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Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

November 6, 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

+++ This Tuesday we celebrate the solemn feast day of the Archangels, Michael and Gabriel. In anticipation, the vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Monday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise.

+++ Today, at 9: 15 AM, at the request of George & Debra Szmaida, we will celebrate the 40th day memory of her beloved departed aunt, +Anna Noveshalski, with a Memorial Service. We pray the merciful and gracious

Lord comfort George & Debra and their loved ones in their loss and that He create for the soul of +Anna blessed repose and grant for her 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.

+++ The THAKNSGIVING BAKE SALE will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 18, 19. Please secure orders and plan on lending your helping hands to assure its success.

+++The St. Nicholas Day Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 4 after the Divine Liturgy. We will have a visit from St. Nicholas and the Food Donation Sheet will be available next Sunday for sign ups.

+++ 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]; Kitchen, \$[REDACTED]; Fellowship, [REDACTED]; Food Coupons, \$[REDACTED]; Bulletin, [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, Mary Jaakobs, 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 \$112,000.00. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite and look forward to receiving additional and increased pledges from all our devoted parishioners.

+++ Please be certain to see a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$[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."

LORD



TEACH
US

Being Obedient To God

Would that they might always be of such a mind, to fear me and to keep all my commandments! Then they and their descendants would prosper forever Deuteronomy 5: 29.

If you fear the Lord and worship him, if you are obedient to him and do not rebel against the Lord's command, if both you and the king who rules you follow the Lord your God, well and good 1 Samuel 12: 14.

None of those who cry out, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of God but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Matthew 7: 21.

Observe my precepts and be careful to keep my regulations, for then you will dwell securely in the land. The land will yield its fruit and you will have food in abundance, so that you may live there without worry Leviticus 25: 18, 19.

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.

He who keeps the precept keeps his life, but the despiser of the word will die Proverbs 19: 16.

Therefore, if you listen to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine Exodus 19: 5.

Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. Happy are they who observe the decrees, who seek him with all their heart Psalms 119: 1, 2.

If you are willing and obey, you shall eat the good things of the land Isaiah 1: 19.

Once you know all these things, blessed will you be if you put them into practice John 13: 17.

LOVE OR INFATUATION???

Infatuation literally leaps into bloom. Love usually takes root slowly and grows one day at a time. It is slower and takes much longer because it must come to know the other person before it can love them. Infatuation is accompanied by a sense of uncertainty. Infatuation stimulates and thrills you, but you are not really happy or fulfilled. You are miserable when he is absent. You cannot wait until you see him again. Infatuation depends on the excitement of your emotions which change and are fleeting. Love is stable and depends on the act of your unchanging will to commit to another human being.

Love begins with a feeling of security. You are approaching and bonding with an equal. You are warm with a sense of his nearness, even when he is away. Miles do not separate you. You want him near. But near or far, he is committed to you and you can wait.

Infatuation says, "We must get married right away. I can't risk losing him." Love says, "Don't rush into anything. You are certain of one another. You can plan your future in leisure with confidence."

Infatuation has an element of sexual excitement. If you're honest, you will discover it is difficult to enjoy one another unless you know it will end in intimacy. Infatuation mistakes and confuses lust with love. Love is the maturation of friendship and mutual respect. You must be friends before you marry and become lovers.

Infatuation lacks confidence. When he's away, you wonder if he's with another girl. Sometimes you even check on him. Love means trust. You may fall into infatuation, but you never fall in love, you enter its blessings with both eyes open and freedom of will. Infatuation might lead you to do things for which you will be sorry, but genuine love never will. After all, our love for each other in marriage is a duplication of God's heavenly love for us! God uses us to express His love for our beloved.

Love elevates and lifts up. It makes you think affirmatively. It makes you a better person than you were before, than you were alone, than you were without the blessing of God's grace and a loving life partner!

Choose, then, enduring God-based love, not passing infatuation or self-destroying lust.

GOOD NEWS FOR PEOPLE ON THE GO...

All men complain they don't have enough time. They look at their lives from far too human a perspective. There is always time to do what God want us to do. After all, God created us for heaven. How can it be we don't have time for heaven here and now? We must put ourselves completely into each moment God offers us. If heaven is truly our eternal destiny, we must live it here and now.

"I went out, Lord, and men were coming and going, walking and running.

Everything was rushing: cars, trucks, the entire street, the whole town was afire with activity. Men were rushing not to waste time. They were rushing after time, to catch up with time, to gain time, to make up for time, to pursue time.

