have the last word?

...we ought pray for strength to stand faithful and not to fear?

...God's love and forgiveness changes prodigals into precious saints?

...the best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture from the perspective of the Church of Christ?

...every promise of God comes with his personal guarantee?

...we are called upon to give to Caesar what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God?

...being a thankful person can change your life?

...we ought to seek wisdom to know what words to speak and what words to forget saying?

...we need courage to commit living love and not to waver?

...always is the time for healing?

...our heavenly Father likes to involve believers in the miracles He grants?

...although there are many times we choose not to know God, He never forgets his own

...God never sleeps?

## "A HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS"

**I**t can be said that there is only one goal that Christians should have as they labor throughout their lives: striving to make a "home" for ourselves in God's eternal kingdom. As the Apostle Paul reminds us in his 2nd Letter to the Corinthians: *"We have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."*

Sacred Tradition tells us an inspiring story of the APOSTLE THOMAS that truly reinforces these words. Thomas took our Lord's Great Commission - "Go and teach all nations" - to heart, carrying the Gospel of Jesus Christ to far away India. While doing missionary work there, Thomas heard that King Gundafor wanted to build a magnificent palace for himself and was seeking workers to carry out his wishes. Thomas went to the king and convinced him that he was just the man to get this job done. The king paid him in advance with a large sum of gold, but instead of

building a palace, Thomas gave the gold away and went about his own appointed task of "building" Christ's Church.

When the king discovered this, he immediately threw Thomas into prison. That very night, Gundafor's brother died. An angel took the brother's soul to heaven and showed him a palace glorious beyond belief. "This palace," the angel said, "is the true palace Thomas built with his charitable deeds." Then the angel returned the man's soul to his body. When he was revived, he proceeded to tell the king of his glorious heavenly experience. The amazed king immediately ordered Thomas to be released from prison and summoned him to teach him and his brother about Christ and his heavenly kingdom. They were both baptized, and it is said that King Gundafor spent the rest of his life doing charitable deeds and helping others, so that he might build for himself a more wonderful "palace" in Paradise!