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Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2009

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;
Father John Cmur; Deacon Kenneth E. Ellis and
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

+++ On Monday we celebrate the simple feast of St. Pantelemon the Great Martyr and Wondeworker. The Divine Liturgy is celebrated at 7: 30 PM followed by anointing for healing with oil from the Monastery of St. Sabbas in Jerusalem. Please come and join us in prayer and praise.

+++ Today we have festal anointing on the occasion of this past week's feast of St. Elias the Prophet. The customary greeting is "Christ Is Among Us!" to which we respond, "He is And Shall Be!"

+++ The annual blessing of vehicles of travel takes place today after the Divine Liturgy which is celebrated for the safety of operators of vehicles of travel. We hope our faithful invited friends, relatives and neighbors to bring their vehicles to our church and join us in prayer and blessing.

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received this past week-end: Tithe Offering, Candles, Food Coupons, Christian Fellowship, Pennies From Heaven, Kitchen, Holyday, Utilities, 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: Father Lucas, Pani Lucas, Debra Szmaida, +Paul Szmaida, Robert Gorbich, Robin Pasquino and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

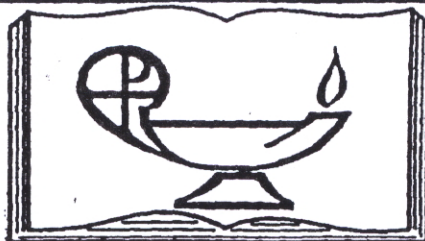
+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals . As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite and look 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 on this project to date!

+++ 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

Overcoming Despair

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; for which cause we do not faint; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal 2 Corinthians 4: 8, 9, 16 – 18.

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have; for he has said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you. So that we may boldly say the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do to me Hebrews 13: 5, 6.

Come to me, all you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart and you shall find rest in your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matthew 11: 28 – 30.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things Philippians 4: 8.

For if you turn to the Lord your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land; for the Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn his face away from you, if you return to him 2 Chronicles 30: 9.

Where Did It All Begin???

Dear God: “Why didn’t you save the school children in Littleton, Colorado?” Sincerely, Concerned Student.

Dear Concerned Student: “You parents and elders will not allow me in your schools nor in your homes...” Sincerely, God.

I think it all began with Madeline Murray O’Hare, or so we blame her. She was just the tip of the iceberg, however. She complained she didn’t want any prayer in our schools. And we said, OK...

Then someone said you better not read God’s Word in school because it says, “You shall not kill, You shall not steal,” and “love your neighbor as yourself.” And, of course, we said, OK because we don’t read it or live it at home...

Dr. Spock said we should not spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem. And we said, an expert should know what he’s talking about, so we won’t spank our children anymore...

Then someone said teachers and principals better not discipline our children when they misbehave. And the school administrators said no faculty member in this school better touch a student when they misbehave because we don’t want any bad publicity and we surely don’t want to be sued. And we all accepted their reasoning...

Then someone said, let’s allow our daughters to have abortions if they want, and we won’t even tell their parents. We’ll protect their privacy. So we all said, “That’s a good deal...”

Then some wise school board member said, since boys will be boys and they’re going to do it anyway, let’s give our sons all the condoms they want, so they can have all the fun they desire and won’t be frustrated. The parents do not have to know they got them at school. And we said, “That’s another smart idea...”

And when someone said let's print magazines with colorful and explicit pictures of nude women and call it wholesome down-to-earth appreciation of the beauty of the female body, we said we had not problems with that...

Then someone else came along and took that appreciation of God's creation a step further and published pictures of nude children and wisely made them available on the Internet, we said, "everyone's entitled to free expression and speech..."

And the entertainment industry then said let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity and illicit and abnormal sex, and let's record music that encourages murder, death, rape, suicide, and satanic themes. We all said once again, "it's just entertainment and it has not adverse effect and nobody takes it seriously anyway, so go right ahead."

Now we are asking ourselves, somewhat late, why our children have no conscience, why they do not know the difference between right and wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, classmates or even themselves. We have raised a generation of sociopaths and wonder next when parent killing will become the vogue.

Undoubtedly, if we thought about it just for a second, we could come to some serious conclusions. It has a great deal to do with what Christ taught us. Even non-believers and pagans are realizing, "We reap what we sow."

And to add to the confusion of our children, parents who are supposed to be believers are not too serious about teaching their children God's will for our lives. Look at how many parents and children are in church each Sunday. Look further how many children are in church to attend catechetical instruction. Look at how many are eager for some spiritual formation of their souls.

This raises the inevitable questions: are parents worthy of the trust that has been given them? Who are going to be the heroes of our children and their role models if it is not believing parents and faithful adults? Has this generation of parents capitulated to the horrible example of the world? Who is going to teach children their immortal soul must be saved and preserved for the Lord? Who is going to labor and give dignity to our children?

Our parish attempts to do its part in reinforcing the dignity of parenthood by teaching the values of Christ. Invest your time and energy in seeing to it that we have a successful religious educational program in our parish before it is too late for our entire society!

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Angelic powers descended to Your grave, and the guards fell down and appeared dead. Mary came to the grave seeking Your most pure body. You conquered and despoiled the Abyss without being touched by it. You, the Giver of Life, met the Virgin. O Lord, risen from the dead; glory be to You! Troparion, Resurrection Tone Six.

Christ our God, the Life-giver with His life-giving hand raised all the dead from the valley of death, granting Resurrection to all mankind. He is the Saviour, the Resurrection, the Life and the God of all Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Six.

Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Six.

O Lord, You are present everywhere; Where can we poor sinners flee? Heaven is where you dwell; in the Abyss, You conquered death; in the depths of the sea, Your powerful hand is there, O Lord. We come to You, and we worship You saying: "O Lord, risen from the dead, have mercy on us!" Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.

We take pride in Your Cross, O Christ; We praise and glorify Your Resurrection. You are our God and we know no other Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.

Who would not call you blessed, Mother of God! Who would not praise your virginal birthgiving? The only-begotten Son, born of the Father before all ages, has become incarnate of you in a manner beyond understanding. God by nature has taken the nature of man for us, not divided into two persons. He has two natures without mixture or confusion. O most pure and holy, intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.

Christ willed to save us from corruption; He was crucified, buried in the tomb. The faithful women sought Him. In tears they said: "O Saviour of all, how did you accept burial? How were you stolen, how taken away? Which place holds Your life-giving body? Appear to us, O Lord, as You promised. Wipe away our tears Vesper Hymn, Tone Six.

Sense of Humor

An atheist was taking a pleasure walk through the woods, admiring all that the “accident of evolution” had produced. “What majestic trees! What a powerful river! What beautiful animals, he said to himself. As he was meandering alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bush behind him. As he turned to look, he saw a seven foot grizzly charging down the embankment toward him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He tried to run even faster, so scared did he become that tears were coming to his eyes. He looked over his shoulder once again, and the bear was even terrifyingly closer. His heart was pumping frantically as he tried to increase his speed. But he tripped and was thrown quickly to the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up and saw the bear right on top of him, raising a huge paw to swipe him from this existence into the next. At that very instant, he cried out,

“Oh my God!”

Just then, time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. The river even stopped moving. A bright light shone upon the man, and a voice from the sky said, “You deny my existence all these years, teach others I don’t exist, and even credit my creation to a ‘cosmic accident’ Now you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?” The atheist, ever so proud, looked into the bright light and said, “It would be rather hypocritical to ask to be a Christian after all these self-serving years, but could you make the bear a Christian instead?” Anything, he thought to himself, just so he would not have to admit he was wrong!

“Very well,” said the Voice.

As the light disappeared, the river once again began to run its course and the sounds of creation in the forest continued as before. The bear put its ferocious paw down, then brought both paws together, lowered its head piously and said,

“Lord, I thank you for this meal which I am about to receive.”

I have learned...

that no matter what happens or how bad it seems today, life goes on, and it will be better tomorrow;

that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: 1) a rainy day, 2) lost luggage, 3) a misbehaving child;

that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you will surely miss them when are gone from your life;

that making a living is not the same as making a life;

life most often gives us a second chance;

you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back;

if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on being a reflection of God in the world, on your family, friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the best you can, happiness will find you;

whenever I decide something with a prayerful open heart, I usually make the right decision;

while I regularly have pains, I don't have to be one;

that everyday you should reach out and touch someone; people love that human touch, holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back;

that I still have a great deal to learn;

that you should let others hear the tenderness of your voice in expressing God's love for them through you.

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Psalm 34

Did You Know That ...

...many times it is the not clothes on the neighbor's line that are gray and streaked, but our own unwashed windows?

...when you hear a kind word spoken about someone, tell them so?

...you should not look for recognition; simply do work worthy of recognition by God?

...when someone lets you down, do not give up on him?

...what you do today gets you closer to where you want to be tomorrow?

...when a friend is in need, help him without him having to ask?

...when someone gives you something, never say, "you shouldn't have"?

...cruel words deeply hurt?

...loving words quickly heal?

...believers seek respect rather than popularity?

...followers of Christ seek quality rather than luxury?

...you should never let the odds keep you from pursuing what you know you were meant to do?

...if you want your children to turn out well, spend half as much money and twice as much time with them?

...life's most treasured moments come unannounced?

...we are called to accept a temporary inconvenience for a permanent improvement?

...Christians protect their enthusiasm from the negativity of others by prayer life?

...It is not our job to get people to like you, it is our job to like people?

“FOR THE HONORABLE GOVERNMENT OF OUR COUNTRY . . .”

When the founding fathers of our nation were given the task of writing our Constitution, they included an article that legislated a separation of Church and State. While we sometimes feel slighted and treated unfairly under this system, the diversity of religions practiced in our country today reflects the wisdom shown by the statesmen of the post-Revolutionary War era.

It was a different story, however, throughout the history of the Christian Church, especially in the glory days of the Byzantine Empire. There was a close alignment between CIVIL and ECCLESIASTICAL authorities. This had both a positive and negative impact on the Church's growth and development. Still, we cannot dispute the tremendous contributions made by the leaders of Byzantium - several of whom are honored as saints. The Emperor Constantine is credited with ending the age of

religious persecution of Christians and establishing Christianity as the official religion of the Empire. The Emperor Justinian was a great builder of churches, overseeing the construction of some 25 in Constantinople alone - including the majestic "Church of the Holy Wisdom." His own feelings about Church and State are expressed beautifully in his writings: "There are 2 great gifts that God has granted from on high: the priesthood and the imperial dignity. The former serves divine things, while the latter administers human affairs. Both proceed from the same origin and adorn the life of mankind." The Empress Irene was instrumental in defeating the iconoclastic heresy in the 8th century, preserving the use of icons in public and private worship.

Depicted on the front of this Bulletin is the EMPRESS EUDOXIA, who is remembered on our church calendar on August 13/26.