



# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

December 4, 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

+++ We thank all who participate in and make today's St. Nicholas Luncheon a success. Through the intercession of St. Nicholas of Myra, may all our faithful be blessed with good physical and spiritual health for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ Our Pirohi Sale for the month is this Saturday. The Bake Sale is the following Week. Please secure orders.



+++ Tuesday is the feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, Wonderworker. In anticipation, the vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Monday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please join us in prayer and praise. Confessions are heard prior to the celebration.

+++ We will be having until the Feast of the Nativity a Basket Collection of foods for the local food pantry in assisting those in need. Please bring your donation in as soon as possible and place it in the basket in the vestibule. We thank you in advance for your consideration of food and accompanying prayer on their behalf.

+++ A donor is needed for the candles for the Nativity of our Lord feast day. Please see Father.

+++ 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.

+++ Each Monday evening at 7: 30PM we have prayer devotions with homily in preparing for the coming of the Lord among us. Please be certain to invest time and soul in this worthy cause. COME, LORD JESUS!

+++ The offering for flowers to beautify our parish church on the feast of the Nativity of our Lord will be taken TODAY. Please be generous with your sacrificial offering.

+++ 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]; Food Coupons, \$[REDACTED]; Kitchen, \$[REDACTED]; Holyday, \$[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 [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!





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:

**December 2 Pani Mary Buletza**

**December 2 Father Robert E Lucas**

**December 3 Nikitas Tsokris**

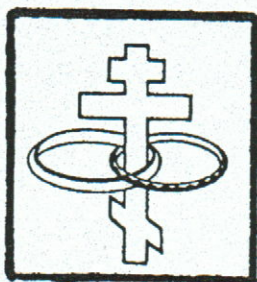
**December 18 Mary Jaakobs**

**December 29 Robert E. Henry**

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. 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:

**December 2 Joseph F. & Kyra A. Choti**

**December 6 Robert & Joan Henry**

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**



LORD



TEACH  
US

### When We Are Impatient

*Do not grow lazy, but imitate those who through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises* Hebrews 6: 12.

*But not only that – we even boast of our afflictions! We know that affliction makes for endurance, and endurance for tested virtue, and tested virtue for hope. And this hope will not leave us disappointed because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us* Romans 5: 3 – 5.

*Everything written before our time was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from the lessons of patience and the words of encouragement in the Scriptures. May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the spirit of Christ Jesus* Romans 15: 4, 5.

*Therefore since we for our part are surrounded by this cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every encumbrance of sin which clings to us and persevere in running the race which lies ahead* Hebrews 12: 1.

*Realize that when your faith is tested this makes for endurance. Let endurance come to its perfection so that you may be fully mature and lacking in nothing* James 1: 3, 4.

*Do not, then, surrender your confidence; it will have great reward. You need patience to do God's will and receive what he has promised. For just a brief moment and he who is to come will come; he will not delay* Hebrews 10: 35 – 37.

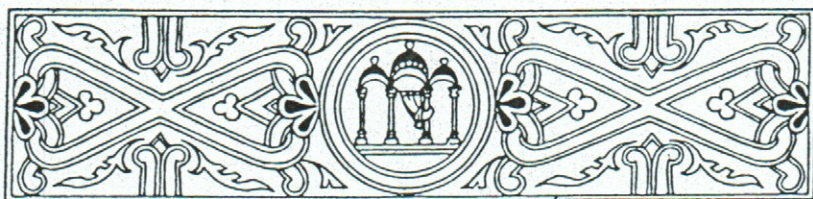
*Be patient, therefore, my brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil. He looks forward to it patiently while the soil receives the winter and spring rains. You, too, must be patient. Steady your hearts because the coming of the Lord is at hand* James 5: 7, 8.



## Testimony Of A Pagan

A non-Christian, Aristides was driven to defend faithful Christians before the Roman Emperor, Hadrian as they were being persecuted and put to death by the thousands.

*Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows; they save orphans from those who would hurt them. If a man has something, he gives freely to the man who has nothing. If they see a stranger, Christians take him home and are happy, as though he were a real and natural brother. And they don't consider themselves brothers in the usual sense, but brothers instead through the Holy Spirit in God. And if they hear that one of them is in jail, or persecuted for professing the name of their Redeemer, they all give him what he needs. If it is possible, they bail him out. If one of them is poor and there isn't enough food to go around, they fast several day to give him the food he needs. This is really a new kind of person and there is something divine in them.*



## ELI in the Flesh Again???

Saint John Chrysostom talks of the terrible punishment that awaits the father who neglects his child's upbringing. There is a story of a priest who had two sons who were filled with every vice. When the father was forced to reproach them, he did so without the necessary fervor and authority to put a stop to the outrage. They offended God who gave them their existence, and yet the father still accepted them as part of his family. They needed a treatment as strong as the evil. Finally when a war broke out, these two became the spoils of the enemy. Upon learning of their demise, the father fell to the ground, smashing his head and died also.



# Renewing *Family Life*

The Church's view on marriage and family is better than what the secular world offers, and we should proclaim and live this vision with grace and love.

Family life in much of the western world is changing, and mostly not for the good. In the wake of its collapse we witness the unraveling of the fabric of society at every level. Believers for years on end have sought to preserve and strengthen family life through their commitment to Christ in the life of His Body, the Church. We therefore wish to bring new attention to the importance of the family not just for the Church, but also for society in general.

## **First Building Block**

The Church places so much emphasis on the family because in God's plan the family is the original cell of social life. In



creating human beings God intended that the first and basic human society would be a natural communion in which a man and a woman come together as husband and wife. In love they would give themselves fully and completely to each other in both the gift of love and the gift of life. This is the first foundational block in all human social development. If the family is sound, wholesome and healthy, then there is every expectation that the society constructed on and around such building blocks will also be sound, healthy and enduring.

When we speak about the family as the first building block of the human community, or as being its original cell, we address the human phenomenon of relationships beginning with a husband and a wife, then their children, the wider family, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc., and eventually all those other communities – educational, cultural, social, economic, political and of course, religious and spiritual – of which they become a real part. We are made in God's image and marriage is a continuing sign of the communion between God and His people, and that as goes the family, so goes everything that rests upon this foundation. If the original cell or foundational building block is distorted or damaged in any way, neither the body of which it is a cell nor the edifice of which it is the foundation can long endure.

### **Marriage, Family Under Assault**

From one perspective we are witnessing the consequences of the collapse of the



original, basic foundation block. Of course, there have been failed marriages and irresponsible parents in the past. The bad examples of broken marriages and dysfunctional families abound. In earlier ages, this condition was recognized as failure. Today, by contrast, it is the very institution of marriage and the family itself that are under assault. In our time, we are recognizing an extensive and perhaps overwhelming collapse of individual families precisely because society no longer supports the basic and essential values on which families rest and the community is built.

Believers must recognize the disturbing degradation of some fundamental values: a mistaken theoretical and practical concept of the independence of the spouses in relation to each other; serious misconceptions regarding the relationship of authority between parents and children; the concrete difficulties that the family itself experiences in the transmission of values; the growing number of divorces; the scourge of abortion; the ever more frequent recourse to sterilization; the appearance of a truly contraceptive mentality which in turn alters and diminishes human dignity and integrity.

In contrast to many in society who put forth alternate views of human sexuality, marriage and the family, the Church continues to promote and uphold a vision of the partnership of man and woman, the communion of marriage, the wondrous dignity of family life, the wholesome goodness of the marital commitment to love, life and salvation for eternity. If we



seriously look to Church teaching, we find an understanding of family life that is not replicated in the secular society in which we live. By tradition, in the life of the believing Body, the Church, there is a beautiful ideal of marriage and family life that totally corresponds to God's plan, our true happiness and what we are called to sustain as faithful followers of Christ.

At the core of the Church's teaching of family life is God's plan for the human race that is set forth so majestically in the book of Genesis. Male and female God created them, in the image and likeness of God He created them. God looked on all that He made and found it was good (cf. Genesis 1: 27, 28).

