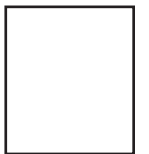

***Orthodox Cathedral of
Christ the Saviour***
16601 NW 77th Court
Hialeah, FL 33016



VOICE OF ORTHODOXY

Orthodox Cathedral of Christ the Saviour ✨ September 2011



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Cosmic Journey:

The Calendar as a Spiritual Tool

September 1st is the Church New Year. It begins again the cycle of our annual worship. We see this mapped out on our church wall calendars, as well as in a highlighted version that comes in the monthly newsletter.

Why is the calendar so important to us Orthodox Christians? How is it useful to us?

I'd like to first point out that the calendar is an important tool for every Orthodox Christian and is meant to be used regularly. We should not be dismissive or passive about this useful tool. It is available to us in order to help us better direct our attention to the Faith itself. That means it is a tool of instruction whereby, through its use, we have the opportunity learn and gain greater understanding of Holy Orthodoxy.

If I'm going to plan a journey to somewhere, then it's important that I have a good map (or GPS these days). The Orthodox calendar is a kind of map of our Faith. It charts out the events of God's revelation to us in Jesus Christ. If used correctly and attentively, it will place us on a cosmic journey which will point us squarely in the direction towards the knowledge of God. The church calendar has done this

in past generations and continues to do it to the present.

It is a map of remembrance: showing the work and involvement of God through human history, and the great people of faith who responded to Him.

It is a map of our salvation: revealing the events surrounding our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Virgin from the Bible and Tradition of the Church.

It is a map of doctrine: offering us teaching of the divine truths.

It is a map of spiritual action: encouraging us toward the basic works of prayer and fasting, of mercy and forgiveness.

As you can see, the church calendar is much more than a simple wall calendar. It beckons us to embark on the journey of faith.

If taken seriously, it will train us to come to the church for the great feasts and festivals of our Orthodox Faith. If followed carefully, it will move us toward a deeper knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ. What a blessing to embark on this journey of faith!

Wishing you a wonderful and holy New Church Year!

- Fr. Philip Reese





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Visit our website for news, announcements and changes to our schedule.

www.OrthodoxMiami.org

Ancient worship. Ancient teachings.
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Clergy

- Archpriest Philip Reese
Senior Pastor
- Priest Joseph Lucas
Assistant to Pastor
- Hierodeacon Gregory (Burke)
Attached
- Subdeacons**
- Christopher (Randolph) LaCroix
- Alexander Dimich
- Readers**
- Dionysi (Charles) Doten
- Christopher Herbert
- Stephen Butcher

Council

- Gary Popovich
Senior Steward
- Christopher Herbert
Secretary
- Jim Shiskin
Treasurer
- Alex Pouschine
Assistant Treasurer
- Les Bowser
- Stephen Butcher
- Charles Doten
- Jennifer Lemieux
- Mary Perkins
- Natalya Kochneva (alt)



Christ the Savior Orthodox Cathedral
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 305-822-0437 | 305-822-0842 (f) | 305-825-9541 (h)



SEPTEMBER 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Aug 28 8:30 Matins 10:00 Liturgy Back to School Molieban 2 PM Vespers | Aug 29 Beheading of the Baptist 10 AM Divine Liturgy Fast: Strict fast | Aug 30 | Aug 31 Fast | 1 10:30 Molieban for Church New Year followed by Adult Bible Study | 2 Fast | 3 5:00 Adult Study 6:00 Vespers & Confessions |
| 4 8:30 Matins 10:00 Divine Liturgy | 5 | 6 | 7 7:00 Great Vespers Fast | 8 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS 9:00 Matins 10:00 Divine Liturgy 11:30 Bible Study | 9 Fast | 10 Consecration of St James Church in Port St Lucie 5:00 Adult Study 6:00 Vespers & Confessions |
| 11 8:30 Matins 10:00 Divine Liturgy 12:00 Orthodox Movie-time | 12 | 13 7:00 Great Vespers | 14 ELEVATION OF THE CROSS 9:00 Matins 10:00 Divine Liturgy Fast: wine & oil | 15 10:30 Bible Study | 16 Fast | 17 5:00 Adult Study 6:00 Vespers & Confessions |
| 18 8:30 Matins 10:00 Divine Liturgy | 19 | 20 | 21 7:00 Evening Akathist Fast | 22 10:30 Bible Study | 23 6:30 Teen Overnighter Fast | 24 5:00 Adult Study 6:00 Vespers & Confessions |
| 25 8:30 Matins 10:00 Divine Liturgy Annual Parish Meeting | 26 | 27 | 28 Fast | 29 10:30 Bible Study | 30 7:00 Great Vespers Fast | Oct 1 Protection of the Theotokos 10:00 Divine Liturgy 5:00 Adult Study 6:00 Vespers & Confessions |



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOVIE-TIME AT OCCS

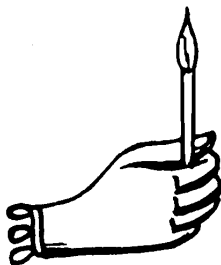
Join us one Sunday each month for an Orthodox movie or documentary, with superb sound and wall projection!

