

# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Third Sunday of the Great Fast

March 18, 2012

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

Friday evening the Presanctified Gifts Liturgy; will be celebrated at 7 30 PM. Please join us in prayer and praise. **Conversion** is the theme of homilies Father is preaching during this sacred season. Enrich yourself spiritually during this holy season by being present with us.

+++ Today at 9:15 AM we celebrate a Memorial Service for the repose of the soul of +Mary Beth Collins requested by Debra Szmajda. We pray the merciful Lord comforts Debra and her loved ones in their loss and that He grants a blessed repose to the soul of +Mary Beth and creates for her Eternal Memory!.

+++ This Saturday at 9:00 AM we will celebrate the fourth All Souls' Day with a Divine Liturgy and Memorial service at 9:00 AM. All are invited to join us in remembering our departed souls in prayer.

+++ Next Sunday is the most solemn feast of the Annunciation to the Birthgiver of God. Festal anointing will conclude our celebration.

+++ We ask those who have not yet done so, to please submit their parish and diocesan dues as soon as possible.

+++ Decorated candles are available for home use at the coming feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. They are on the table in the vestibule. Father will announce their cost when billing is received.

+++ 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.

+++ The monthly **Pirohi Sale** for April will be held on Saturday, March 31 while the **Paschal Bake Sale** will be on April 6, 7 with orders being picked up on Saturday. Please secure orders for both events.

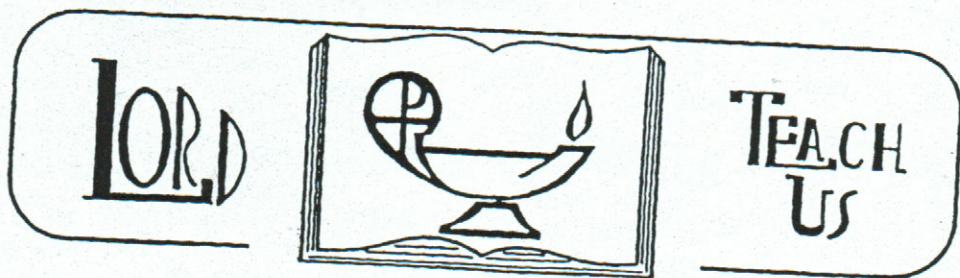
+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received this past week: Tithe Offering, ~~989.00~~, Candles, ~~25.00~~; Food Coupons, \$~~300.00~~; Refund, ~~220.00~~; Great Fast Sacrifice, ~~125.00~~; Kitchen, ~~2217.00~~, Pennies From Heaven, ~~81.00~~, for a total of ~~21182.00~~. 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, Robert Gorbich, Anna Zacharyczuk, Eleni Pallas, Debra Szmaida, Paul Szmaida, 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 ~~██████████~~ 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 ~~110,000.00~~. 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 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 ~~21182.00~~ on this project to date!



## Confession

*In his name, penance for the remission of sins is to be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem Luke 24: 47.*

*If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound John 20 23.*

*Hence, declare your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may find healing. The fervent petition of a holy man is powerful indeed James 5 16.*

*But if we acknowledge our sins, he who is just can be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrong 1 John 1: 9.*

*Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the Lord," and you took away the guilt of my sin Psalm 32 5.*

*Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have salvation and power come, the reign of our God and the authority of his Anointed One. For the accuser of our brothers is cast out, who night and day accused them before our God. They defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; love for life did not deter them from death" Revelation 10: 23.*

*Let us unswervingly hold to our profession which gives us hope, for he who made the promises deserves our trust Hebrews 10 23.*

*Free me from blood guilt, O God, my saving God; then my tongue shall revel in your justice. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise Psalm 50: 16, 17.*



Wisdom Of  
The



Byzantine  
Fathers

He said, 'for help in time of need.' If you approach now, He means you will receive both grace and mercy, for you approach in 'due season,' but if you approach then, that is, at the day of judgment, no longer will you receive mercy. For then the approach is unseasonable. Until that time He sits, granting pardon, but when the end has come He rises up in judgment. On this account it is said, 'I have heard you in an accepted time and in a day of salvation have I rescued you' 2 Corinthians 6:2. So it is seasonable for us also now to say, 'Let us draw near' asking boldly; let us bring only our faith and He imparts all things - St. John Chrysostom.

# WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

*Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to Your Church over her enemies, and protect Your people with Your Cross*  
*Troparion, Third Sunday of the Great Fast.*

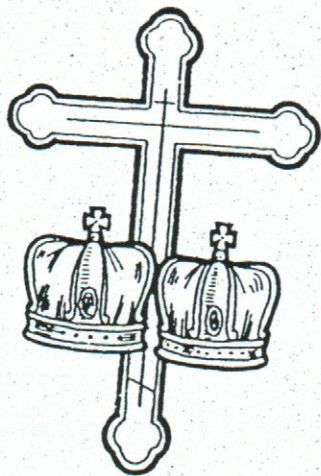
*No longer does the flaming sword guard the gates of Eden, for on them one finds the most glorious seal, the tree of the Cross. By it, the sorrow of death and the victory of the Abyss have been conquered, for You, O my Saviour, stood up and called out to those in the Abyss: "Enter again into paradise"*  
*Kontakion, Third Sunday of the Great Fast.*

*We bow to Your Cross, O Lord, and we praise Your holy Resurrection* Hymn  
*instead of "Holy God", Third Sunday of the Great Fast.*

*Rejoice, O live-giving Cross of the Lord, Paradise of the Church and new Tree of life, who bring us the joy of unending glory. Through you, the hosts of demons are driven back; in you, the angels in heaven rejoice; and for you, the assemblies of believers are now keeping the feast. O invincible weapon and impenetrable stronghold, pride of bishops and scepter of kings, grant that we may now contemplate the Passion of Christ, and His holy Resurrection* Vesper Hymn, Third Sunday of the Great Fast.

*Seeing You, the Creator of the universe, hanging naked on the Cross, all creation was shaken with fear; the sun hid its rays and the rocks split asunder; the earth trembled and the veil of the temple was torn in two; the dead arose from their tombs, and the powers on high were struck with awe and said: O, what wonder! Behold, the Judge undergoes judgment and freely endures His passion for the salvation and restoration of the world* Vesper Hymn, Third Sunday of the Great Fast.

*Come, let us all sing a new song to celebrate the defeat of hell; for coming from the tomb, Christ has broken the power of death and saved the world. Come, let us all draw in faith, not from the fountain of corruption, but from the source of light; let us venerate the Cross of Christ in Whom we are glorified. As we venerate the Cross, which Moses formerly prefigured with his hands, we put the spiritual Amalek to flight. O Christ, our Master, and we ourselves are saved.* Matins Hymn, Third Sunday of the Great Fast.



## How to Pick a Mate

Today the chances that our young people will find happiness through marriage are slim, indeed. The rise of the national divorce rate is frightening. Somewhat over fifty per cent of marriages today end in divorce and the rate is climbing. There are deeper reasons than our secular society simply touting its values, for the rising trend of divorce. Civilization in becoming more complex, is placing a greater strain on marriage commitment.

Pennsylvania State University has tackled this problem at its roots when it established a marriage counseling service years ago. It is aptly dubbed, "The Compatibility Clinic" by students and is available to them, the faculty and townsfolk alike. Some cases are married couples about ready to call it quits. They are tested, talked with, told the problems they are up against, and unless they are helplessly incompatible, they try to find solutions to their problems, real and perceived. The success rate is somewhere in the mid 80 percentile of

those who apply and register for helping assistance.

The main concern, however, is to work with young people before they marry and before damage is done. The agency encourages both young men and women to start thinking toward the day they will marry. And when they get down to specific cases, the boy and girl is taken, their backgrounds probed, their personalities plotted and they are given an over-all picture of their prospects for a happy marriage. About one fourth of such couples get an unqualified green light. A middle forty per cent are advised to proceed with caution because of certain important differences or shortcomings which they are helped to correct. The remainder are flatly warned to "go very slowly and make no serious decisions." Couples in the last two groups are urged to hold off at least six months to a year. During that time the obviously incompatible relationships collapse from the weight of differences.



Many hundreds of couples tested are married and the agency has the satisfaction of knowing that every prediction made about them has proven to be substantially correct. Of the couples encouraged not one is divorced or separated. A great many of the young people who approach the clinic are either agitated or misty-eyed. They speak of theirs being love at first sight. That always makes counselors wary, because "love at first sight" is either sheer sexual attraction or a matching of one's fantasy ideal. For example, a young man has in his mind a dream girl with long blonde hair, blue eyes, dimples properly placed, a turned up nose and a 24 inch waist. He falls in love with the first girl who coincides with this fantasy description. It is a very poor way to pick a life-long mate.

