

GRADUATION

# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sunday of All Saints

June 14, 2009

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;

Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

Father John Cmur; Deacon Kenneth E. Ellis and

Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris,

Cantors

## 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

+++ Today we welcome all our parish family and friend in joining us in celebrating the manifest grace of the Holy Spirit in our midst in offering thanksgiving for the dual 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of marriage and ordination of Father Robert, our spiritual shepherd and Pani Lucas. Our common prayer of thanksgiving is for his spiritual leadership and intercession that the Lord continue to bless them and our entire parish faith community as we are about to embark on and fulfill the common aspirations and goal of all our faithful in the coming building program. May the gracious Lord continue to show his generous

grace and blessing upon our entire faith community, Shepherd, Pani, their loved ones and faithful flock for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ Today we have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's feast of the Holy Spirit, the second day of the birthday and inception of our blessed Church. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ 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 weekly Scripture Study meets on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy while children attend their own classes. Everyone now has an opportunity to participate in adult religious education at which Scripture is discussed and explained along with other interests.

+++ The monthly Pirohi Sale was held this past Saturday. We sincerely thank all who prepared for, made the sale a success and secured orders. We gladly invoke upon all who labor for the financial security of the parish the most generous blessings of our Lord for continued good health for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ 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, \$██████; Candles, \$██████; Food Coupons, \$██████; Christian Fellowship, \$██████; Flowers, \$██████; Pennies From Heaven, \$██████; Parish Dues, \$██████; Pentecost Offering, \$██████; Rental, \$██████; Book Sale, \$██████; Refund, \$██████, for a total of \$██████. 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 15 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: Debra Szmaida, Nicetas & Angeliki Tsokris, Robert Gorbich, Maria Garcia, Mary Jaakobs, Father Lucas, Pani Lucas, Pani Buletza and +Paul Szmaida.

+++ 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 \$██████. 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 check the Sign-Up-Sheet for the weekly Christian Fellowship for the coming weeks. Simple foods without need for preparation are the best. Marilyn Korba coordinates this vital apostolate. Please assist her in making it a success by bringing your donation early so that all are present at the worship of our God.

+++ 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 ~~2000.00~~ on this project to date!

+++ Tomorrow the Apostles Fast begins in preparation for the coming feast of our parish patron, St. Paul and St. Peter, prime apostles, whose feast is celebrated Monday, June 29. Please observe the prescriptions of the fast by giving up meat products as a sacrifice acceptable to the Lord for the success of our building program, particularly the variance we are applying for on the property previously thought to contain 4.67 acre while in fact our engineers and surveyors determine it is 4.72 acres from the tax map. This past week, Father was notified the County Board of Chosen Freeholders unanimously approved the purchase of our property at ~~\$600,000.00~~.

+++ As soon as possible, please see Marilyn Korba to sign up for the Alaskan Cruise next August, 2009. We are in need of your support.

+++ 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!

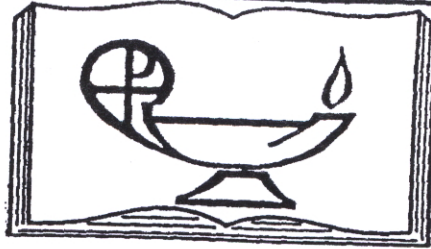
## **Bake Sale**

**On Friday, July 3, we will have a Bake Sale for Nut,**

**Poppy Seed, Apricot and Prune Rolls.**

**Please secure orders from your friends.**

LORD



TEACH  
US

## PRAYER

*Perish the day on which I was born, the night when they said, "The child is a boy." May that day be darkness; let not God above call for it, nor light shine upon it! May darkness and gloom claim it, clouds settle upon it; the blackness of night affright it! May obscurity seize that day, let it not occur among the days of the year, nor enter into the count of the months! May that night be barren; lit no joyful outcry greet it. Let them curse it who curse the sea, the appointed disturbers of Leviathan. May the stars of its twilight be darkened, may it look for daylight, but have none, nor gaze on the eyes of dawn, because it kept not shut the doors of the womb to shield my eyes from trouble! Why did I not perish at birth, come forth from the womb and expire? Or why was I not buried away like an untimely birth? Like babies that have never seen the light? Why did the knees receive me or why did I nurse at the breasts? For then I should have lain down and been tranquil; had I slept I should then have been at rest with kings and counselors of the earth who built where there are now ruins or with princes who had gold and filled their houses with silver. There the wicked cease from troubling, there the weary are at rest. There the captives are at ease together, and hear not the voice of the slave driver. Small and great are there the same, and the servant is free from his master. Why is light given to those who toil and life to the bitter in spirit? They wait for death and it comes not, they search for it rather than for hidden treasures, rejoice in it exultingly and are glad when they reach the grave; men whose path is hidden from them, and when God has hemmed in! For sighing comes more readily to me than food, and my groans well forth like water. For what I fear overtakes me, and what I shrink from comes upon me. I have no peace no ease; I have no rest for trouble comes! Job 3: 3 - 26.*

