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Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 7, 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

+++ The Scripture Study Class meets on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please come and join us by investing time in learning our precious faith so we can better enjoy and live it! The public is invited to participate with us, so invite a friend or neighbor. In preparation for this week, please read the fifth to eighth chapters of the Book of Genesis.

+++ Monday is the simple feast of the Archangels Michael & Gabriel. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated that evening at 7: 30 PM and be concluded with anointing and prayers for ill and sick.. Please come and join us in prayer and praise!

+++ *The Thanksgiving Bake Sale will be held Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20. Please secure orders to assure its success.*

+++ *We will have our annual Nativity Holy Day Gertrude Hawke Candy Sale again. We are assured of orders from Major League Baseball, so we ask our faithful to submit and secure orders early. The dead line is Sunday, November 28. Please cooperate since we lost the income from the last sale which was too small to submit. Order blanks and informational booklets are on the counter in the kitchen.*

+++ *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, \$732.00; Candles, \$23.00; Food Coupons, \$220.00; Holyday, \$5.00; Kitchen, \$2070.00; Pennies From Heaven, \$23.00; Refund, \$16.00; Christian Fellowship, \$8.00, for a total of \$3097.00. 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 \$1605.00 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 \$105, 815. 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.

+++ 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!

+++ The Clothing Drive is a permanent project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front

LORD



TEACH
US

Jealousy

Jealously is the rage of man; therefore he will not be spared on the day of vengeance Proverbs 6: 34.

A sound heart is the life of the flesh; but envy is rottenness of the bones Proverbs 14: 30.

Anger is cruel and destructive, but it is nothing compared to jealousy Proverbs 27: 4.

Love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave Song of Solomon 8: 6.

You shall not have any other gods beside me; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the Lord your God am a jealous God inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation..." Exodus 20: 3, 5,

They turned back and were faithless like their fathers; they recoiled like a treacherous bow. They angered him with their high places and their idols roused his jealousy. God heard and was enraged and utterly rejected Israel Psalms 78: 57- 59.

I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God himself, since I have given you in marriage to one husband, presenting you as a chaste virgin to Christ 2 Corinthians 11: 2.

Thus says the Lord of hosts "I am deeply jealous for the sake of Jerusalem and Sion and I am exceedingly angry with the complacent Zechariah 1: 15.

Wisdom Of
The



Byzantine
Fathers

The bread in your box belongs to the hungry; the cloak in your closet belongs to the naked; the shoes that you do not wear belong to the barefooted; the money under your bed belongs to the penniless St. Basil the Great.

For the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord St. John Chrysostom.

For in nothing do we draw so close to God as in doing good to man St. John Chrysostom.

What the Gook of Gospels explains by means of words, the iconographer shows by means of image St. Basil the Great.

In the cross is joy of spirit St. Gregory of Nyssa.

The Spirit of God can be found in Icons St John Damascene.

Praise the Lord

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord

Psalm 150: 6.

The father of a family relates that on a recent camping trip which the family periodically makes to various sites, his family was awakened by a chorus of chirping and melodious birds. The first few mornings they all complained about what they thought was incessant racket and suppressed the urge to yell out and scream "Be Quiet." But then, after thoughtful consideration, his wife finally reminded him of the words of David.

David provides for us an insight we often overlook. We are commanded by inspiration to praise the Lord with all of our being through music, dance and voice, our entire physical and spiritual being. The concluding verse of the Book of Psalms makes this plain "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Could it be that these early-rising birds, nature's musicians are simply praising God by their imbued instinct? Does it occur to us they simply respond to in their place in creation by recognizing instinctively the joy of their being for the benefit of man? Perhaps their sometimes shrill voices are saying, "Good morning, Lord. Glory to Jesus Christ! Wake up creation, behold the glory of all things made and praise the Creator whom everything on earth reflects!"

Can each of us say that we awaken each morning praising and worshipping our God? Do the first thoughts of our mind and soul resonate with joy in being a child of God? Do we start the day thanking our heavenly Father for health, both spiritual and physical and the continued devotion of family faith response to God's first shown love? Do we actually ask him to provide for the physical necessities we will enjoy in the new day? Do we ever thank him for providing heavenly nourishment in the Eucharist for our souls? Do we think about the means He utilizes in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation to lighten our burden of ongoing sin and separation?

We can only imagine what our world would be like if we all were to begin each day with praise, worship and thanksgiving as we reflect on the goodness and love of our Creator God and Saviour Jesus Christ. All creation praises God; how can we join it?

