

*HOLY  
MARTYRS  
GALACTION  
and  
EPISTEME*

*Behold their  
virtuous lives  
and  
valiant struggles,  
all dedicated  
to the  
glory of God.*





# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

November 3, 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.*

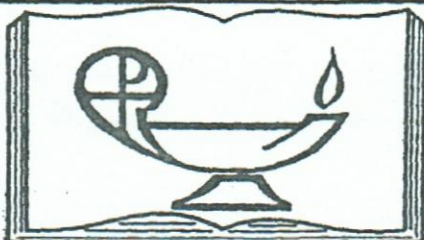
## GLAD TIDINGS

+++      Every Monday, we have prayerful devotions before the Myrrh bearing icon at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to be present in praise. The Birthgiver invites us to manifest our faith in response to her first shown love. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

- +++ Pirohi Schedule for the next few months 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.
- +++ This Friday is the feast of the Archangels, Michael and Gabriel. In anticipation, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Thursday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please join us in prayer and praise.
- +++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Anna. Ryan, Richard, Subdeacon Daniel 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, \$295.00; Candles, \$15.00; Food Coupons, \$160.00, for a total of \$470.00, 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, Marilyn Korba 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 \$1708.00 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!
- +++ 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!



LORD



TEACH  
US

## God Is Life

*My son, attend to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them and health to all their flesh Proverbs 4: 20 - 22.*

*One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord Deuteronomy 8: 3.*

*I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly John 10: 10.*

*Food is not everything...real life comes by obeying every commandment of God Deuteronomy 8: 3.*

*Follow my advice, my son; always keep it in mind and stick to it. Obey me and live! Guard my words as your most precious possession Proverbs 7: 1, 2.*

*The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, by which one may be turned from the nets of death Proverbs 14: 27.*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. For by me your days will be multiplied and years will be added to your life Proverbs 9: 10, 11.*

*God, the giver of life...1 Timothy 6: 3.*



## Nineteenth Sunday

Some eighteen or nineteen hundred years ago, the early Church bishop and historian, Tertulian in North Africa described how easy it was for people in general to recognize and distinguish Christians, believers in Christ, even as they walked on the street and went about their daily business. It appears that their inner conviction, their faith in soul even motivated the way they walked, deported themselves physically with an inner motivation that all is well in their lives because Christ is their security as Saviour and Redeemer.

Can this be said with absolute certainty today? How do we act among our friends and intimates? Does our family see in our life the fact that we truly, wholly belong to Christ? Are we distinctive and unique as Christians? Is our activity above and beyond what is observed among those who are not Orthodox? Or do those who know us see that sometime and some place, some where we might have been baptized, almost coincidentally or even accidentally, but since then, just as easily, we took off that garment that is Christ and are no longer committed totally to him?

Our Lord identifies us and calls us his followers, "...the light of the world." In other words, a most important part of our spiritual vocation in soul and body is to lead people out of the darkness they flounder in by witnessing for them the bright light of the Lord and his values for mankind. People lost in physical darkness know what they need and they know what to call it and how to identify it. They are looking for light to brighten their path. This does not guarantee, though, that they know how to secure it. Nor does it mean that they can describe it to someone else who has lost it in the darkness surrounding them. They will, however recognize the light of the Lord as soon as it brightens and lightens their own burdens in life. Until they see the light, through they will only have a vague impression of what it is. So it is with man lost in the abject darkness of sin.

Yet they have an idea of what they need. They are looking for satisfaction, fulfillment from the contradictory puzzles of life. They have chosen wrong paths and pursue vague values which lead no where except to more and more confusion and emptiness. Perhaps they cannot describe what their own lives lack. A life devoted to Christ, however, lived without pretense, without disabling fears, without an unquenchable thirst for fulfillment. This is the what they desires; this is what they want, a surety, a conviction which no one else can provide except our Saviour.