At the clinic the greatest attention is devoted to finding out whether the personalities of a couple harmonize. Both are tested for eleven different traits. The traits are scored between 11 sets of poles:

*Sociable – Aloof*  
*Easily swayed – Stubborn*  
*Irritable – Settled*  
*Timid – Bold*  
*Passionate – Cold*  
*Idealistic – Expedient*  
*Changeable – Rigid*  
*Worrisome – Carefree*  
*Conventional – Unconventional*  
*Undependable – Dependable*  
*Well adjusted – Badly adjusted*

Congenial couples score fairly close on most of these and for the most part stay in the broad middle zone between these poles. A person's scoring on these traits adds up to an accurate picture of *emotional maturity*. Marriage experts agree this is the most important factor in any successful marriage. People possessing it are free of complexes, neuroses and phobias. In the same breath, marriage happiness has been determined to depend almost on 50 per cent sexual harmony of the married couple. Sexual harmony is attainable only if the couple is sexually mature. And such maturity is present only with emotionally mature people.

Moralists have long contended that a vital requirement of any marriage is that neither partner have a record of physical intimacy before hand because of the tradition of Christ and the Church. But in our present licentious society this has other implications, including health related ones. Of the engaged couples contemplating early marriage, some 85 per cent have had intimate relations with each other. Such relationships do not seem to be an important factor in determining whether their eventual marriage will be secure or not. It does evidence lack of faith in Christ and dependence on His grace. Promiscuity, however, is another matter. Those who are promiscuous can be generally rated emotionally unstable, so that by far the instability of personality is a greater reason for not recommending them as marriageable more than their low moral standards. But when problems arise, it is

high moral standards that encourage people with problems to seek solutions.

There is a great deal more, of course, to marriage success than matching up eleven personality traits. Some of the things taken into consideration are: First, the family background of the boy and girl. It is profoundly important to know whether the bride and groom had a happy childhood, whether they got along well with their parents, and whether the parents were well-mated. Happiness in marriage runs in families. If you were reared in a happy home free of discord and conflict, you are much more likely to be emotionally mature than if brought up amid bickering and tension. And the role of the domineering or indifferent mother should not be overlooked. It can lead to all sorts of problems and difficulties in the marriage and with child-rearing.

Parents who were frank in talking to their children about the magic and mystery of sex contributed greatly to the emotional maturity and therefore, to the eventual marital happiness of their children. Another thing we are anxious to know is how the young man hopes to support his wife and family, if it is a continuation of what she has been accustomed to in her family life. Occupations that come under the scrutiny of the community and involve regular hours and little out of town traveling are the safest marriage risks. These include doctors, bankers, teachers, clergymen. The traveling salesman is rightly considered to be one of the worst bets in marriage.

Third, the agency likes to know whether religions are the same. If the couple is widely different in religious affiliation, they may be liable to constant friction unless they reach a tolerant understanding beforehand as to how their children are to be reared. Essentially, though, two different religions in the household tangibly amount to no religious devotion. Thus, there cannot be an appeal to sacred belief in event of problems both between the couple and later, with children.

Differences of age are not as important as many people imagine, so long as both man and woman are over twenty and under forty, and no more than ten years apart. But it takes super human effort to render compatible a union beyond those years. The other matters considered important to marriage success are: a courtship of at least a year; a genuine sense of humor, which helps couples over many rough spots; and a genuine desire of both parties for children. The latter condition is vitally necessary for a religious Orthodox Church marriage for which an openness to children in marriage is vital for the actual validity of the marriage bond. People who do not want children and prevent their birth do not obtain the grace of a blessed marriage.

Of course some would be spouses should be treated with extreme caution. First are neurotics. One type is the habitual heavy drinker. The girl who marries such a man on the assumption she can reform him is due for a bitter reawakening. Marriage

rarely can cure dipsomania or any other mania. Any person who is a victim of a chronic disease is not normally a good risk. Impotency and sterility have long been causes for heartaches among newlyweds. Now, however, such encouraging progress is being made by science that cures are possible.

Another type of which the agency is wary is the divorcee. All evidence indicates that divorced persons in subsequent marriages have less chance for happiness than the person who has never married, unless they have overcome their limitations and make corrective adjustments. Finally, the jealous or suspicious person is a frequent marriage wrecker. In 40 percent of broken engagements, or marriages, jealousy has been a big factor because it is an overt sign of radical insecurity.

In making these warnings about poor mates, one tremendously important qualification has been left out. No matter how bad the odds seem, happiness can be achieved by most couples if they face their dangers with open eyes and thresh out their mutual fears, problems, frustrations, and strive to achieve a sensible solution. This might best be characterized as mutual-psychotherapy; it can do wonders in even the most depressing situations.