Sunday, September 11 after coffee hour.

Christ the Saviour Cathedral congratulates Fr Ernesto and the members of St James Orthodox Mission (Port St Lucie, FL) on the occasion of the consecration of their new temple.

If you would like to attend to consecration on Saturday, September 10, call Fr Ernesto Rios at 772-878-0338

In need of our prayers



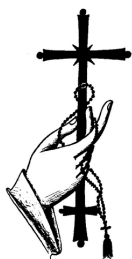
- Katheryn LaCroix / Anna McGregor
- Lidia Brookes / Susan Simpkins
- Esperanza Sarenac / Fr. Theodore Soroka
- Fr. George Gerov / James Perkins
- Ludmilla & Peter Voinescu
- Svetlana Roadway / Betty Calvert
- Andrey Ideiceanu (USMC) / Neil Hamilton
- Fr. Thaddeus & Matushka Valerie Werner

September Birthdays

- Gary Popovich 1
- Patrick McDonald 5
- Lidia Brookes 6
- Josefina Cofino 15
- Corina Mavrodin 19
- Gregory Zoll 21
- Samantha Butcher 23
- Lydia Reese 26
- Andrei Lucas 27

September Anniverseries

- Luke & Anastasia Mason 12
- William & Lillian Raynes 12
- Brian & Kiki McDonald 19



SISTERHOOD OF THE HOLY CROSS

Come join the women of the Sisterhood, dedicated to the spiritual life of the parish, to works of charity and to the beautification of the temple. All ladies are welcome!

Coffee Hour

Did you know that sponsoring a coffee hour supports fellowship and welcomes new members to our parish? Your help is needed in supplying refreshments and supplies. Contact the Sisterhood and reserve a date today!



THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

Heaven, Hell and the Resurrection

by Priest Joseph Lucas

One of the most misunderstood Christian teachings in our times is that of the afterlife. What happens to a person after he dies? Where does our soul go, and what happens to our body?

Historically, in Western Europe, there developed a view of the afterlife that remains the primary teaching in America today. According to this view, a person's soul is suspended in judgement immediately after death. Heaven awaits the souls of those judged as righteous, while everyone else goes to Hell (or Purgatory, according to Roman Catholicism). Thus, our present life is fixated on what our soul will experience after leaving the body. But does this view reflect the Orthodox Christian teaching on life after death?

In the Old Testament, when a person died, his soul was taken away to Sheol--a dark, gloomy realm of the spirits. Meanwhile, the body rested in the ground, returning to the dust from which it came. The Greek translation of the Old Testament, called the Septuagint, translated the word "Sheol" with the Greek word "Hades." For the ancient Greeks, Hades was likewise a fearful realm of spirits. The New Testament, written in Greek, takes up this idea of Hades as the place of departed souls.

According to the Scriptures, When Jesus Christ rested in the tomb on Holy Saturday, His divine soul descended into the depths of Hades. But unlike those who came before Him, Jesus Christ could not be held captive by Hades. The Author of Life could not be constrained by Death. Christ "broke the bars asunder," as our hymns proclaim, freeing all those who received Him and leading them to Paradise.

Paradise is a place of spiritual rest in the heavens: a place where the souls of the righteous receive a foretaste of the joy that awaits them in the future. But this is not the final stop. The soul of man was not intended to exist outside of the body. We were created as a body and soul united, and this is how God desires that we spend eternity. From the

very beginning, Christians have awaited with hope the resurrection of the body, not simply the ascent of the soul to Heaven.

According to the Fathers of the Church, when a person dies, their soul is wrenched from the body. The soul does not want to leave because it is unnatural for the body and soul to be apart. But this unnatural state is the result of the fall of Adam.

After departing the body, the soul is led away by the angels of God--either to Hades (which remains a dark, gloomy place), or to Paradise. Here, the soul awaits the great Day of Judgment, when Jesus Christ will return and the body will be raised again to life. The Epistle to the Hebrews tells us that the faithful who came before us will "not be made perfect apart from us" (*Hebrews 11:40*). Commenting on this verse, St John Chrysostom states that each of us will be judged simultaneously, from Adam all the way to the last person born.