So when we as faithful followers of the Lord are seen living that kind of life, they will want to know how they can share in its riches to experience the surety we possess. But the question we must ask ourselves first is: "Are we providing the kind of encouraging, nurturing and affirming example the Lord expects of us to share with others? Literally, can a non-believer notice in us the strength of the Lord that manifests itself because we allow ourselves to be used by the Holy Spirit as a compelling example to be emulated?"

We have heard the worn out objective truth: "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. But what I say to you is offer no resistance to injury. When a person strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer him the other. If anyone wants to go to judgment with you over your shirt, hand him your coat as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him two miles. Give to man who begs from you. Do not turn your back on the borrower" Luke 27 - 29.

Our Lord insists that those who identify themselves through his name as Christians, do more than is expected of us. We are to be overachievers and overdoers in virtue. If the world by its values and expectations demands one shirt, offer even more. If we are to go one mile with some one, we should be eager to travel two miles. Fundamentally, this is what distinguishes us from pagans and non-Christians, even from others who profess to be followers of Christ in other persuasions. There is never enough we can do for our Saviour. There can never be a time when we can do more for our God than He does for us. Those who profess being followers of the Lord must do more than is expected of them. We firm up our devotion to the Lord by being second mile Christians. If we are seduced by the concept that we should only do what is minimally required by Christ, we thereby lose the cherished name of Christ. Minimalism means only doing the absolute needed minimal requirement, barely squeaking under the door of salvation before it is closed in our face. We must be second mile Christians. We must as a faith community be a second-mile parish! When we leave to others the caring and serving that it is our privilege to contribute to, we submit and are satisfied with minimalism.

Then we do not even walk the first mile the world would like to see in us, never mind the second mile the Lord expects! People do not expect the second mile, but the Lord does. That is what make us different, distinctive people, compelling people. Minimalism tempts all people and they easily succumb to it. Daily we give thanks to our God that we do have those among us who are second-mile people. Minimalism is standing by and watching while others care and exert themselves, sometimes beyond their own ability, but depend on the strength of the Lord to makeup what is lacking in them. St. Paul



teaches us "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me." Minimalism looks for excuses to holy day attendance at worship as if it were some sort of extra credit or an appendage to faith commitment. Minimalism does not see the various services provided in the parish as additional much-needed blessings for the salvation of our soul, a time and period of enrichment and spiritual bonus.

Souls who are minimalists will reap; the minimal reward which certainly is not the fullness of heaven which our Lord intended. Anything less than the fullness of heaven is minimalism. Belonging to Christ is giving and investing our all, our complete selves in surrendering our will to his wisdom. Without that kind of devotion, without that kind of caring, with that kind of sharing of our time, our treasure and our talents, we have no salvation. If Christ had just gone so far and no further, salvation would never have occurred for us. If Christ just went the first mile of the passion, but did not ascend the cross, there would be no redemption.

St. Paul always insisted to his parishioners who had some misconceptions about the salvation of their soul as some present day so-called believers do, that they could very easily accommodate the Saviour in a minimal way and He will be satisfied. He said we are not bound by the law; we are above the law. What He means is that in responding to his first shown love, we do far more than the law requires, we walk the second mile, we turn the other cheek and we give up our coats as well as our shirts gladly for his sake. We are not preoccupied with what the law requires because we live above it, beyond it; we are no longer bound by the philosophy of the present world because we live in the unlimited love of eternity.

Once again, today is issued the invitation: "Come to me all that are troubled and heavy-laden and I will give you rest." In coming to Christ, in seeing and recognizing Christ as the beginning and end of every endeavor in life, in seeing and recognizing his grace in our lives, we are then inspired and gifted to care and to serve, to share and invest ourselves and our time and our talents and our treasure for his sake, with others in the world.

Today the fundamental, basic and elementary requirement is spelled out for us distinctively: "Do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, how can you claim any credit? Sinners do as much. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what merit is there in it for you? Even sinners lend to sinners, because they expect to be repaid in full" Luke 6: 31 - 34.

By their fruits ye  
shall know them.