We can, of course, if we are wise, take warning from the flood of divorces being sought in our time. If young people who desire to marry convince themselves that a life partnership is still a good idea, that

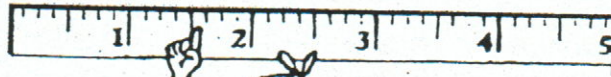
they want Christ in their lives as a third stabilizing party to their happy union, then you can be sure they will be married for keeps.

### Are You Really In Love?

This test is used to indicate quickly whether a person is actually in love or just infatuated by good looks and sex appeal.

1. Do you have a great number of things that you like to do together?
2. Do you have a feeling of pride when you compare your friend with anyone else you know?
3. Do you suffer from a feeling of unrest when away from him or her?
4. Even when you quarrel, do you still enjoy being together?
5. Have you a strong desire to please him, or her and are you quite glad to give way on your own preferences?
6. Do you actually want to marry this person?
7. Does he, or she, have qualities you would like to have in your children?
8. Do your friends and associates admire this person and think it would be a good match for you?
9. Do your parents think you are in love? They are very discerning about such things.
10. Have you started planning in your own mind what kind of wedding, children, and home you will have?

If you can truthfully answer yes to at least seven of the above, it can be safely assumed you are in love.



**Are you satisfied with a  
little portion of faith,  
with a simple  
abbreviation of what  
Christ taught?**

**Do you need a  
magnifying glass  
to locate simplistic  
faith?**

*Or*

**do you desire the  
fullness and totality of  
redemption in  
Orthodoxy?**

**Do you want everything  
you are entitled to as a  
baptized believer, or do  
you  
simply settle for  
crumbs?**

**Orthodoxy is the  
Fullness of faith in  
Christ and the  
powerhouse of spiritual  
treasure and  
right belief.**

**Join us  
every  
Sunday and holyday  
to receive  
your just due**



# In Your Prayers



REMEMBER

GOD'S WORKER

## Crowns of Thorns and Glory

From abasement to honor, from tragedy to triumph, from suffering and death to Resurrection and new life...this was the mission of our blessed Lord. This, too, is the path of life we must tread on this earth if we are to be His faithful disciples. We must continually take up our Cross and follow after Him.

In this season of the Great Fast, we are to remember gratefully the sacrifice of Jesus and realize in our sinfulness, we have participated with the jeering mob in placing Him on the Cross. The spiritual anguish and physical pain which He suffered were also due to our sinfulness. Thus our Lord identifies Himself with us in our humanity. And in His divinity, He rises once again from the dead to be our glorified Lord. How fortunate are we who have been baptized in His Name! By this august sacramental Mystery, we too die to sin with Him and are raised to participate in everlasting life.

The crown of thorns of Great Friday become through the willing sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, the blossoms of beauty, the crown of life for those who persevere and endure with Him. The crown of eternal life is above and beyond the Cross, and so in the Cross of Christ we glory because it becomes for each of us the glad, grateful hymn of all He purchases from the jaws of death and perdition. The Cross becomes for us the ladder to heaven. We should always remember the Cross our dear Lord carried and died on for us. We should even be more grateful that He burst asunder the bonds of death on the day of the Resurrection so that together we can look forward to proclaiming, "Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!"

There can only be Resurrection joy because there is serious suffering and sacrifice on the Cross. In the daily pains we endure, we should also remember our own rising above the difficulties of life by the grace of the Holy Spirit and find inspiration that we also are not only called to be with Him because of our sins, but in triumph forever.

Let us begin to anticipate eternal freedom from the bondage of sin. Let us set our sight on the triumphant and victorious goal. Let us spiritually renew ourselves by sincere repentance of our sins. And let us make a good confession that we remain forever His beloved disciples.

## HE OFFERS US HIS LIFE

ON THAT SACRED NIGHT OF THE MYSTICAL SUPPER OUR BLESSED LORD GATHERED HIS DISCIPLES TWELVE IN AN UPPER ROOM IN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM FOR WHAT WOULD BE THEIR FINAL MEAL TOGETHER. IN PROFOUND LOVE, HE SAYS, "THIS BREAD IS MY BODY...THIS CUP IS MY BLOOD, GIVEN FOR YOU...DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME." WITH LOVING DEVOTION, THE DISCIPLES RESPOND TO THIS FIRST SHOWN LOVE FOR ALL MANKIND.

