



Spring

*Remember to
Thank our Lord
for the beauty
that surrounds us!*

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

May 22, 2011

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 will meet this Tuesday 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 the next class, please read the twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth chapters of the Book of Genesis.

+++ The last Pirohi Sale for this season will be Saturday, June 11 and Bake Sale on Friday, June 17.

+++ 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: Tithe Offering, \$535.00; Candles, \$17.00; Food Coupons, \$240.00; Christian Fellowship, \$1.00, for a total of \$793.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offered 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, Pani Lucas, Louis Pasquino, +Paul Szmaida, Debra Szmaida, George Idromenos, Kent Pasquino, Kyle Pasquino, Bob Gorbich, Marina Topsis, Anna Zacharyczuk 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 \$1617.00 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 \$107,815.00. 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 \$5300.00 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.**

+++ We remember only those who are present for the entire Divine Liturgy should come forward to receive Communion. The entire Liturgy means "Amen" to "Amen."

+++ 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

Enemies

Teach us the number of our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom Psalms 90: 12.

Lord make me know my end and the measure of my days, what it is that I may know how frail I am Psalms 34: 9.

For none of us lives to himself and no man dies to himself. For whether we live, we live for the Lord and whether we die, we die to the Lord; whether we live therefore or whether we die, we belong to the Lord. For this end Christ both died and rose, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living Romans 14: 8.

You have heard it said, love your friends and hate your enemies. But now I tell you: love your enemies, pray for them who persecute you, so that you may become the sons of your father in heaven Matthew 5: 43 - 45.

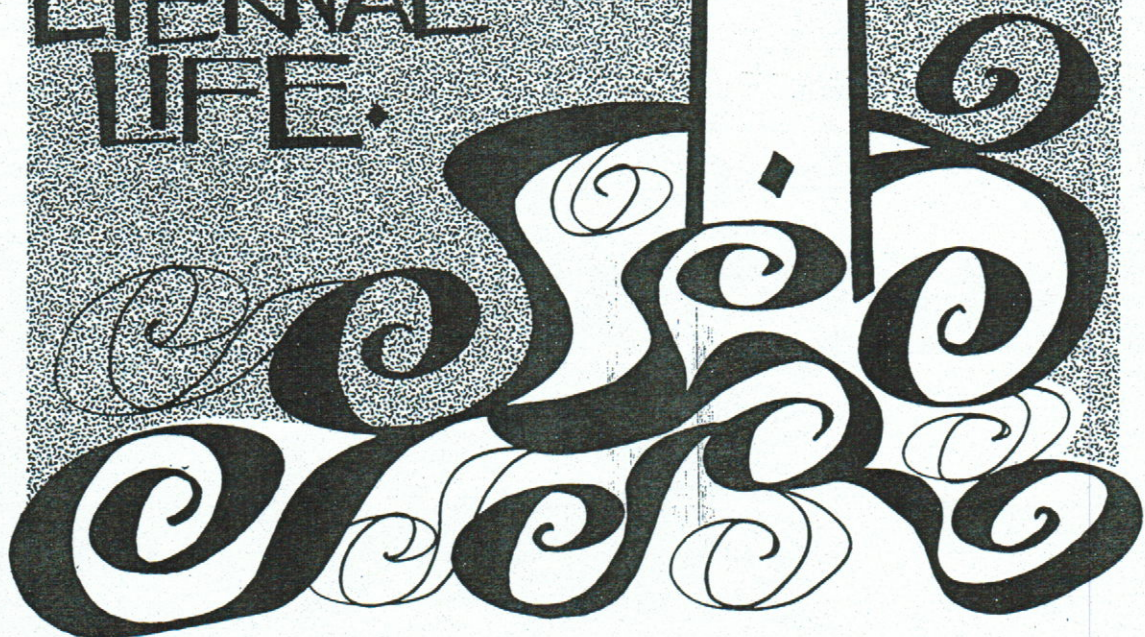
Rejoice not when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles lest the Lord see it and it displeases him Proverbs 24: 17 - 18.

If you 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 Romans 12: 20.

You have heard it said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you Matthew 5: 38.

Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone hits you on one cheek, let him hit you on the other as well. If someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. Do for others just as you want them to do for you Luke 6: 27 - 31.