Matthew 7:20

A FRIEND *loveth*  
AT ALL *times*

Proverbs 17:17

Greater **love** hath no man than this,  
that a man lay down  
his life for his **friends.**

John 15:13



## Better Late Than Never

*Seek the Lord while he may be found*

Isaiah 55: 6.

A group of senior citizens asked a parish priest to be their guest speaker. He chose to speak about the Lord's words to Nicodemus, "You must be born again" John 3: 7. As he spoke, he noticed the downcast face of an elderly man. Afterward, over the usual tea, he asked him if he felt himself born again, if he sought avidly after Christ and his forgiveness. He shook his drooping head and replied, "I go to church somewhat regularly but am not prepared to receive communion because I don't go to confession. Very few in our parish do and we have not been exposed to its necessity in the same way you taught us today. I am missing something but cannot quite put my finger on it. I feel I have been cheated all my life and today I have a very empty feeling because now I recognize I am present in church, but not actually worshipping and praising God."

"Wouldn't you like to seek him more intensely and authentically now?" the priest gently urged. "I am afraid I have left it a bit late, too late," he answered with a sad finality. What could the priest answer except, "Better late than never!"

Instantly, his expression brightened, "I've never seen it like that before!" he replied. As the priest and pious elderly man prayed together, this affected individual was prompted by the Holy Spirit to confess his sins, repent for them and seek God's forgiveness. This man now became a joyful "babe in Christ" finally understanding the meaning and implication of his baptismal promises and how they are linked to the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation. Although his physical life on earth was coming to a conclusion, his new life in Christ was eternal.

The eleventh hour serious conversion is a reminder to us all that our heavenly Father is still knocking on the doors of our lives to bring us to spiritual reality when we open ourselves to him. It is also a solemn warning that "too late" is a distinct possibility. Someone has said, "Do not wait to be saved at the eleventh hour because you may die at 10:30 without repentance or forgiveness."

Whatever your age, if you are not totally and completely living your precious Orthodox faith, seek him now to make up for the neglect while He may still be found. You cannot repent too soon, but soon it may be too late.



## **Killing The Prophet**

*And we beseech you brethren, to know them who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you to esteem them highly in love for their work's sake*

**1 Thessalonians 5: 12, 13.**

The young man sat quietly reading the Bible. The more he read, the more uncomfortable he became. He knew what he read was true, but it did not fit in with his lifestyle. He stopped reading and slowly as he closed the text, he stared at it. The more he looked, the more he began to notice it was of poor quality; the paper looked cheap, the size of the font was really too difficult to read and he did not like the too few illustrations that periodically appeared among the pages. What cheap uneven binding, he thought to himself, At the rear, in the reference section, the print was flawed. Over all, the book was of such poor quality, it was unappealing. "Well," he muttered, "It might be the Word of God, but coming from such a flawed book, it just doesn't mean much to me." He continued then to live as he pleased.

Doesn't this tale have a familiar ring to it?

Haven't we all heard the expression about priests, "Well what he said was perhaps true, but he has problems of his own. It just doesn't mean much taking advice from him." These words often fall from a tongue that is reacting to smarting toes that have been properly stepped on. Although we know the advice is spiritually accurate, theologically correct and logically sound, it is easy to begin criticizing the vehicle that brought the message. Because we do not like what we hear, we want to shoot the messenger. Jesus taught the Pharisees that although they say they would not kill the prophets like their fathers did, they are guilty of the same sin. "For this reason I shall send you prophets and wise men and scribes. Some you will kill and crucify, others you will flog in your synagogues and hunt down from city to city until retribution overtakes you for all the blood of the just ones shed on earth, from the blood of holy Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the temple building and the altar" Matthew 23: 34. It was neither the occupying Roman forces nor the heathen who killed God's prophets; it was church people who felt threatened by the Word of Life. Although we are much too civilized to persecute or kill priests today for speaking out, we can easily become guilty of the same spirit in defending our forbears in doing that very same thing. When the Word of God rebukes us, we must look beyond the courier and receive it. Let us not be found guilty of killing our prophets or their message. You may talk about a man all you please, but when you do, do it on your knees.



