





# **Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church**

**24 BURKE ROAD**

**FREEHOLD, NJ 07728**

**Sunday of All Saints**

**June 19, 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**

+++ Tomorrow the Apostles Fast begins and extends to the feast of the Prime Apostles, Peter & Paul. Please observe the traditional prescriptions of the fast by offering your sacrifices to the Lord for the spiritual enrichment and growth of our parish.

+++ Friday is the simple feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. The vesperal Divine Liturgy will be offered Thursday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please join us in prayer and praise.

+++ We have festal anointing today on the occasion of today's feast of All Saints and that of the Holy Spirit this past week. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He Is And Shall Be!"

+++ We joyfully greet and honor our fathers today as we join the national day honoring their esteemed vocation. As we offer prayers of intercession and thanksgiving for our fathers. Good health, continued devotion to your families, beloved fathers as we invoke on you the blessings of heaven for continued good health for Many & Blessed Years! In remembering our fathers who have gone to their eternal reward, we seek the mercy of the Lord on their souls for a blessed repose and Eternal Memory!

+++ 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, \$598.00; Candles, \$13.00; Flowers, \$10.00; Birthday Offering/Pentecost, \$60.00; Food Coupons, \$100.00; Kitchen, \$1223.00 for a total of \$2004.00. 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, Eleanor Korba, Helen Pallas, Bob Gorbich, 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.**





## Understanding The Freedom Of The Saints

*There is no condemnation now for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the spirit, the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has freed us from the law of sin and death* Romans 8: 1, 2.

*My brothers, remember that you have been called to live in freedom, but not a freedom that gives free reign to the flesh. Out of love, place yourselves at one another's service* Galatians 5: 13.

*There does not exist among you Jew or Greek, slave or free man, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus* Galatians 3: 28.

*There is, on the other hand, the man who peers into freedom's ideal law and abides by it. He is no forgetful listener, but one who carries out the law in practice. Blessed will this man be in whatever he does* James 1: 25.

*It is I, Jesus, who have sent my angel to you to give you this testimony about the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the morning star shining bright. The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" Let him who hears answer, "Come!" Let him who is thirsty come forward; let all who desire it accept the gift of life-giving water* Revelation 22: 16, 17.

*And you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free. If the Son therefore has made you free, you will be free indeed* John 8: 32, 36.

*The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom* 2 Corinthians 3: 17.



## Wrestling With God

*"And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled with him a man until the breaking of the day" Genesis 32: 24.*

God is wrestling with Jacob more than Jacob is wrestling with God. It was the Son of Man, the Angel of the Covenant; it was God in human form pressing down on and pressing out the old Jacob life, and before the morning broke, God prevailed and Jacob fell with his thigh dislocated. But as he fell, he fell into the arms of God, and there he clung and wrestled, too, until the blessing was obtained; and new life was born and he arose from earthly to heavenly; the human to the godly, the natural to the supernatural. And as he went forth that morning he was a weak and broken man, but God was now present in him instead. The heavenly voice proclaimed, "You shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have contended with divine and human beings and have prevailed" Genesis 32: 29.

Every changed and transformed life depicts this very same event. There comes a crisis hour in each one of us when we face either ruin or something brighter and better than we have ever dreamed of; when we must have infinite help from our God, and yet if we would have it, we must let something else go, we must relinquish all that is ungodly in us. We must surrender completely; we must cease from our own wisdom, strength, righteousness, and become crucified with Christ and live in Him. We must submit our will to the will of the Almighty. God alone knows and understands how to lead us up to this crisis, and He alone knows how to lead us through it! And He alone grants us victory!