Good-bye Sir, excuse me, I haven't time. I'll come back. I can't wait. I haven't time. I'd love to help you, but I don't have time. I can't accept, having no time. I can't think. I can't read. I can't grow as God expects of me. I'm swamped. I haven't time. I'd like to pray, but I haven't time. My life is so filled I can't worship God. I don't have time

You understand, Lord, they simply don't have time. Life makes so many demands. The child is playing; he doesn't have time to pray or worship You, Lord. Later on...the school boy has his homework to do; he hasn't time. Later on, the student has his courses, and so much work, he can't come to church now. Later on the grandparents have their grandchildren...they haven't time to bring them to church; they are preoccupied, there is no time."

And so all men run after time, foolishly thinking they can live empty lives without God while pursuing their own nightmares, not dreams. In spite of all their efforts they still are short of time. God had enough time to create the world and all that is in it, but man doesn't have enough time to do his job, worship God and save his soul. Lord, you must have made a mistake in Your calculations! There is a big mistake somewhere. The hours are too short, the days are not long enough, our lives overlap.

We forget, dear Lord, time is the gift You gave us to save our souls. Time is the period in which we are to sustain ourselves on this earth and make ourselves worthy of paradise. Why is it, Lord, we have time for everything else, but we don't have time for You? Why can't we do what You asked us to do? Why can't we keep Sunday as Your day, O Lord? Time is a gift that You gave us, but time is perishable. We cannot spend time, it must be invested. If we don't invest it in eternity, we will literally run out of time.

Lord, I truly have time. All the time that You give me, I dedicate to You, the years of my life, the days of my years, the hours and minutes of my days. They are all mine, so they are all Yours. Mine to fulfill completely, Yours to sanctify and elevate and use in drawing me into Your eternal kingdom. May I always have enough time to dedicate to You, to offer to You, with which to worship You!

Why not keep a record journal for one week of how you spend your time and see where it goes?

What are your priorities? What are your necessities?

How much time does Christ get? Is He simply an option or a diversion?

How much time do you give to the Church? How much time do you offer to God in prayer and worship?

How much time do you spend in an attempt to keep yourself healthy by doctor's visits and appointments?

Compare that with how much time you invest in seeking help from the Divine Physician in the sacramental Mystery of Anointing with Oil and Reconciliation, or the confession of sins?

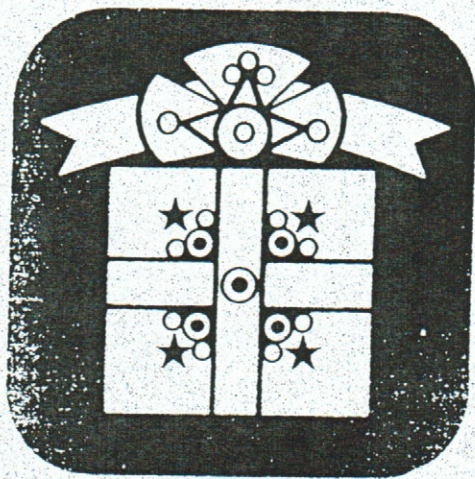
Time lost to God is usually ends up being spent with a doctor. But a doctor cannot save the soul even if he had all the time in the world! We must be very careful in our rush through life, we don't simply run past heaven!

What Is A Parish?

"What I have to say here may come as a shock to the great majority of Orthodox in America. Yet it is a self-evident fact that the parish as we have come to know it now, i.e., as an organization with lay officers, by-laws, finances, property, meetings, elections, etc., is a very recent phenomenon and exists in fact, only exclusively within the "disapora." Parishes in traditional Orthodox countries do not operate nor are they established in the way we observe here in America. What we take as normative and natural form of the Church's existence is not at all so clearly visible in the tradition of the Church and what we witness here is not at all normative. The "parish" as we know it today, is, in spite of its religious connotations, and this may come as a second shock, is a product of secularization, or rather, that in the process of its development within the American way of life, has accepted a secularistic basis which little by little dissolves the ultimate seriousness of that which it claims to serve, and to be, the Church of Christ. Many Orthodox parishes mislead the general public because they in reality have nothing in fact to do with Christ or salvation. To understand this one must briefly analyze the genesis and the development of the Orthodox parish in America."

"The first thing Orthodox immigrants did as they settled in America was to build churches. The church was a self-evident, organized part of their life in the old country. It became their first need in the new world. It was a need for the church, for genuine worship, for the sacramental Mysteries, for the possibility to baptize, to marry and bury, not for a "parish" as understood so many times today, but rather for a parish in the old traditional sense of the word, a place where one could authentically worship together with others and have a religious and spiritual term of reference for all of life. It is what secularists in our midst were permitted to do with our parishes since then that has aroused the notice of religious people. Every evil screams only one message; "I am good." This is what we have heard far too long to believe it and far too long not to do something positive about addressing the true purpose of the parish in the Orthodox Church. God Himself stands before us in our parishes, not in greatness and glory, for then we would submit ourselves to Him as cowardly slaves. He stands instead, before us in a crown of thorns and a purple robe, suffering as realistically as He did then. It is only in relation to Him that we are free, as Pilate was free, and in this freedom each of us determines his own eternal destiny, following Him or secularism." Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemman, from *Celebration Of Faith, Sermons Vol. 1*, St. Vladimir Seminary Press.