The initial plan of creation called for man and the woman to come together to form a society of mutual support. "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him" Genesis 2: 18. This partnership is to be permanent so that both partners would receive the mutual support and care they would need to get through life and to provide the enduring context in which the fruit of their love – their children – could be raised, educated, nurtured and prepared for life on their own as the next and succeeding generation of family life.

This initial revelation and teaching was confirmed explicitly by Jesus Christ Himself. When some, in order to test Him asked whether it was lawful for "...a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatsoever..." Matthew 19: 3, Jesus replied, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male



and female and said, 'for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate" Matthew 19: 4 – 6.

Among the "hard" sayings of Jesus, this has become a particularly challenging one for many people today. For example, statistics show that one of every two marriages in the United States ends in divorce and the rate continues to climb. Perhaps what Jesus was teaching all of us is that it is impossible to sustain a loving, permanent relationship in marriage through all of the difficulties of life without the firm commitment, that, in spite of all the trials and tribulations, the partnership will endure. The couple must decide in the depth of their hearts that the marriage *will* work. And that is totally impossible from a worldly perspective. It becomes reality only in the life of the Body of Christ, the Church, sustained as it is by the grace of the Holy Spirit Who is called upon to become a living reality and part of the marriage mystery.

In a society that so easily sets aside personal commitment, we should not be surprised that marriage is in a state of decline. We ourselves should be positive and faithful to God's revelation. We should be highly responsible ourselves, calling upon heavenly grace to sustain us in our personal family and marriage commitment. It would be not far off the mark to say our secular society's denial of the intimate connection between sexual activity and the marriage bond is



responsible for most of the unraveling of family and, therefore, community life in our time.

Once the principle is established and generally accepted that sexual activity should be wholly and totally detached from the generation of children, and that sex is simply for personal recreational satisfaction alone and carries with it no particular relationship either to a committed bond of partnership or to the education and raising of children, a serious dysfunction and profound misunderstanding occurs. We experience it today in an ever growing number of children who cannot identify in any meaningful sense with their parents, and parents who are not in any realistic sense participants in sustaining, educating and developing their offspring for the greater glory of God and their own inherent dignity.

### **The Domestic Church**

The Church has from its inception proclaimed another entirely different vision of the family. It is the "domestic Church." It is a sign and an image of the communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit just as the Church itself and every believer is to be a realization of the love of God within us through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is personalizing and making our own what Christ taught and the Church promotes and advances.

The fundamental task of the Christian family is its ecclesial work. The family is placed at the service of building up of the kingdom of God in history by participating in the life and mission of the Church, by



enfleshing its teachings in its own developmental life. In this view the family is not incidental to what happens in the unfolding of God's kingdom but is an integral part of it.

Within the confines of the family we find the Church in miniature. Here in its own way the family is a living image and likeness in our time and historical representation of the mystery of the Church in its relationship with Christ. The wonder of this image is that God would choose a couple, their heaven-blessed commitment in marriage and family life, and elevate this communion to be a means of sharing new life physically and in grace. What is initiated in time will be transformed and completed in eternity.

We should not be surprised at the contrast then between the Church's expectations surrounding marriage, and what is anticipated in the secular understanding. The contrast is vivid and also crucial. One brings about the possibility of a stable, life-long communion and the other is predicated upon temporary convenience and contrivance.

The picture of family life painted by the Church is summed up when we come to see and recognize the conjugal community is established upon the covenant and consent of the spouses. Marriage and family life are ordered to the good and fulfillment and completion of the spouses, to the procreation and education of children.



We should never be surprised or dismayed if those who view life differently than we do and who hold another set of values continue to advocate contrary views. We hold a better, fuller vision for society because its source is God and its hope is God. In being knowledgeable, we can then elevate for all to understand our fuller, more complete and total vision for family life and marriage. We need also to be active and engaged in the struggle if we hope to preserve family life and its importance for our nation, our community, our Church, ourselves and certainly, for the protection and nurture of our children.

The Church intimately identifies with us in rearing our children in a wholesome atmosphere, in God-like way, to their maturity and fulfillment.