Can you therefore say the Lord is thus leading you in your life? What are you wrestling with in the depth of your conscience and lifestyle? Or are you leading yourself and having a fool to follow after? Is this the meaning of your difficult trial or deep pain? Is this that seemingly impossible situation, or that trying place through which you cannot pass without Him? Is this the terrifying moment of your life? Is this the time you are called upon to leave your "old" self behind so that the "new" man may arise in victory? Can it be that our God has insinuated Himself into



your mundane life to "wrestle" you to the narrow and righteous path? Then die to your own wisdom and insight, die to your own feeble perceptions; die to your own directions; die to your own likes and preferment's and cast yourself into His loving arms and rise, like Jacob finally did, into His strength and self-sufficiency, a changed and heroic being because "I have seen God face to face...,yet my life has been spared" Genesis 32: 31!

In the dark of your night, in the difficulty of your problems, in the depth of your alienation from God, He approaches you and engages you. He demands you press your case. He looks for honesty from you. He wishes thereby to show you the folly of your thinking and direction. He even "wrestles" with you so it becomes plain how dependent upon Him you really are. He shows the folly of pursuing your own pathway. If it takes all night, He will remain with you so that by dawn you will come to your senses, you will more easily and finally understand how victory only comes through the love of God. In the loneliness of your self inflicted separation, be assured it is God Who is with you, who will not permit you "...to be left there alone" Genesis 32: 25. When you give evidence of your ability and honest persistence; He will provide you with His grace to persevere. He will match grace with your newly acquired insights and you will transcend the untimely diversion in your life.

Just as truly as Jacob underwent his struggle with an angel of the Lord, and unknowingly wrestled with God, and then emerged a changed and new man, be assured you in your daily serious struggles after holiness and sanctity will also be recharged and renewed. Your new hopes and aspirations, your new goals and strivings will reveal you as a "begotten from above" John 3: 3, follower of Christ because you will still recognize the old man you formerly knew, but will rally and revel in the "new creature" 2 Corinthians 5: 17, you have become because of your direct encounter with God. You have shown the Lord how serious you are about your struggle after holiness and He has revealed and imparted to you the godly way of achieving your goal. You have wrestled with God and both you and He are winners.

Every difficulty, every problem, every opportunity that challenges us in our life is really an opportunity to "wrestle" with God that His strength and His desires for us



be permitted to emerge and show themselves. God is looking to change us, to literally change our names as He did for Jacob who became Israel, the very name of an entire nation of people who must daily struggle and "wrestle" with God's values, God's hopes and aspirations for their lives. The middle name of every believer is "Israel", or one who wrestles with God.

## The Assembly of The Saints

Our Lord said, "This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, at once he starts to reap because the harvest has come" Mark 4: 26- 29.

The Kingdom of God is the assembly of the saints, those among us who have seriously answered God's call to repentance and faith commitment. In this parable, Christ is teaching us that the acquirement of fundamental holiness, the observance of all the commandments, the avoidance of mortal, deadly sin of any kind, is itself a great mystery. The commandments of God are easy to understand, but difficult at times to follow. But a great many people do nevertheless succeed.

Where do the people who hear the voice of Christ and act upon it come from? We do not know. Just as with the planter of the seed. Even today, science cannot explain the growth of a single stalk of grain. Science can show us how it happens, but certainly not why it happens.

So, too, with one repentant person, many repentant and believing souls emerge in a fallen and corrupt world which we have created for ourselves. Describing the mystery and awesomeness of the acceptance of the call to holiness, our original



condition in paradise before the fall, Christ said, "The wind blows where it pleases; you can hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" John 3: 8. Each person who follows after the Saviour and has truly come to live a life of faith is really a miracle in flesh.

Sin is easy enough to explain. The vastly greater number of people who try to make themselves equal to God and make up their own code of behavior, who defy the moral laws of the Lord are transparent in their origin and in their motives. They follow lives of cold-blooded and unabashed impurity, untruth, dishonor, and selfishness.

But their great downfall is not sinning so much as never repenting of sin, never raising themselves up from the mire and stench of that sinfulness. Because, after all, we are victims of sin and prone to it. But the fundamental and essential difference between the sinner and the saint is that the saint keeps rising, by God's grace, each time he falls, each time he sins, keeps insistently asking God's forgiveness each time he sins and is alienated.

