



*Our Lord taught  
that the kindness  
we show others  
is an expression  
of how we  
really feel  
about  
Him.*



# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 23, 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

+++ Wednesday is the feast of St. Demetrius the Martyr. In anticipation, the vespereal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer, praise and celebration.

+++ 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 are changing the November monthly Pirohi Sale to this Saturday, October 29. Preparations will take place this Thursday. We are in need of helping hands both days. Please secure orders and come and assist in making the Pirohi. The Order Sheet is in the kitchen today.

+++ 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, [REDACTED] Candles, [REDACTED] Holyday, [REDACTED] Kitchen, [REDACTED]; Fellowship. [REDACTED] for a total of [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED] on this project to date!

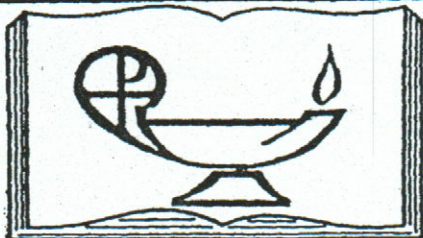
+++ **The Clothing Drive is a permanent on-going project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals and shoes for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing, shoes and fabrics.**

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

+++ **The next Pirohi Sale is this Saturday, October 29. Please secure orders and offer helping hands.**

+++ 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

## Forgiveness

*You are good to us and forgiving, full of constant love for all who pray to you* Psalms 86:5.

*As far as the east is from the west, so does he remove our sins from us* Psalms 103: 12.

*The discretion of a man defers his anger and it is his glory to pass over a transgression* Proverbs 19: 11.

*When Peter came to Jesus and asked him: "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother when he does wrong things to me? Should I forgive him seven times?" Jesus answered him, "I say not seven times only, but seventy times seven"* Matthew 18: 21, 22.

*When you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done* Mark 11: 25.

*Take heed to yourselves: if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him; and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times and says, "I repent," you must forgive him* Luke 7: 3, 4.

*And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you* Ephesians 4: 32.





*Wisdom Of  
The*



*Byzantine  
Fathers*

How can the body become a living sacrifice? If you do not let your eyes look upon anything evil; it becomes a sacrifice. Do not let your tongue say anything filthy and it becomes an acceptable offering. By not letting your hand do anything lawless, it becomes a burnt offering...for a sacrifice cannot be unclean. Sacrifice is the first fruit of all other actions, so then let us give the first fruit of our hands, feet, mouth and all other body parts to our Creator God. Such a sacrifice is well-pleasing St. John Chrysostom.

If you want to see God, imagine this in the depth of your soul: 'God is Love!' St. Augustine of Hippo.

The soul of man is not seen, being invisible in humans, but is observed through the motions of the body. Likewise our God cannot be seen by human eyes, but is known through his providence and good works St. Theophilus.

Think how serious it is for Christians who are unwilling to suffer or sacrifice for their won sins when He who had no sin suffered for us! St. Cyprian of Carthage.



# FAITH & FINANCES

We have received so much from our Lord: life, faith, freedom, and family. Along with these gifts, we have also been given the responsibility to be faithful and *faith-filled* stewards of our earthly finances or treasure. Yet many of us have allowed a wall to separate our faith lives from our money. As one person puts it, "I felt the strength of my faith was not being reflected in my finances."

What is the biggest problem most people have with their finances? Credit card bills? Inadequate income? No savings? Too much month left at the end of our money?

While people tend to think these are their major problems, they are just symptoms. The real problem is not so much money or lack of it, as it is our relationships with God and how we respond to his call for us to be Stewards of Providence. This includes trusting our heavenly Father to provide for our financial needs and doing our part to manage our resources in ways pleasing to the Lord. How do our priorities reflect our beliefs in him? Ho much do we include him, through prayer in our decisions? Do we think all that we have is subject to our own success and disposing of it is our own responsibility and judgment?

## FINANCIAL BONDAGE

Financial bondage takes many forms. Consumer credit and debt are major areas, but bondage also occurs when spouses fail to communicate about money issues, leading to a lack of unity in the marriage. It occurs when someone becomes a workaholic, or when we seek satisfaction in acquiring "stuff." This bondage then gets in the way of our relationship with our heavenly Father. We lose focus of the real priorities and then



communication with God either stops or becomes one of desperation instead of one of proactive growth.

While most Americans experience some form of financial bondage, the good news is that our Lord want us to experience the peace and contentment that comes from being truly financially free. Let us think about how we can be set financially free with the help of our blessed Orthodox faith.