# Did You Know That ...

...what a man knows is everywhere at war with what he wants?

...the more unintelligent a man is, the less mysterious life seems to him?

...labor can be man's greatest function and fulfillment?

...if you do not learn to laugh at trouble, you will have nothing to laugh at in old age?

...excellence is attained only by the labor and effort of a lifetime, and cannot be purchased at a lesser price?

...the final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other souls the conviction and the will to carry on?

...it is only through enduring struggle of soul and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, indefatigable cooperation with God's grace that we move from one stage our spiritual lift to a higher one?

...one of the purposes of labor is to gain time for leisure?

...there is no great commonality or concurrence between learning and wisdom?

...the university brings out all abilities, including stupidity?

...an intellectual improvement arises from leisure?

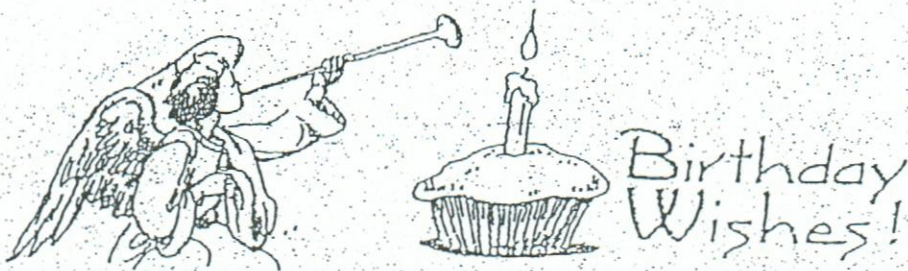
...the greatest secret of education is respecting the pupil?

...there are countless people who are reservoirs of learning, but never had a through?

...to be inordinately proud of learning is the greatest ignorance?

...leisure is a beautiful garment, but it will not do for constant wear?

...the secret of being miserable is to have the leisure to bother about whether you are happy or not?



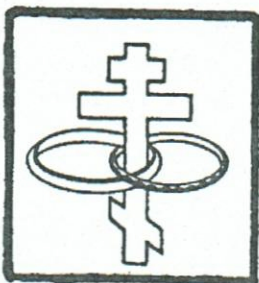
We are pleased to greet those of our faithful communicants who celebrate their birthday this month. Our Lord has offered these souls yet another year of blessed life. The most obvious way He blesses us and participates in our life is by sharing his divine life with us in the Eucharist at the celebration 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:

November 16 Frank Pashos  
November 26 Debra Szmaida  
November 27 Eleanor 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. 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:

**November 3 Anna & William Zacharyczuk**  
**November 5 Miguel & Maria Garcia**

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**

## LOVE FOR CHRIST CONQUERS ALL!

**T**he story of Galaction and Episteme is both touching and tragic. Both saints were born in the city of Edessa in the third century. Their pagan parents embraced Christianity, and as was the custom of the times, an arrangement was made for Galaction and Episteme to be wed. While they loved each other, Galaction and Episteme had an even greater love for the Lord. They left Edessa and went to the mountain of Publion, where Galaction became a monk and Episteme became a nun. They entered separate monasteries there, and both immediately became known for the purity of their lives and the sincerity with which they approached their new calling.

These were troubled times for Christians, however, as the Romans continued to launch fierce waves of persecution against those who were faithful followers of Christ. Even those in monasteries were not safe from the pagan attacks. During the reign of the Emperor Decius, Galaction and Episteme were arrested and brought to trial. For their adamant refusal to renounce their Savior, these young monastics were subjected to inhuman torture. They were beaten severely, and after this, the Emperor ordered their hands and feet to be cut off. Finally, Galaction and Episteme were beheaded. Thus in death, they were brought together for all eternity by their devotion to their Savior.

The Troparion Hymn in their honor beautifully sums up the lives of these two saints: *O LORD, YOUR HOLY MARTYRS GALACTION AND EPISTEME HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY DESERVE THE CROWN OF IMMORTALITY BECAUSE OF THEIR GOOD FIGHT ON YOUR BEHALF!*