God's grace is freely imparted to each individual baptized and chrismated believer. God has done His part. The difference between sinner and saint is what the saint and the sinner do, how they respond to the grace offered them by a loving Father. Is it spurned? Is it neglected? Is it counted as insufficient? Is it looked upon as worthless? Or is it eagerly sought in the sacramental Mystery of Reconciliation? Is it prayed for? Is God thanked for His gift of forgiving grace? Is God recognized as the source of all blessings, particularly the acutely needed blessing of salvation?

We become confident in a world like ours that we can do all things if we have the right positive attitude and generous will power. We have convinced ourselves we are self-sufficient. It has never occurred to so many of us that our heavenly Father is calling and waiting to assist in our salvation.



Instead, we go it alone, or rather without His grace and encounter the flattery of the evil one who then easily enlists us with pernicious flattery and we gladly succumb to it. We alienate ourselves further from the Lord and lose almost entirely the path to salvation and saintliness. In time, we see nothing wrong with our sinfulness and even come to fully embrace and enjoy it!

We have been so long telling the lord "NO" to overtures for holiness that we cannot say "YES" when He seeks to offer pardon for our sins.

#### TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE VERY MARRIED

1. Remember that you are married to share a life.
2. You must be disciplined to succeed in marriage.
3. You must think and make decisions.
4. You must schedule time alone.
5. Let your partner be and become.
6. Keep love alive by outward expression.
7. Choose the time for fights and delicate discussions.
8. Remember that sexual love is the outward expression of inward intimacy.
9. Remember that you were husband and wife before you were father and mother.
10. Talk to one another; really communicate.

TWO FORGIVE IS TWO FORGET!



## **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 ...

- ...a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated?
- ...life requires us to acknowledge every gift, no matter how small?
- ...when a friend is in need, help him without him having to ask?
- ...people ought to be measured by the size of their generous heart, not the size of their bank accounts?
- ...hidden in every adversity is a life -giving opportunity?
- ...even when someone lets you down, don't give up on them?
- ...you should never take any action when you are angry?
- ...the person with big dreams is more powerful than the one with all the facts?
- ...the kindness of Christ can be shared by surprising a new neighbor with one of your favorite homemade dishes and include the recipe?
- ...you should not watch violent television shows and not buy the products that sponsor them?
- ...you can choose work that is in harmony with your values?
- ...never deprive anyone of hope because it might be all they have?
- ...Christ inspires us to so live our lives that your epitaph could read, "No regrets"?
- ...it is easy to keep all your promises?
- ...it is easier spending your life lifting people up, not putting them down?
- ...always be as eager to forgive yourself as you are to forgive others?
- ...the most effective way of being faithful to the Lord is learning to show cheerfulness even when you don't feel like it?



# Men on a mission

*In living out  
the vocation  
of fatherhood,  
men are called  
to imitate the  
holiness that  
led Christ to  
give his entire  
self for the  
love of others*



Two long time friends from youth, now enlisted in the military and become officers, were discussing their common fatherhood with the recent birth of children to each of their wives.

Discussing the varied reactions of peers to their fatherhood revealed how most in the military could not grasp why anyone would want to have children so young and planned to have several more each, beyond the traditional one boy and one girl now prevalent among successful-in-the-world yuppie young people today. Both found as the years progressed a need to defend their biological recklessness to a very skeptical and unbelieving audience.

Looking for some sage insights, a priest asked how they responded to these queries. Both agreed early and frequent procreation by noting how young they would still be when their children would slowly grow, be out of the house and out of their hair. The priest noted for them that early retirement always sounded appealing but it seemed



the reason to be a young father, or a father at all, should be more positive, lofty, appealing, even compelling.

Living in a secular culture that consistently undermines motherhood and family life, it should come as no surprise that fatherhood gets little respect either. And when you think about it from a modern secular viewpoint, a man's calling and vocation to fatherhood does not make too much sense. The modern pursuit of happiness revolves around the ability to do what you want, whenever you want and with whomever you want, for whatever reasons you want.