Jack and Jill went up the hill...of debt. When Jack and Jill got married, they were both making good incomes. Once they combined their resources they were able to afford pretty much whatever they wanted. They never needed to balance their checkbook, much less live on a budget. Then they started a family and Jill became a stay-at-home mom. Suddenly, their everyday expenses began mounting, but their spending habits continued as if they were still newlyweds with money to spare. Within a few years, their credit cards were maxed and they were having trouble making their auto loan and mortgage payments. Jack and Jill were stunned to realize they had become one of the millions of Americans in financial bondage.

## WHAT'S FAITH GOT TO DO WITH IT?

The only way you can achieve true financial freedom and peace of mind and soul is to recognize that our *God has a plan for your life – including your finances*. He is our Father want what sib vest for us. IOyr fautgprovides the answers we are looking for, to help us develop a healthy, wholesome and holy attitude whenit comesot how we lmanage our money. In fact, how you handle yoru money can be one of the best indicators of thesgetrength and vitality of yor ur spiritalo life.

It is important for our financial objectives to support our goals for life and living. As Christians, we must always keep in mind the reason for our existence. Remember the words of Jesus: "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world but forfeit his life" Mark 8: 36? As followers of and believers in Christ, growing our relationship with Christ and being faithful to him and his teachings is our number one goal in life,



and it should be our first financial goal as well! All the other financial goals and priorities we set will flow from our decision to be faithful in all things to Christ.

Another important aspect of transforming our attitude toward money comes in learning to trust God as our Father and provider. In the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord tells us not to worry about questions like, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well" Matthew 6: 31 – 33. Now does this mean you quit your job and live off the kindness and generosity of others? Of course not! But it does mean you think twice about what is truly a need and what is simply a want. Take notice in her prayers, the Church never encourages people to ask for what they want, but simply for what they need! It also means you have a source of strength to resist peer pressure regarding what you buy and how much you spend. Our earthly treasure is gifted to glorify our God and cannot simply be wasted on nonsense. It should achieve good and contribute to the salvation of our soul and the strengthening of our spiritual life!

Free, debt-free at last! One of the first steps toward financial freedom is reducing consumer debt because too many resources will be swallowed up paying high interest charges.

Here is one technique that works for most people. List your debts in order based on interest rate, with the highest interest rate listed first. Every month make the minimum payment required on each of the loans, except for the loan at the top of the repayment list. Pay as much as possible on that bill. When it is paid off, continue to put the money you had been spending towards the next debt. Repeat this process until all of your debts are eliminated! Remember to use your debts as an opportunity to grow closer to our heavenly Father, his divine Son and the Holy Spirit as you make new choices, set different priorities, and start on the path to financial freedom. Include God in your struggle through prayer and contemplation over the toughest of choices.



The first step is to commit to being faithful stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to our care and use. It starts with getting your spiritual house in order – recognizing that all you have ultimately belongs to God, learning how to be generous with the tithe as your model, applying temperance to your lifestyle, and developing effective communication in your marriage and family life.

We are all in a spiritual battle in our consumer-oriented, me-first society and how we handle our money and other gifts God has endowed us with is an important part of that struggle. The Church has always noted and recognizes the real - world fact that our thirst for another's goods is immense, infinite, never quenched. This thirst, unless tempered by a close walk with the Lord, often leads to overspending and debt problems that wreak havoc on family life, causing a downward spiral.

All-too-often, we have become a society of “having” rather than a society of “being.” We are continually called to the fully human life our creation has destined us for. We need to grow in our understanding of what God wants for us rather than pursuing our own desires.

How can you tell if you are on the road to financial freedom?

Write down your top ten life goals. How many of them are based on the acquisition of wealth and how many are based on building relationships and growing in faith? Is the main focus of your life based on a relationship with our heavenly Father?

Is your prayer life on life-support, or is it thriving?

Do you and your spouse disagree about money matters or do you have common goals?

Are you always scrambling to make ends meet at the end of the month or do you have a plan to accumulate savings?

Do you steal from God to make up for a shortage in funds to pay your ordinary bills?

Do you find your charitable giving is done after all your other bills are paid, or is it the first check written?



Besides your mortgage and possibly your car, do you have outstanding debts or have you found the balance to live within your means?

## **OUR ROLE: FAITHFUL STEWARDS**

How do we keep God first amid all our daily responsibilities, peer pressure and financial concerns? Time and commitment are key ingredients to any successful relationship and our relationship with the Lord is no different. We need to take advantage of what the Church gives us, including the sacramental Mysteries, the comforting security of guiding us to a blessed eternity, Holy Scripture, prayer and the courage and strength we need to become a faithful steward of the gifts God has given so generously to us.