I WILL
GIVE WATER
THAT
PROVIDES
ETERNAL
LIFE.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Need

Giving generously of time to help others will set the stage for a hopeful future

As the economic crisis continues and workers in every sector experience increased hardship, it is natural for many of us to express a feeling of helplessness in the face of impersonal financial forces that seem beyond our control.

However, in the midst of what some experts believe to be a profound worldwide down turn, having its genesis in our own country, there is something each of us can do to help, even before a stimulus package, upon package is over and again approved or before Wall Street rebounds. Very simply, we can turn a helping hand to our neighbors in need, the people in our parish, the families in our neighborhoods, the soup kitchens and clothing drives in our communities. Even if we do not have extra money to give to charity, nearly all of us can find an additional few minutes a month to volunteer ourselves where we can be of great use to a cause greater than ourselves.

Love always proves itself necessary even in the most just society. There is no ordering of the state that can eliminate the need for service in love. If greed – one of the worst aspects of human nature, individually and in government – helped push us into this crisis, then one of the best aspects of our human nature – generosity – will be necessary to pull us out.

We are told in the Gospels that we will be judged on how we treat the “least” among us. Certainly the most obvious among us who are in need as they labor for the stability of our parish are those who sacrifice, even invest their time in assisting at fund-raisers, such as the Pirohi and Bake Sales. The public has recognized our culinary expertise and

support us. Increased orders are a blessing, but we need additional helping hands to make continued successful growth of this endeavor possible.

Very practically, with our Christian faith inspiring us and the great tradition of charity for which Orthodoxy is best known, we can begin practicing love and concern in our midst. As the saying goes, 'charity begins at home.'

Offer yourself freely to assist our volunteer workers in need. Those who give of themselves do so gladly and will appreciate your helping hand. We can talk all we wish about the way our heavenly Father has blessed our parish, but we must go beyond conversation and get into buckled-up action.

There are a number of souls who already heroically give of themselves each month, There are goodly number of souls who still can overcome their indifference to the needs of our common goal and join us eagerly each month.

We can overcome the kind of apathy that is obviously rampant in our nation today by warming the spiritual atmosphere with our contribution of time for the common good of the parish. Regardless what gifts or even limitations you have, there is such a wide variety of tasks to be completed at each Pirohi or Bake Sale that every little bit helps to make it a success.

Our small contributions of participation and support, motivated by the desire to contribute meaningfully to the economic success of our parish will be a mark of well-being for our parishioners who already help, but need additional assistance. The best way to volunteer is to volunteer in a spirit of joy, knowing we affirm and confirm our fellow believers in assuring the continued financial stability of the parish.

The sensitivity of our individual souls for the good of the parish and those who already generously labor for its good has the ability to set the stage for a more than economic recovery and will set a new and powerful moral compass for the future of our society.

In answering the call to volunteer and truly give of ourselves for the sake of Christ, we not only practically assist our parish in its need, but also provide the kind of example by which the nation in its difficulty can recover its moral compass.

Atheist Holiday

Urban legend has it that some time ago, in a particular state, an atheist created a case against the Christian and Jewish feast days of the Resurrection and Passover. Of ample means, he hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against the state for recognizing on the calendar both holydays. The seemingly compelling argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days and are demeaned in the process. He insisted they were they were thereby reduced to second-class citizenship.

The case was finally brought for hearing before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer soon stood and objected to the ruling asserting, "You honor, how can the court possibly dismiss this case? Christians have the Nativity of our Lord and Great and Holy Friday as well as the Resurrection along with other recognized religiously based celebratory days. Jews have Passover and Chanukah, Yom Kippur, yet my client and all other atheists have no such recognized public holidays!"

The patient judge leaned forward from his chair, seriously saying "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant." The lawyer retorted, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or recognized holiday for atheists."

Most calmly, the judge continued, "The calendar says April 1st is 'April Fools Day.' It is observed by all people alike and some citizens particularly enjoy it. You can safely say it is universally observed and respected regardless of personal belief."

"Have you not read in God's inspired revelation to us, 'The fool says in his heart, 'there is no God'" Psalms 14: 1?

It is the opinion of this court that if your client contends there is no God, he is exposing and identifying himself as a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day for celebration. This case has no merit and this court is adjourned."

God's Workmanship

You have been bought at a great price, so glorify God in your body
1 Corinthians 6: 20.