Yet genuine fatherhood, like, motherhood, is the complete antithesis of the model of happiness. Who wants to constantly clean up after a bunch of rugrats? Who in their right mind would give up the fun of going out with the guys to staying at home and hanging around a house full of kids? Who would volunteer to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars on someone else's education instead of buying a new beach house or sports car? Does anyone really need the worry of taking care of an ungrateful teenager in today's world? Why be devoted to one woman as wife when an entire multiple variety are readily available for worldly pleasure and amusement? Or for that matter, why be good when you can't have a good time being good as the common thinking now goes?



When you stop to think about it, you wonder why anyone is becoming a father these days. You can say it is simply biology: A woman's physical attractiveness entices men into this terrible trap. That doesn't explain it completely, though, since modern science has successfully detached and separated sex and procreation, insisting only stupid and immature accidents associates the two once again. So much for the advantages of modern technology and scientific insight! Why then are so many still choosing to become fathers freely and of their own volition?

The short answer to this mystery can be found in the words of Dan Akroyd, a.k.a. Ellwood Blues of the blues Brothers: "We are on a mission from God." What that mission consists in, and how we got on it in the first place takes a little more explaining.

To respond to the negative view of fatherhood, one has to look at the secular culture's misreading of happiness. Contemporary society bellows that happiness is found in the gratification of our material desires. Bumper stickers shout out from our cars, "If its not fun, why do it?" Happiness in our consumer culture is always just another purchase away.



But what if modern wisdom falls short in its account of happiness? If there is more to happiness and human fulfillment than material comfort, where can we turn to find the truth about human fulfillment? Believers in Christ look to Jesus Christ to find meaning of human fulfillment and completion. Christ in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, fully reveals man to himself and brings to light his very high and noble calling. The Christian father must look to the God-man, Jesus Christ, for the meaning of human life and fulfillment.

Turning to Christ we see a very different conception and understanding of happiness than that offered by contemporary culture. Happiness resides in the human calling to love. Indeed, a human being is incomprehensible without love. It is in love and through love that humanity finds fulfillment. But the love revealed in the Gospel is not about gratifying desires or attaining material comfort. It is about giving, not getting. Not only is happiness about giving of ourselves, it is about giving ourselves in a big and generous way.

Christ tells us, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" John 15: 13. This is not simply a platitude uttered conveniently by the Lord; it is the truth to which He committed his entire life. Not only did He teach what true



love is, He lived it out in his own suffering and death. Human happiness then, is not a reality bound to the material world in which we live. It reaches out to the infinite and eternal to be energized and sanctified by the love of God.

So what does this understanding of love and happiness mean for today's father? The answer lies in why Jesus laid down his life for his friends and in the holiness that the Son of God demonstrated throughout the course of his earthly life among us.

Christ's role on earth has been depicted in terms of mission. God the Father sends his only-begotten Son into the world to reconcile it to himself. In other words, the mission of Jesus is nothing less than to save the souls of all people for all time. Christ achieves this mission through his role as priest, prophet and king. As the perfect priest, Christ offers himself as the perfect sacrifice for the salvation of all humanity. As prophet, He bears God's message of reconciliation to the world, teaching about God's love and mercy. As king, He rules the universe, exercising his authority through service and humility.

The mission of the contemporary father is much like that of Jesus Christ which is the salvation of souls. The difference, however, between them is the fact that Christ's mission is universal, concerned



with the salvation of all created mankind. The father's mission is limited, concerned primarily with the salvation of his own family. Despite the difference in scope, the father has the same methods at his disposal to achieve this mission of salvation in Christ.

Through his share in Christ's grace in the sacramental Mysteries of baptism and matrimony, a father shares the grace of Christ's death and Resurrection with his wife and children. He is also priest in the sense that he brings his children to the sacramental Mysteries, providing them a direct share in the grace of Christ. He is the one who begets spiritual life in his family miniature faith community.