With the help of the sacramental Mysteries and a shift to a more balanced perspective, with trust in the will of God for our lives, we will be ready to continue on the journey to becoming financially free!

Here are a few ideas to help get your finances on a Godly track:

**Avoid instant gratification.** Think about all purchases at least overnight. Pray on them!

**Develop a spending plan and stick with it.** If you use credit cards, use them only in accordance with your spending plan and pay them off in full every month.

**Track all your expenses.** You may be surprised at where your money goes. One couple budgeted \$250.00 for the year eating out, yet they maintained the routine of taking a family of seven out for pizza every Friday night. Tracking your expenses will show you how much you actually spend, where and for what.

**Set up family budget meetings.** The point is not to talk about money, but to build relationships and agreement while discussing the deliberate use of the family resources. It is not that we cannot afford something, but rather that we choose not to spend our earthly treasure that way because it does not conform to the revealed will of God.



Connect values with spending habits. One family decided to cancel their cable TV. Even more important than the savings each month was the fact that they decided the cable programming from certain channels did not reflect the family's values and the time spent in front of the TV got in the way of quality family time and interfered with their attendance to spiritual values.

Recognize each others strengths and share each other's burdens. As one wife puts it, "I handle the finances and my husband only knows what I tell him. I do not want to bear the burden by myself anymore." Talk about finances together and share decision making responsibilities. If husband and wife both have separate checking accounts on the pretext they both work and should distribute the fruit of their labors as they see fit, this divisive practice must be abandoned. Most of the time it is a glaring sign of divisiveness which also indicates there is no unified prayer spiritual life.

## HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

Balancing faith, family, and work is an ongoing effort. Why is achieving this balance important? How well are you doing at maintaining such a balance?

Work is so much of what we are, yet we often fail to recognize the role that faith should have in our daily labor. Do you work to live or live to work? How does your work impact your family life? How does it add to the expression of your faith commitment to God? How is your family life impacted by your working practice?

Look at how you deal with money on the job. Are you more careful with the budget you are allowed at work than you are with your own money? What if you truly believed that your money was a gift from God. Would you be more careful in how you spent it?

## Words of Wisdom

Remember: you are a steward, or temporary manager of your resources; do not let your possessions own you.



**The more things you have to have, the less freedom in Christ you have.**

**When you change your habits, your life changes as well.**

**It is a great deal easier to keep things in control than to get them back in control.**

**It is not so much about earthly treasure, or money, as it is about living an abundant life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

## **The Steward's Prayer**

**Lord,**

**I give you thanks for creating me and redeeming me.**

**Keep me close to you during all my days.**

**Help me to remember that life on earth is short  
and life to come eternal.**

**Grant me a generous spirit; may I love you well  
by loving others well.**

**Guide me to a wise use of the gifts you have entrusted to me:  
my time, my talents and my treasure  
that I may use them for your greater glory!**

**Divine Providence can provide.**

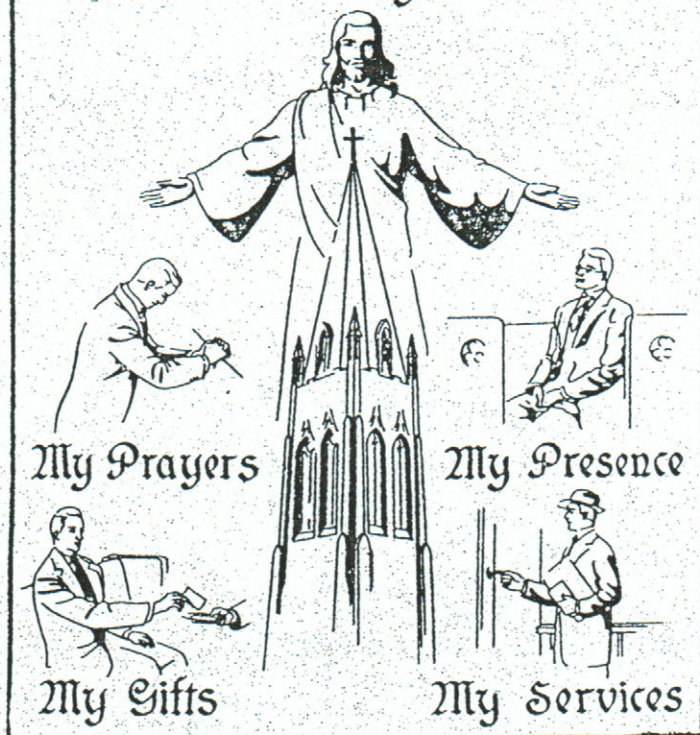
**Divine Providence does provide.**

**Divine Providence will provide.**

**Amen, Amen, Amen.**



# For Christ and His Church I Pledge...



## TITHING . . .

Uncertainty besets all attempts at earthly gain. No uncertainty, however, hovers over the investment you make when you give generously to God and His Church. He sees that you are richly rewarded, both in this life and in eternity. Give generously, then, to God every Sunday.