SO GRACIOUS IS THE GIFT OFFERED TO US BY OUR SAVIOUR, SO AMAZING, SO OVERWHELMING, SO STRENGTHENING, THAT WE ARE MOVED TO RESPOND WITH A FULL HEART OF GRATITUDE: "YES, DEAR LORD, I ACCEPT THIS HOLY GIFT OF YOUR PRECIOUS BODY AND MOST PURE BLOOD, THAT I MAY BE BLESSED IN YOUR GRACE AND BE A BLESSING OF GRACE TO OTHERS."

OUR LORD DID ALL THIS FOR US BY HIMSELF; HE DID NOT ASK ANYONE ELSE TO DO IT FOR HIM. AN OLD ROMAN GENERAL ASKED THE EMPEROR AUGUSTUS TO ASSIST HIM IN A CAUSE WHICH WAS ABOUT TO BE TRIED. AUGUSTUS DEPUTIZED ONE OF HIS FRIENDS TO SPEAK FOR THE VETERAN. BUT THE OLD VETERAN REFUSED TO HAVE THIS PROXY REPRESENT HIM. AUDACIOUSLY HE SENT THIS MESSAGE TO THE EMPEROR: "IT WAS NOT BY PROXY THAT I FOUGHT FOR YOU AT THE BATTLE OF ACTIUM." AUGUSTUS ACKNOWLEDGED THE OBLIGATION AND PLEADED THE CAUSE IN PERSON.

IT WAS NOT BY PROXY THAT OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST MET OUR COMMON ENEMY, AND IT IS NOT BY PROXY THAT HE PLEADS, EVEN NOW, OUR CAUSE IN HEAVEN BEFORE THE THRONE OF THE ETERNAL FATHER. SINCE CHRIST DID ALL OF THIS PERSONALLY FOR US, WE PERSONALLY SHOULD DO MUCH FOR HIM. WE SHOULD RENEW OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES DURING THIS SEASON OF THE GREAT FAST. AND THEN WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT BY HIS GRACE TO SERIOUSLY AND SINCERELY LIVE UP TO THEM!

# Did You Know That ...

...our job is to take care of the possible and trust our God with the impossible?

...you are never so high as when you are on your knees in prayer?

...we should give all our troubles to God because He is up all night anyway?

...we should seize every opportunity to give encouragement because it is oxygen to the soul?

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

...when we come to the end of our rope, our God is there to take over?

...the Lord can do great things through those who do not care who gets the credit?

...what sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity; the good they do is inconceivable?

...we often regret that we have spoken, but how many times do we regret silence?

...when we say, "I can forgive, but I cannot forget," it is another way of saying "I will not forgive"?

...forgiveness ought to be like a canceled note, torn in two, and burned up, so that it never can be shown against anyone?

...worry is like a rocking chair; it give you something to do, but doesn't get you anywhere?

...when you look around you and are distressed, and look within you and are depressed, look then to Jesus and be at rest?

...there is no greater love than the love that holds on where there seems nothing left to hold on to?

...daily prayer diminishes our cares?

...the postage stamp can teach us to stick to one thing until we get there?

## "SWEETENING" THE BITTERNESS OF OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

**S**oon after Moses led the Israelites through the Red Sea — the first step in their journey to the Promised Land — a new crisis confronted the children of Israel. They had run out of water, and when they finally reached a place called Marah, they discovered that the water there was too bitter to drink. While the Israelites were lamenting their fate, God instructed Moses to cast a tree into the water, and when he had done so, it became sweet and drinkable.

Today we have reached the middle of the Lenten season — the Third Sunday of the Great Fast. This can be a hard and bitter time for all of us, and no doubt many have already become physically and spiritually weary. Not only are the disciplines of Lent demanding, but the knowledge of our own sinfulness brought to light during this penitential period can be overwhelming as well. The Church knows this, and today She places before us the Precious and Life-giving Cross for veneration. Just as the tree sweetened the water at Marah, the Tree, that is, the Cross eases the bitterness of these grueling days. It comforts and refreshes us, making us eager to push forward to reach our ultimate destination: the empty Tomb of our Lord. It encourages us and gives us hope that, indeed, we will prevail on this difficult journey. It is no wonder that we fervently sing at Vespers on this Sunday: "Rejoice, O Life-giving Cross, most beautiful Paradise of the Church, Tree of Immortality, which gave us the joy of everlasting glory, by which the legions of demons are driven away, the choir of angels rejoice and the assembly of the faithful celebrate."