The father is a prophet, the bearer of God's message to his family by fulfilling the privilege of being the very first to teach them the Orthodox faith of Christ and confirms them in it by practice and example. Lastly, he performs Christ's kingly function as the spiritual head of his family. He by example leads them to Christ. This headship is always exercised in a humble manner. A father's obligation to his family in holiness is not a call to domination, but to service, being the first and foremost servant to his family!

At the regular worship of the Church, during the Divine Liturgy, believers learn



that Christ alone is the Holy One. In living out the vocation of fatherhood, a man is called to imitate the holiness that led Christ to give his entire self for the love of his brothers and sisters who surrounded and followed him in this life.

The example of Christ shows that holiness consists in the radical unreserved gift of oneself for the sake of others. Fatherhood is a dignity which permits him to sacrifice himself completely for the sake of his family. It is a mission which allows a man to give of himself unreservedly. Thus, it is in fatherhood that most men will find their greatest happiness and fulfillment and is an open expression of why they share so much in having the very same name and descriptive designation as our God.

To say, then that the best part about fatherhood is getting it over with, misses the greatest dignity and joy which our heavenly Father shares with earthly physical fathers in family life. It is to ignore the fact that God calls fathers to an indispensable mission, remarkable holiness and indescribable happiness.

All these three should be aspired after and enjoyed as they endure throughout life.







### **What Makes A Dad**

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad

Author is unknown

# **A Happy And Blessed Father's Day!!!**

**As we honor our earthly**

**Father**

**today, we first of all remember  
he is a gift to us from our  
Heavenly Father**

**Whose very same name and  
vocation he shares.**

**As we give thanks for our  
physical fathers who begot us  
in the flesh, we also remember  
our spiritual fathers, the  
priests of the Church who  
beget in us spiritual values and  
enriching faith.**

**Heavenly Father, grant our  
fathers Many & Blessed Years!**



*Only a heart  
as big as yours  
could keep  
so many promises...  
teach so many lessons...  
give so much care...  
and hold  
so many dreams.*

*Only a dad  
as good as you  
could be loved  
so very much.*

*Happy  
Father's  
Day*

# FATHERS

AARON  
ABRAHAM  
ADAM  
AHAB  
ALPHAEUS  
BENJAMIN  
DAN  
DAVID  
ELI

ELKANAH  
ENOCH  
GAD  
ISAAC  
JACOB  
JEPHTHAH  
JETHRO  
JOSEPH  
KISH

LABAN  
MOSES  
NAPHTALI  
NOAH  
REUBEN  
SAMUEL  
SAUL  
SOLOMON





## "MEN BEHAVING GODLY"

**I**n the early 90's, there was a popular sitcom on British TV called "Men Behaving Badly." It was so popular in that later on in the decade an American version of the show was created as well. The program centered around two men who fit the stereotype of the perception that many have of the modern male: their lives were centered on watching football, drinking beer and, for the most part, being rude and obnoxious! Quite honestly - and quite sadly - there are a lot of men who like that image! Today is FATHER'S DAY, and in today's world, we certainly don't need "men behaving badly." On the contrary, what we need is "men behaving godly." Wives need godly men. Children need godly men. Communities need godly men. Churches need godly men.

A godly man is one who realizes his responsibilities to his wife and his children. He understands that being kind, sensitive and loving are not signs of weakness, but rather signs of strength. He also knows that teaching his children to pray and teaching them about Christ and His Church are not things that only a mother should be doing. Yes, a godly man is someone who recognizes that the example he sets will shape and mold the character of his children, and will be passed down for generations to come. St. Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training of the Lord." Psalm 112 also offers some sound advice on how a man should act godly: "A good man deals graciously and lends to others. He will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely a good and righteous man will never be shaken." So Fathers . . . don't be afraid to be godly men. We can be MANLY and GODLY at the same time!