Does God ever think, "But I gave it to them to enjoy?"



Did you ever wonder what God must think? How it must sadden Him, Who has given us everything we have, when He sees us get anxious, upset, and plagued with ulcers over what He intended for us to enjoy? To better understand, let us cast this question in terms of our own children. We give them toys for their birthday, games at Christmas, maybe a Cabbage Patch Doll here and a set of building blocks there. Very soon they have a whole playroom full of things to enjoy. And that pleases us very much, because that is why we gave them to them in the first place -- TO ENJOY!! They are gifts of our grace, given because we love them. We get deep satisfaction watching them enjoy our gifts.

Then, lo and behold, one day we peek into the playroom, and there is little Billy, sitting on the floor, completely taken up with his building blocks. He is surrounded by other things, waiting for him to enjoy when he wants them. But, for the moment, they go unnoticed, because he can only enjoy one thing at a time. Right now, though, his world is all building blocks, and he is happy. Then his little sister slips in the door unnoticed, and casually kneels down by the fire truck with a real hook and ladder. In just mo-

ments, she is taken up with that, thoroughly enjoying herself and the toy. Suddenly Billy catches a glance at sis out of the corner of his eye. Just as suddenly, his face tightens up and turns red. With a stern and determined look, he springs to his feet and makes a lunge for sis's fire truck. From four rooms away you hear Billy's voice, distorted by screams and cries and shouts, all underline with a loud, ugly, "THAT'S MINE!!!"

You rush to the playroom, and Billy is no longer happy. Neither are you! What you gave him to enjoy has turned into a source of distress for both of you. You scold him for being selfish, and it dawns on you that you are now grieving -- grieving because what you gave him to enjoy has brought out the very worst in him. Your gift of grace has turned into a cause for much unhappiness. You are sorry you ever gave them, and you are tempted to take them all back. After all, what was intended to be a blessing has soured into a curse of sorts.

Does God, the Giver of all, ever look down on the 'playrooms' and the 'toyboxes' of our lives - which He has filled so graciously because He loves us - and grieve over His generosity? You see, He has filled our lives with good things, things from the bounty of His hand. They were for us to enjoy. They were also for us to share. **Even when we share a generous portion of them, we still have more than we can use. The Bible calls this "proportionate giving." It is the reality that all we have comes from God, and as stewards of these gifts, God asks us to return and to share a portion of them - just a small portion. WHAT MUST GOD THINK WHEN HE SEES US CLUTCH THEM AND HOLD THEM TIGHT? WHAT MUST HE THINK WHEN WHAT HE GAVE US TO ENJOY BRINGS OUT THE VERY WORST IN US? WHEN IT TURNS INTO A SOURCE OF ANXIETY AND FRUSTRATION?**

Does God ever think, "But I gave it to them to enjoy?" It's just a thought - a stewardship thought!!

A Prayer to Accept Change

Just when I thought I had it all figured out, Lord,
things change again.

When will I be able to rest
in the comfort of knowing what comes next?

You, who transcend all time,
who created the stars and set them in place,
you who are ageless yet known in every age,
grant me the grace to accept
the changes that are happening.

Empty my heart of anxiety,
and fill it instead with wonder and awe.
Release me from the chains of complacency,
and bind me to your ever-moving Spirit.

When the things I believed to be permanent and stable
are left by the wayside,
enfold me in your undying love
that I may remember in whom all things are bound.

When fear of something new paralyzes me,
and grief cripples me with anger
over the loss of what had been,
send your angels to give me a gentle push
over that frightening edge into the unknown,
so that I may learn to trust in you.

For you alone are eternal.
You alone are enduring.
You alone are the everlasting Lord.
And in you alone will this restless world find peace.
Amen.

Did You Know That ...