*Why then did you bring me forth from the womb? I should have died and no eye have seen me. I should be as though I had never lived; I should have been taken from the womb to the grave. Are not the days of my life few? Let me alone, that I may recover a little before I go from where I shall not return, to the land of darkness and of gloom, the black disordered land where darkens is the only light Job 10: 18 - 22.*

## LIFE

*God gives us each but one short day—  
The time that we call life—  
To waste or cherish as we will,  
To spend in peace or strife.*

*One little day in which to do,  
Or else to leave undone  
The work He gives us. We must leave  
It all at set of sun.*

*But one brief day in which to learn  
That we are not our own;  
That a day's sweetest pleasure  
Is to hush another's moan.*

*That life of selfish living  
Brings no blessed eventide,  
While life of loving service  
Finds deep joy on every side.*

*But one brief day; oh, help me, Lord,  
To use it as I should!  
Help me, for others, in that day  
To do some little good.*

*And when at twilight cool and dim  
I hear Thy gentle call,  
Dear Lord, forgive me, if for thee  
I have not given You all.*

## Second Sunday

How do we cope with defeat, pain, anxiety, troubles in life? The way we answer says a great deal about our real understanding of life in Christ. Many people decide they have got to make changes in their lives once they really trust Christ as Saviour and Redeemer. They think they can take a crash course in spiritual self-improvement and devise all kinds of rules of behavior for home, work and play. But in so doing, in following this approach, what really happens is they exchange the chains of sin for the chains of so-called religious legalism, and perhaps are satisfied, but certainly not fulfilled.

That is the fundamental failing of all western culture infused Christianity. Because what happens when all the so-called rules and changes do not seem to be working? Does it mean our precious faith is a failure? Not at all; it simply means we have been going about it the wrong way. If we are striking a familiar chord within, it is simply because there is a truth to Christian commitment to the Saviour which we have not really fully understood, let alone live and practice.

St. Paul tell us that our life in Christ is a "...life or death..." 1 Corinthians 3: 22, affair. This may sound mysterious, but it is very simple and perhaps that is why the Middle Ages and the Renaissance which followed, western man wanted some kind of deep and profound understanding of Christian spirituality from a new perspective, forsaking thereby the simplicity of the Orthodox tradition which the universal Church always lived and accepted and found profitable. The apostle to the Gentiles teaches us this eternal simple truth: "For you have died and our life is hidden with Christ in God When Christ who is our life, is revealed then you will also be revealed with him in glory" Colossians 3: 3, 4.

The key to this mystery is understanding who is dead and who is alive. The apostle explains to us who is dead: "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins" Ephesians 2:1. What he speaks of is spiritual death, of course, because elsewhere he insists that Christ is "our life"...Colossians 3: 3. Only in Christ we are spiritually alive for He is us offering and imparting and sustaining new life. Christ tells us that we who are born again, are born from above, not in physical way, but by purely spiritual means. God infuses new life in us because Christ is that life to us. Christ not only as Saviour, Redeemer, but as the very source of life as well. At the same time