### **Our Challenge Today**

The future of humanity passes by way of the family. Within the confines of family life is the future of humanity nurtured. This is a particularly powerful message, and why we as individual believers uphold, protect and sustain it.

Our Church is committed to it. Our parish must be a personification of healthy, vibrant and zealous family life. It is vital that we all reflect on it and the role we must individually play to uphold and strengthen family life in our midst. Into the family are born those who constitute the next generation. It is in our parish family life that we constitute true believers in the sacramental Mysteries. It is here that the context for salvation is created and lived. It is here that we make enduring the teaching and values of Christ. It is in our



families that we put into practice all that we learn from the Lord. Thus has it been from the beginning and so it shall be throughout human history.

Ours is a healthy heritage as well as salvific one. It must be upheld and perpetuated. What is passed on is the traditional heritage of each successive generation. If we are successful in teaching our blessed faith, in forming character and in nurturing virtue, then the culture and society that we created will be all the better and certainly, blessed and encouraged by heavenly grace. If we fail, that too will be reflected in our society and we will be failures not only as parents and progenitors of life, but as human beings. It is not an exaggeration to say that the future of humanity passes by the way of the family. If the family is sound, if it is stable, so will our social and cultural life be as well.

This is also true of our blessed faith. It is in our homes and in the solidarity of our family life that our first awareness of God, His grace, His presence, and our response in prayer and faith commitment are nurtured. To the extent that the family is successful in its religious and spiritual mission, the Church will be successful in hers. Christ will have entered and touched our very lives. And if we in the family are devoted, Christ will continue to have a vital influence.

In our parish, we must have the very real tradition of upholding the family as God's gift to human society, as its first building block and as an expression of God's Church among us, reflected in the fidelity



of the domestic Church. Today every communicant of the Church needs to be prepared to speak out in defense of the family. We can be confident that our acts, individually and collectively, which support wholesome and healthy family life will ultimately benefit our nation, our local community and the Body of Christ itself.

Let us zealously accept the challenge to recommit ourselves to vibrant family life, to its vision for the future which lead us to salvation for all eternity.



# Did You Know That ...

...some people pay so much attention to their reputation, they easily lose their character?

...nothing is impossible to the man who does not have to do it himself?

...they talk most who have the least to say?

...some people do not listen to the voice of conscience because they do not know what channel it is on?

...when parents cannot control their children in the home, it becomes impossible for the government to control them on the streets?

...our parish should be better because you belong to it?

...our conscience does not get its guidance from the Gallup poll, but from the infallible teaching of our Saviour?

...envy provides the mud that failure throws at success?

...many a man pursues wisdom, but he does not always catch up with it?

...laziness is an overwhelming love for physical calm?

...a scandal is one thing that has to be really bad to be really good?

...those Orthodox Christians who are looking for the salvation of their souls at the eleventh hour usually die at ten thirty?

...almost anything can be bought at a reduced price except the salvation of our souls?

...keeping one's mouth closed keeps a lot of ignorance from dripping out?

...to worry about what we cannot help is useless; to worry about what we can help is stupid?

...satan is not as black as he is painted; in fact he is more like us than we care to admit?







## St. Nicholas Of Myra

In St. Matthew's gospel we are reminded by our Saviour today on this feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and patron saint of our blessed Church: "GIVE to him who asks of you; do not TURN YOUR BACK on the borrower" Matthew 5: 42

There seems nothing so poignant to us as a lost shoe, especially the small shoe of a child. There it is sitting forlorn in the street, a silent tribute to unfulfilled promise, to seemingly senseless waste, to misguided humanity. When you see the lost shoe of a child, you long to reunite it with its owner. You want to fill the shoe again with a warm but needy foot. How different the feeling when you see the empty shoes of children put out at times of faithful believers on the eve of the feast of St. Nicholas!

There are empty shoes too, but nevertheless shoes of hope, expectation, loving anticipation and family warmth. It is easy in our materialistic age to fill these shoes with treasures and gifts. Oh, how much harder it is to fill these lost shoes on the street! How much harder to fill the empty soul, the broken body, the abused and sick soul with love, with wholeness, with healing, with devoted care, as it was created by our Lord himself yet in paradise!