Guidance

We live by faith, not by sight
2 Corinthians 5: 7.

A young woman, Alexandra suffered many problems with her sight. Finally she found a physician who could help her with her problems. Once while in the hospital, she learned a valuable lesson about trusting our heavenly Father. Following an operation, pads were placed over both her eyes. Absolutely blind, she was content to place her trust completely in the nurses to be her eyes and do everything for her.

However, as soon as one pad was removed and she regained some of her sight, she immediately wanted to do things for herself. Because she could not see very well, she often finished up in a muddle, finally having to give in to her pride and ask for help.

Alexandra says she quickly realized most of us muddle through life in much the same way. Our abilities are limited when we try to deal with problems, but because we can see a little bit, we strive to find our own way simply by ourselves. But our heavenly Father, all-seeing and all-powerful, knows the way. He longs to take us by the hand and lead us gently through difficult times and problems.

Our continuing prayerful devotion must be to remember that no matter what happens, we are always ready to call upon our heavenly Father and Creator to sustain and lead us. We are in his hands whether we realize or believe it.

Far more than any nurse can provide, the leading guidance in the grace of the Holy Spirit is all we need. Far more tender and genuinely concerned is the love of our Creator and Maker. Far more accurate in response to our need is the presence of Christ in our lives. Far more successful is the man who seeks not merely temporary earthly guidance, but the soul who seeks after continual and certain help in obtaining the salvation of our soul.

Our heavenly Father sees the road ahead and longs to lead us as we travel it.

Are you not the God...?

O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven?

2 Chronicles 20: 6.

A pious family was facing a difficult, life-changing problem when they gathered around their dining room table to pray. They began by reading about the time King Jehoshaphat was confronted by a formidable enemy and it looked as if there was no way of escape. In his prayer, the king posed the question, "Are you not the God who is in heaven?" As the father thought about and considered that question, he felt led to begin praying by saying, "Are you not the God whose faithfulness surrounds you" Psalms 89: 8?

Next a daughter-in-law prayed, "Are you not the God who sealed the mouths of lions and spared Daniel's life" Daniel 6? One son added, "Are you not the God who fed five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish" Matthew 14: 13: 21? Faith was stirred and they continued around the table repeatedly as each family member recited from salvation history examples of God's intervention in the lives of people. A grandchild sang out, as does the Church, "You are the God who works miracles..."

Finally after praying and seeking mercy and a solution to their vexing problem, the family asked the Lord to intervene and manifest his will for them. Because they were inspired by the promise, "...all men have seen my glory and the miracles I worked..." Numbers 14: 22, they placed their hope in God and together sang out from the depth of their heart and soul, "It is time for you, O Lord to work" Psalms 119: 126.

Later when that family looked back on that difficult time, they were more than convinced that God is with them to provide solutions. In response to the question, "Are you not the God...?" all believers are in wholehearted agreement. Indeed, that is our God!

Daily they thank the Lord for faithfully standing with them in difficult times and praising him for God is always faithful to us.

The Human Touch

*The harvest is great but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore,
to send out workers into the harvest*

Matthew 9: 37, 38.

Those who maintain vegetable gardens know how much weeding is necessary for healthy growth. One devotee recently purchased a tool that promised to make this job easier. At first she was delighted because she did not have to bend over so much. But while working very close to some of the plants with her new-fangled tool, she accidentally cut and broke the stems of some of them. In the end, she had to actually get down on her knees and manually pull out the weeds the old-fashioned way. At times, she was even constrained to remove her gloves which were getting in her way.

How this experience reminds us of our ongoing work in the life of the Body of Christ. There always seems to be a new opportunity to deal with various situations. But that does not substitute for our being personally involved. Worship is a prime example. Unless we are there to join in the chorus of voices praising our God with our own needed unique individual contribution, we cheat ourselves of the grace that flows into responsive souls from heaven. In trying approaches that separate us from God, we break the stems of those valued things in life which only personal participation can overcome. We must remember we are ministering to and serving the needs of other believers, even non-believers at times. People need the human touch and a kind encouraging word which necessitates our actual participating presence.

Those in need at worship have to see and experience our actual presence to feel valued and know they are not just another digit in the scheme of things. Yes, we can use the weeding tool at times, but we must recognize it will not do with the problem of weeds so close to plants and we must welcome the chance to get our hands involved, even dirty when the need arises.

Our Creator God wants to help us recognize in those around us, worthy souls so we can by our good example and concern teach them to serve as well by his grace. People need the human touch, not just the theory, but an actual implementation of it because we first remove the weeds in our lives so we can assist others in doing the same in theirs.