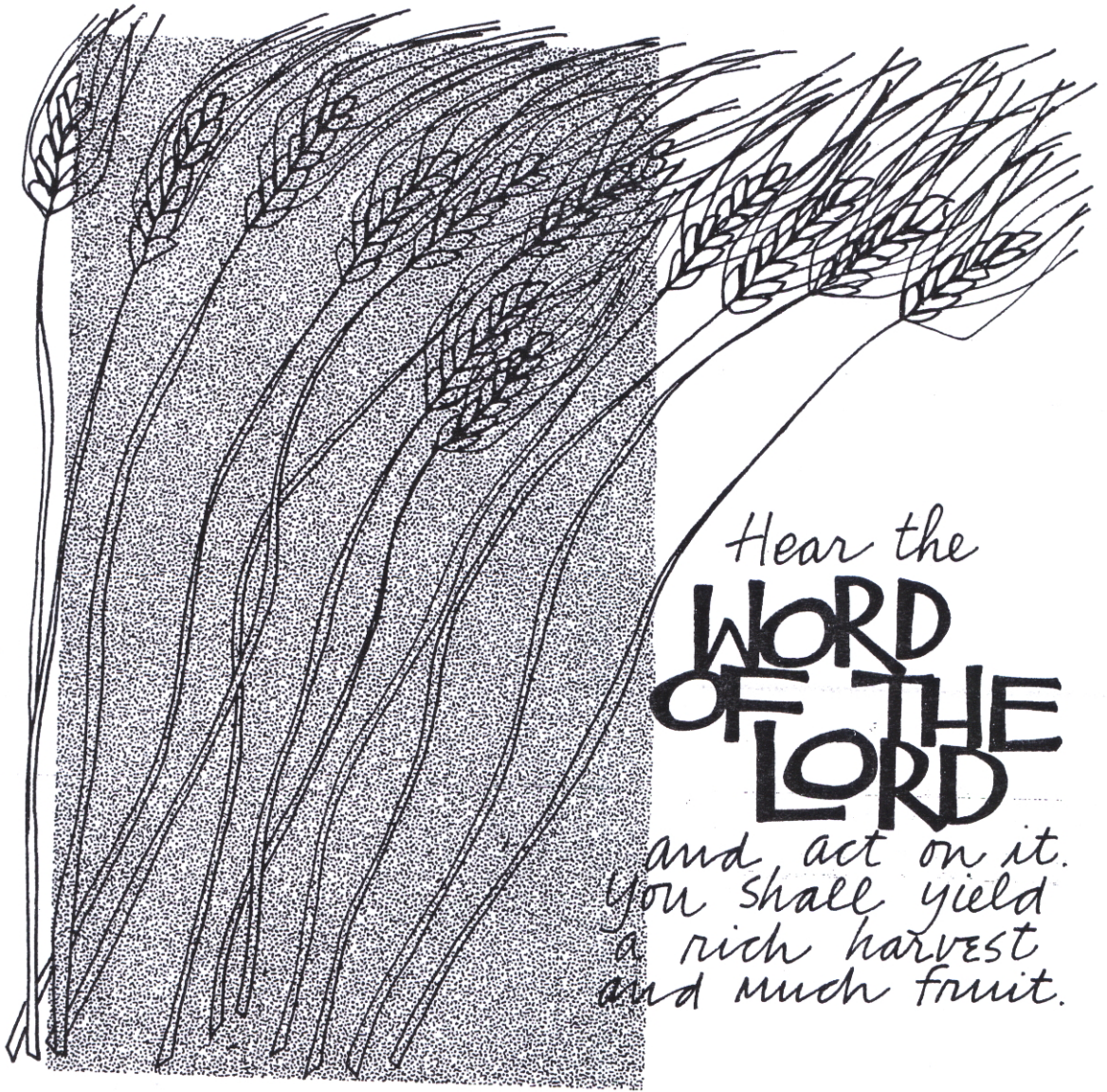
we are born again in Baptism, God our Father identifies us with Christ in his redemptive death to sin and triumphant overcoming Resurrection. We are dead to the old life of separation and sin, but we are risen to a new kind of life, not our own old physical, temporal, worldly life, but the life of Jesus Christ bestowed in baptism which is victorious Resurrection life.

Our God is not trying to patch up old men, or dead humanity. He is not teaching a self-improvement course; He is not the inspiration behind a "Be Assertive" seminar for believers. What He does is actually takes dead people, dead in sin, and radically makes them alive once again. This is radically different self-help, help from Jesus our Saviour. No where in his revelation to us in Scripture or the life of his Body, the Church, does our heavenly Father say are to live the Christian life. Rather, Christ in us leads and inspires and sustains the Christian life and we respond to his affirming grace and cooperate with it. We need his presence in us, in our being, in our lives, in our heart and soul. When Christ is our life we have a different mindset, a different heart-set, a different soul-set.

St. Paul once again, tells us, "Set your mind on things above" Colossians 3: 2. In other words, recognize it is Christ in you who not only inspires the doing, but does the doing in the grace of the Holy Spirit, who sets the goal and actually, with your eager cooperation, makes it proximate and personally meaningful and achieves it. Personal cooperation and response from the believer only unleashes the working of God's grace for us.

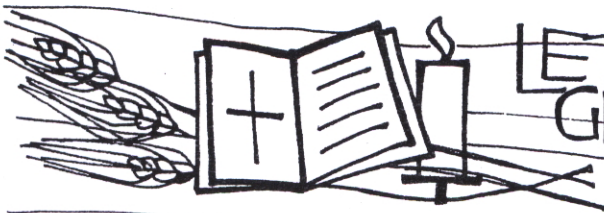
You as an individual believer have an important part to play in your own salvation. You must first of all accept the truth of Christ and His victory for you, but your response and effort is simply secondary to that of the Saviour, which means you appropriate and make your own what He has already accomplished for you. He cannot force you to accept it. You make it personally significant. Follow his means, his lead because it is Christ who is the initiator and the completion of all good things and actions. He is the doer and the doing. He is the "...beginning and the end..." Revelation 1: 8, of our existence because He has repeatedly taught us, "Apart from me you can do nothing" John 15: 5.