- ...if you walk with Christ, you can't run with the world?
- ...faith is simply taking God at His word?
- ...you will be able to trust Scripture when you have come to trust its author?
- ...a complaining Christian is a contradiction in terms?
- ...to hear God speak, read Scripture carefully and study it prayerfully?
- ...many give their lives for their country, but Jesus gave His life for the world?
- ...the cross reveals God's heart for the lost?
- ...nothing can shake those who are secure in the hands of God?
- ...the Resurrection is God's answer of hope to man's cry of despair?
- ...discouragement is one of the devil's most effective weapons?
- ...to become Christ-like, fill your mind with Christ-like thoughts?
- ...satan often disguises error with a veneer of truth?
- ...two of the most important parts of prayer are "Thank You"?
- ...the symbol of our faith is a cross, not an easy chair?
- ...Calvary's cross reveals man's hatred for God and God's love for man?
- ...death is the last chapter of time, but the first chapter of eternity?
- ...live as if Christ died yesterday, arose this morning and is coming back tomorrow?
- ...for the believer, death means heaven and happiness and reigning together with Christ?



Birthday
Wishes!

We are pleased to greet those of our faithful communicants who celebrate their birthday this month. Our Lord has offered these souls yet another year of blessed life. The most obvious way He blesses us and participates in our life is by sharing his divine life with us in the Eucharist at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Thus we gather together and offer thanks for yet another year of life blessed by his most gracious hands. Today, we prayerfully remember in the Divine Liturgy the following souls who celebrate their birthday during this month:

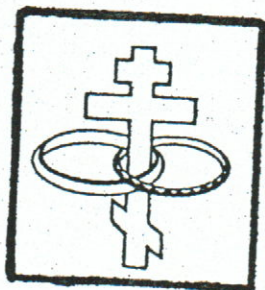
November 16 Frank Pashos

November 26 Debra Lee Szmaida

November 27 Eleanor Korba

With a prayerful heart and grateful soul, our parish faith community asks the Lord to continue to bless these birthday celebrants with good spiritual and physical health for the coming year. We invite all to add their personal intercessory prayers so that with one voice and one heart we may also participate in the grace and joy of their celebration. As we wish them a happy and blessed celebration of their birthday, our ardent prayer resounds that the Lord our God will continue to bless them for

Many and Blessed Years!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The Byzantine Fathers of the Church were wont to emphasize how ancient and how venerable marriage is in the sight of our God because it was established yet in paradise before the fall of Adam and Eve and brought to blessed perfection by Christ in Cana of Galilee. Its grace survived the sin of our first parents and it remains a sign of the presence of the Holy Trinity in our midst. It is a living symbol of the deep and abiding love between Christ and His Bride, our blessed Church. It is characterized in the liturgical life of the Church as a happy martyrdom. And it is precisely for this reason the sacramental Mystery of Marriage is such a joyous event. On the third Sunday of this month, we honor those of our good parishioners who observe their marriage anniversaries this month of November. They are specially remembered in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and subsequently receive an individual and personal blessing of the Lord at its conclusion. Celebrating this month are:

November 3 Anna & William Zacharyczuk
November 5 Miguel & Maria Garcia

We gratefully give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for having guided and strengthened the marriages of these believers, and their cooperation with sacramental grace to remain faithful to one another over the years. Like all who are faithful to Christ, they recognize the presence and necessity of the Holy Spirit not only in the marriage, but in subsequent family life as well. As we praise our God for their witness in our midst, let us also join them with our prayers and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lord. May they continue to praise His Holy Name by their love and devotion to one another for

Many and Blessed Years

THE ROLE OF ANGELS IN GOD'S CREATION



he Nicene Creed proclaims that God is the "Creator of Heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible." Just who are these invisible entities created by our Heavenly Father? They are angels. According to the Scriptures and Holy Tradition, the Orthodox Church has provided us with the names of seven leaders of the heavenly powers. Perhaps the best known is the Archangel Michael. Michael in Hebrew means "Who is equal to God?" Of course, no one is like God - that is why he captained the army that drove Lucifer from heaven, for in his pride, Lucifer believed himself to be God's equal. Gabriel ("power of God") is known for being God's chosen messenger. He is best remembered for announcing to the Virgin Mary that she was to give birth to Christ. Raphael means "God's healing." For this reason, he is often depicted holding a physician's

jar in his hand. The fourth angel with which we are familiar is Uriel - "light of God." We usually see Uriel holding a sword in his right hand and a burning branding iron in his left. Angel #5 - Jegudiel - literally means "one who glorifies God." We often find Jegudiel bearing a golden wreath in one hand and a whip in the other. Barachiel, another of the angels known by name, is commonly found wearing a white rose on his breast. His name is translated as "the blessing of God." Finally, we find the angel Salathiel - "one who prays with God." Fittingly enough, Salathiel is depicted in a posture of prayer, with hands folded and head bowed. What purpose do angels serve? They constantly minister at God's Holy Throne. They are God's messengers, who serve Him in whatever way He desires. Finally, they fill the important role as our protectors and guardians.

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