

## **THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN . . . . VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY**

**PRAISE GOD - FOR THEGRACE AND LOVE HE HAS BETOWED UON US.**

### **SAYING THANKS THROUGH PRAYER**

**Saint Paul writes in his first letter to the Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”**

**The idea of giving thanks is woven throughout the fabric of our Church. There are many moving accounts of God’s people thanking Him in the Old Testament. Many times it involved building altars as an OUTWARD, sign of their INWARD gratitude. Plenty of the Psalms are beautiful songs of thanksgiving to God. As noted in the Gospels, Christ Himself thanks His Heavenly Father. The essence of the Divine Liturgy each Sunday, is the Eucharist. Communion is celebrated each Sunday we gather in the House of God. We petition, thank and praise our Lord through this common partaking of His Body and Blood.**

**Yet another way of expressing thanks is through prayer. Our prayers can be classified into 3 unique types: Asking, thanking, and praising. All 3 are necessary for a full relationships with God. The beginning of our Christian experience is the asking for God’s forgiveness. When this is sincerely done, we are guaranteed His forgiveness. The natural response is to thank God for all that He has given us. Foods, clothing, shelter, health, and wealth are simply the beginning of what God has bestowed upon us. A growing relationship with our Lord Almighty eventually leads to praising Him for His goodness, truth, and love.**

**As Christians, we use prayer to thank God for each blessing He has given us. Go forth and SHOW everyone what it means to be thankful.**