Hear the  
**WORD  
OF THE  
LORD**

and act on it.  
You shall yield  
a rich harvest  
and much fruit.



LET HIS WORD  
GROW IN YOUR  
SOUL!

**Families  
are like old quilts;  
although they  
may ravel at  
times,  
each, with love,  
can be stitched  
back together  
again.**

**Family  
in Christ  
forever,  
for always,  
no matter what!**

# **WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE**

*You came down from on high, O merciful Lord. You accepted the grave for three days to deliver us from our passions. O Lord, our resurrection and our life, glory be to You! Troparion, Sunday of All Saints.*

*Your Church, throughout the world, O Lord, is clothed with the blood of Your martyrs as with fine linen and purple robes. And so, the Church cries out to You, O Christ our God: "Send down Your goodness upon Your people; grant peace to Your Church and great mercy to our souls" Troparion, Sunday of All Saints.*

*To You, O Lord, Author of the whole creation, the universe offers the God-bearing martyrs as the first fruits of nature. Through their prayers and the intercession of the Mother of God, preserve Your Church, Your dwelling place, in perfect peace, O most Merciful One! Kontakion, Sunday of All Saints.*

*Make vows to the Lord and fulfill them Prokimenon, Sunday of All Saints.*

*Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Communion Hymn, Sunday of All Saints.*

*Come, O believers, let us today stand in order and rejoice with true worship. Let us extol with praises the memory of the all-honored, all revered saints, saying aloud: Rejoice, O glorious apostles, prophets, martyrs and bishops! Rejoice, O company of the righteous and just! Rejoice, rank of honored women! Vesper Hymn, Sunday of All Saints.*

*You are the pillars of the Church, and the fulfillment of the gospel, O divine ranks of martyrs. By your deeds you have fulfilled the words of the Saviour; for through you the gates of Hell, once opened against the Church, have now been closed; and through the shedding of your blood, you dried up the sacrifices poured out for the idols. And having built up the faith of believers through your martyrdom, you filled the heavenly spirits with admiration. You stand before Christ, wearing your crowns; intercede with Him for our souls Vesper Hymn, Sunday of All Saints.*

# Did You Know That ...

...you should never decide to not do anything simply because you can only do a little; do what you can?

...it is never too later to learn how to play an instrument?

...you must very carefully choose your life's mate because from one colossal decision will come ninety percent of all your happiness or misery?

...a religious book is a good choice to bring to your hostess when you are a dinner guest?

...you can become the most positive and optimistic person you know?

...if you get up thirty minutes earlier, you will, in one year, add seven and a half days to your waking world?

...you can be better prepared than you think you need be?

...instead of being thin-skinned, take criticism as well as praise with equal grace?

...you should learn how to bake bread?

...a good follower prays for his leader?

...you ought live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, fidelity and integrity, they think of you?

...you can judge your success by the degree that you enjoy peace, health and love?

...you should support your parish church generously with your time and money?

...you should not admire anyone for their wealth, but for the creative and generous ways they put it to use?

...,,,your children can be witness when you say things to your wife that lets them know how much you love and treasure her?

...what is right is not always popular?

## GRADUATION: AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

**W**e have come to that time of year when young men and women will be stepping into a new phase of their lives. Many high school graduates will be eagerly awaiting the beginning of their college experience; college graduates will be equally excited about entering the work force of their chosen profession.

Graduation has become synonymous with growing up, and while St. Paul reminds us that when we do so, we must “put away childish things,” we can never forget that we are always children of God. Yes, there is a world of difference between being “child-like” and being “childish,” and we can never lose sight of the fact that our Lord Himself pointed out that we must be like little children if we are to inherit the kingdom of heaven. It must also be pointed out that we can never outgrow our need for the Church!



In fact, the older we get, the more we should realize what a vital, important part of our lives the Church should be.

Graduation marks the beginning of new responsibility and added pressure in our lives. The temptation to deal with these matters in ways that go against the fiber of our Orthodox Christian upbringing will be great indeed. No one will force us to attend Divine Liturgy anymore. No one will insist that we come to the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion frequently.

No one will stress the necessity of seeking out the counsel of our spiritual father when problems arise. We will be on our own. What choices will we make? We can only trust in the truth of the words of Proverbs 22:6, which states: “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”