Life Insurance

For what does it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

Mark 8: 36

Is your life insured? We mean your life because what the world calls "life insurance" is really "death insurance." Real life insurance, however is actually life insurance for it guarantees eternal life now and even after you die. What a commentary on the depravities of human nature that people will insure everything except their soul. Men take out life insurance, fire insurance, health and old age insurance, accident and sickness insurance and pay high premiums for it, but sadly neglect insurance for eternity.

A little boy climbed up into his father's lap one day and surprised him with the question, "Dad, is your soul insured?" "Why do you ask this question, son," the father asked. "Daddy, I heard uncle George say that you had your house, your barns, the cattle all the farm machinery insured, but he was afraid you neglected to have your soul insured and would someday lose it. Won't you get it insured, please daddy?" He did and it was very simple and inexpensive.

God's revelation to us reveals this insurance policy. It is all plain and simple with no confusing fine print. It takes care of the present, provides in addition for the future and all eternity. The benefits are described "...as a birth to hope which draws its life from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; a birth to an imperishable inheritance, incapable of fading or defilement, which is kept in heaven for you, who are guarded with God's power through faith; a birth to salvation which stands ready to be revealed in the last days" 1 Peter 1: 4.

In living an upright and honest life of faith response to the first shown love of Jesus Christ, eternally life is ours. Doing what the Lord asks of us is assurance of salvation. "There is cause for rejoicing here. You may for a time have to suffer the distress of many trials; 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. Although you have never seen him, you love him, and without seeing you now believe in him and rejoice with inexpressible joy touched with glory because you are achieving faith's goal, your salvation. This is the salvation which the prophets carefully searched out and examined. They prophesied the divine favor that was destined to be yours" 1 Peter 6 - 10. Salvation is a spiritual life insurance policy; Jesus paid all the premiums and you receive all the benefits. He who puts his faith in it shall not be shaken" 1 Peter 2: 6.

Did You Know That ...

...the way to be happy is to take pleasure in what you do and how you do it, not in imagining that fulfillment and happiness is some place at the end of the road?

...he who practices sloppiness will become a perfect slob?

...many people are like whales when they get to the top they start to bloat?

...of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important?

...a good example of give and take is to take pains to give pleasure?

...salvation is a life-long process, the result of cooperating with God's grace?

...only those who persevere to the very end will inherit the eternal kingdom?

...when not in church to worship every Sunday and holyday, we miss out on God's presence, his saving message and his blessed grace?

...only those who believe in God want to know him?

...purity of heart enables us to see God in everything?

...you may give without loving, but you cannot love without giving?

...the only limit to God's grace is the imagined limit we put on it?

...you can be confident about tomorrow if you have faith today?

...man crowns success; but God crowns faithfulness?

...you should never substitute your views for God's News?

...work becomes worship when we work for the Lord?

...God's word should fill our mind, rule our heart and guide our tongue?

...hardening our hearts is far more serious than hardening of the arteries?



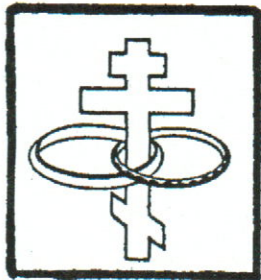
Birthday
Wishes!

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:

November 16 Frank Pashos
November 26 Debra Lee 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 of November. 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

PRAYER TO ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

O Holy Father John Chrysostom, you served the Church with dignity and piety throughout your life. You fearlessly preached the Gospel of Christ from your Ecumenical Throne in Constantinople, as grace shone forth from your "golden mouth" like beacons of light, enlightening the entire universe. Living in an era of opulence, you shunned the wealth of the world and showed us that true riches can be found in sincerely, humbly and obediently following an ascetic life of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Truly you 'practiced what you preached,' feeding the hungry and caring for the sick with your own financial means as you deprived yourself of physical comforts. O venerable John Chrysostom, you provided us with the liturgical structure of worshipping the Triune God by giving us the Divine Liturgy that still bears your name, causing us to realize the necessity of seeking frequent communion with our Creator. Through your own moral example, you taught us the importance of standing firm in our Orthodox Christian beliefs, no matter what trials and tribulations we may face. We implore you to intercede for us before God the Word. May we continue to find wisdom in the words of your teachings and in the messages of your sermons. And may your final words - uttered at a time of great personal persecution as you traveled the road to your exile and ultimate death - be the words that guide and inspire us along each step of our own earthly journey: **Glory to God for all things!**