The little boy was happy. He felt a sense of accomplishment as he picked up his newly finished boat. It was the sort of boat only little boys could build. But truth be told, he really did a great job with it. It was made of carefully painted wooden parts. It was nice, Best of all, it was his. He set it on the water in a nearby creek and it sailed beautifully. One day the little boat was left by the side of the creek, forgotten as other thoughts entered his mind for self-entertainment. He did not mean to forget his precious little boat, but he left it behind. Later he looked for his treasure, but it was gone. Though he searched long and hard, he could not find it.

One day a few weeks later, the boy was walking past the barter store in town. He stopped short because there in the window front was his little boat! Oh, he thought, he must have his boat again! He checked the price then ran home to scrape together his available earnings. Running to the store, he breathlessly handed the money to the clerk and hugged the little boat to his breast. "Now," he said to the boat, you are twice mine; "first I made you, then I bought you!"

The Lord made each of us. He called us his own, but through the soiling of sin, we drifted away and were alienated from him. Christ died for us while we were yet sinners separated and lost from him, and paid the full price to buy us back. We were found despite our lost condition. Now we are twice God's. He made us and through his grace and by our faith response, He bought us. We are fully and totally his.

The loss of gold is great,
the loss of time is more,
but losing Christ is such a loss,
that no man can restore.

Life

The thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy. I came that they might have life and have it abundantly John 10: 10.



Christ is the Fountain of natural, spiritual, and eternal life, who has promised eternal life to his people, purchased and prepared it for them and who prepares them for it and will actually bestow it upon them.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

The joyful message of the Resurrection was heard by the faithful women from the angel. And being freed from the ancestral curse, they boasted to the apostles: "Dead and despoiled is death; Christ our God is risen, giving great mercy to the world." Troparion, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman.

When the Samaritan woman came to the well with faith, she beheld You, O Water of Wisdom; You allowed her to drink abundantly, and glorified her eternally, for she inherited the eternal kingdom. Kontakion, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman.

When the Paschal feast is half-completed, quench my thirsty soul with the waters of devotion, for You, O Saviour, have announced to all: "Let him who is thirsty come to Me and drink." O Christ God, Source of our life, glory be to You! Troparion, Mid-Pentecost Feast.

O Christ God, Creator and Lord of all, when the Paschal feast was half-completed, You told those present: "Come and draw the water of immortality," Let us therefore adore You and cry out with faith: "Grant us Your goodness, for You are the Source of our life!" Kontakion, Mid-Pentecost Feast.

You fought the good fight with faith, O Martyr of Christ, George. You exposed the perversion of the persecutors and offered an acceptable sacrifice to God. Therefore, you also received a crown of victory and through your prayers, O holy one, obtained the forgiveness of sins for all. Troparion, Feast of St. George the Martyr.

Inspired by God, you sowed the seeds of piety, harvesting sheaves of virtue. You sowed in tears but reaped in joy; and having honorably fought and given your blood, you were received by Christ. Through your prayers, O holy one, obtain the forgiveness of sins for all. Kontakion, Feast of St. George the Martyr.

"HOW GLORIOUS ARE YOUR WORKS, O LORD"

In the first verse of the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, the foundation of all we believe and hold dear is set: "IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH." The world did not just "happen." God put everything into motion in a way we will never be able to fully comprehend. And what an amazing world God created! The mountains . . . the meadows . . . the rivers . . . the valleys . . . the skies . . . the seas . . . the seasons . . . the amazing variety of creatures and vegetation - everything has a purpose and a place. There is divine order in the world, for everything in it is born, grows and dies - one thing is then replaced by another. Psalm 104 speaks of God's hand being felt on every aspect of the world, and this rightful conclusion is drawn by the Psalmist: "HOW GLORIOUS ARE YOUR WORKS, O LORD, IN WISDOM YOU HAVE MADE THEM ALL."

The story of Creation is the story of God's love for mankind, for He gave us dominion over all things. With these great blessings God has bestowed upon us, however, comes the responsibility of caring for it. We are charged with the duty of preserving what has been given to us - treating all things with love and respect - fully understanding that "EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE."

The Orthodox Church has taken a strong position on ecology in recent years. The Church has spoken out strongly against the human abuse of the environment, labeling it as sinful and destructive behavior. We are all expected to do whatever we can to see that future generations will be able to enjoy the many fruits of God's labors which have brought so much joy into our own lives.