We must not close our hearts to the lost ones of the world; we must not let them pass us without noticing and doing something to assist and strengthen them. We even seek them out, helping them affirming them, praying with them, not only suffering with them, but healing them and making them whole once again in the name of the Lord and by His power. It should be our vocation as believers to help fill the shoes of the needy, to heal the sick and console the sorrowing and to transform by the grace of Christ those who so desperately need him.

Just as St. Nicholas by the pious tradition of our blessed church has come where he is invited and wanted, so too, our Lord comes where the door has been opened and we have prepared for his coming. If we want him among us, we will do all that is necessary for him to come. We will make ready and prepare. We will anticipate and rejoice on this feast day because it shows us our God is a good God. He is easy with us, tender and loving. He does not lay down burdens that our sins deserve or that are equal to our failures. If we look into our souls, we will soon realize He whispers to us in our pleasures, He speaks to us in our conscience and He shouts to us in our pain and agony.



Our anxiety and our sickness is God's megaphone. It comes to us, some mystics tell us, because we have ignored our loving Father in every other way. It is many times the only way He can get our attention to save our soul. This puts us alone with God so that we can honestly face ourselves and our relationships with him. God is constantly calling us to stop squirming in our daily pain and listen carefully to him. We are all prompted to ask the questions addressed to our heavenly Father by the Psalmist, "How long must I bear pain in my soul" Psalms 13: 2?

We might also rephrase it and redirect it downward and inward to ourselves: "How long is it going to take me to come to a total commitment of my life to God in His Body, our Church?"

The faith St. Nicholas exemplifies in his life daily is the same faith response our Lord desires to see in our commitment to him in the life of the Church. He calls us to make real and show faith response every day of our lives. He calls us to respond to faith commitment in the requests for healing in his day and even now show our manifestation of faith so that we can be forgiven, so that we can walk again, so that we can regain our spiritual health in vigor, so that our brokenness is made whole, so that our pain will be brought to nothing, so that we will be convinced He is our God and truly live that conviction without any doubts each and every day. We will be anointed with the myrrh oil from the tomb of St. Nicholas as a special blessing from heaven on this his holy feast day!





## ST. NICHOLAS



O glorious St. Nicholas, my special protector and intercessor, enjoying the divine presence, I ask you to cast your eyes piously upon me and to ask of the Lord both for grace and assistance whether spiritual or temporal, necessary for my present needs. I ask you to secure especially .....if it is expedient for my eternal salvation. O great and holy bishop be mindful also of the needs of all those who have asked me to pray for them and whose great number and needs sometimes overwhelms me.



## A SAINTLY EXAMPLE OF PURITY



**T**HE GREAT MARTYR BARBARA lived and suffered during the reign of the Emperor Maximian in the early years of the 4th century. Her pagan father Dioscorus was so protective of her that he placed her in a tower so that she could have no contact with anyone he considered to be unworthy. Alone in her tower, Barbara would often ponder the beauty of creation that she could study from her lofty perch. She was able to reach the conclusion that all of this was the work of the One, True God.

When Barbara became old enough to marry, her father brought her many suitors, whom she rejected one by one. Thinking she might change her mind if she was exposed to the world outside her tower, Dioscorus allowed her to leave and mingle with others. Little did he realize that many of the new people she met were Christians! Soon Barbara became one of them herself.

Upon returning from a trip, Dioscorus was furious to find that Barbara had cut a cross into one of her marble walls. When she told him that she was a Christian, he tried to kill her with his sword. Barbara was able to flee and hide on a nearby mountain, but the next day, her father captured her and took her to the local governor for execution. She willingly submitted to brutal torture and ultimately to martyrdom, understanding that this was the greatest way she could show her love for Christ. Before dying, Barbara prayed to God that everyone who would remember her in prayer should not be subjected to a sudden death and deprived of receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

She met her end by the merciless hand of her father. Divine justice prevailed though, as Dioscorus was struck down and killed that same day.

**The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin** . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.