## The Sweeter Song

*That you might be filled with all the fullness of God*  
Ephesians 3: 19.

Greek legend tells us of a treacherous place in the sea where no captain had ever passed without experiencing catastrophic shipwreck. Mermaids supposedly inhabited the rocks and as each ship approached they began playing an enticing, fatal strain of music. No sailor could resist the mesmerizing song and they ended up crashing on the rocks. Captain Ulysses determined that his ship would not suffer such an ignominious fate. "Tie me to the mast," he ordered his crew, "and stuff your ears with wax." As they neared the rocks, the irresistible notes began tickling the ears of the captain. He strained futilely to escape as his desire to follow the music literally boiled within him. The ship sailed safely by.

Captain Orpheus had a better plan. As his ship neared the temptation which he knew he and his men could not possibly withstand without intervention, he took a harp into his hands. He had been practicing for this very moment a long time. As his fingers plied the strings, music such as his crew had never heard before tantalizingly poured forth. They stood with their yes fixed on their captain, enraptured by the ethereal strain he was so successfully producing. Not one of them even hears the song of the mermaids and they too passed safely by.

How often it is true that we also "tie ourselves to the mast" and strive vainly to suppress our fleshly lusts and desires? We may refrain from committing the actual act of sin, but sinful desires remain and are not conquered.

In order to gain true victory over our flesh and the world, we need to hear the sweet and enduring song that Christ sings and become actually enveloped with him. Until we believe that the treasure Christ has to give us is incomparable to the world's false offers, we will fail to live in Resurrection victory. Our heavenly Father tenderly yearns to grant us gifts that are beyond our deepest expectations. Will we surrender to the alluring victory of his sweeter song?

The world offers fleeting pleasure but imparts permanent destruction. Christ offers the cross, but gives eternal life!



# Did You Know That ...

...there is nothing small in the service of our God?

...love is not an emotion, but an act of the will?

...those who love are those who dare?

...all love, given or returned, is good?

...the only real happiness in life is to love and be loved?

...the sharing of God's love is an education in itself?

...there is no end to the learning of sharing God's love?

...in sharing our love, the journey is always towards the other soul?

...to love as Christ did is to place our happiness in the happiness of another?

...our living and loving makes us God-like?

...if we understand it properly, loving another is not so difficult a task?

...fundamentally to love another is to desire their eternal salvation?

...there is always someone more to love?

...love is the gift of oneself?

...hearts extend themselves in love insofar as the foundation is built upon the rock of Christ?

...many times the heart reveals the presence of love it would rather conceal?

...love and the gentle heart but one thing?

...when love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece?

...the course of true love often does not run smoothly?



## **"IF THERE IS AMONG YOU A POOR MAN . . ."**

**L**ong before our Lord instructed His followers to care for the needs of those less fortunate, Moses was issuing a similar directive to the Israelites whom he was leading to the Promised Land. In a lengthy, final discourse to his people that is found in the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy, Moses leaves them with this important message: "If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the cities in your land that the Lord is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor shut your hand from your poor brother; but you shall surely open your hands to him and willingly lend him, sufficient for his need, whatever he needs." (Deut. 15:7-8) He goes on to tell them that they must do so with the proper spirit - not grudgingly nor with any resentment in their hearts.

Christians have always been expected to heed these words as well, and, for the most part, we have. In the Book of Acts, we read that the early Church responded to the needs of the poor and the widows, feeding them and caring for them on a daily basis. As it grew and expanded through the years, the Church remained in the forefront of charitable work, establishing hospitals, nursing homes and "soup kitchens" tailored to fit the needs of those who were the neediest in society.

In these days of economic uncertainty in our own country, we must not lose sight of the fact that there are many who are less fortunate than us. A spirit of generosity must still exist in our hearts. Amidst our own personal struggles which may require sacrifices to meet our own needs, we must nonetheless continue to show compassion to the poor. Perhaps we cannot do as much as we would like to do but we all can do something to ease the suffering of the "least of our brethren."