Because the Judgment has not yet occurred, our final destination has not yet been revealed. When Christ returns and we all stand before Him in our resurrected bodies, He will divide the sheep from the goats. It is only after this judgment that the unrighteous will experience what we commonly envision as Hell. In the New Testament, the word used is "Gehenna," a fiery place of punishment. In reality, the torment a person will experience will be the glory of the Lord whom they rejected.

When the Church prays for the souls of the departed, it is because the judgment has not yet occurred. When a person dies, they are no longer able to repent for their deeds. Repentance requires time, and there is no time as we know it in the afterlife.

Then how can our prayers affect what happens to someone after he dies? Prayer for the departed is a manifestation of our love for them. On the Day of Judgment, everything a person has thought, said or done will be exposed. But at the same time, how that person's life has affected us will also be brought to bear. When we pray for them, we testify on their behalf, revealing how their lives have touched our own. Thus, it is our Christian duty to remember those already gone to their rest.



READERS CORNER

The Blessed Surgeon: The Life of Saint Luke, Archbishop of Simferopol

by Archimandrite Vasilii Manushchak

Divine Ascent Press, 2001

This concise biography of St Luke is a “must read”. Here we find a contemporary saint—a man known as a professor, skilled surgeon, and medical pioneer—who risked all to serve the Church.

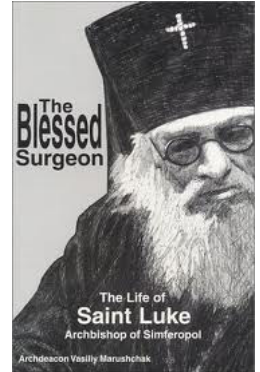
A few years after the Bolshevik Revolution, Dr. Valentine Voino-Yassenetsky was ordained a priest (later receiving the name “Luke”). His conversion invited persecution by Communist authorities, especially in light of his status and notoriety in the field of medicine. Through his struggles, imprisonments, and cruel torture we learn what it means to bear the Cross and be a confessor for

Christ. His faith was uncompromising.

Recollections of those who knew him remember this humble yet brilliant doctor mysteriously diagnosing patients without examining them, oftentimes predicting miraculous healings which would later occur.

St. Luke’s life is a witness to the self-sacrifice and love God calls each of us to. In *The Blessed Surgeon*, you will find proof that sanctity may still be found in this hectic world we live in.

You can find “*The Blessed Surgeon*” and many more edifying books in our Orthodox Book Center.



FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

An Instruction on the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (excerpt) by St John Chrysostom

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). Christ our Savior foretells His crucifixion, showing that He announces it and that He goes to His Passion voluntarily, for the salvation of man. The Lord does not say plainly and openly, I shall crucified; rather, He recalls the serpent of the Old Testament. He thereby teaches us that the Old Testament Scriptures are related to the New, and that the Lawgiver of both the Old and New Testaments is one and the same.

At the same time, He impresses upon us that if by gazing upon the image of the bronze serpent the Jews averted physical and temporal death, all the more do we avoid eternal and spiritual death by gazing upon the crucified Lord of Glory, and believing in Him . . .



Keep this in mind, brethren, and look upon the icon of truth, I ask you. There the likeness of the serpent was, having the appearance of that animal but lacking its poison. Likewise, here the Lord as Man, yet free from sin’s poison, came in the likeness of sinful flesh--that is, in the likeness of flesh which is subject to sin, yet not the flesh of sin. And at that time they that looked upon the serpent were delivered from a physical death; but we escape from a death that is spiritual and eternal.

At that time, a serpent cured a serpent’s bite; but now Christ, raised upon the Cross, heals us of the mortal wounds of the noetic serpent. There, they that gazed with the eyes of the body were healed, whereas here we who gaze with the eyes of the soul remove all sins. There, what was hung upon the tree was brass, fashioned in the image of the serpent; whereas here it is the Body of the Lord which was formed by the Holy Spirit. Serpents were biting at that time, and a serpent conferred healing; likewise, here death was ravaging, and a death gave salvation.



News

Welcom Luncheon*by Gregory Zoll*

After the Divine Liturgy on August 21, the Sisterhood of the Holy Cross sponsored and prepared a luncheon to recognize and welcome Fr. Joseph Lucas and his family to OCCS. The meal featured home made specialties, such as pierogies and stuffed cabbage, which is often familiar cuisine in many Orthodox households. The Stoyka Hall was full of parishioners in celebration of the arrival of Fr. Joseph Lucas, his wife Irina, and children Raena, Rafael, Cristian and Andrei.

Fr. Joseph's journey to Orthodoxy was long and arduous. As a teenager, he had no religious upbringing, and was caught up in the post modern materialistic world of middle-class American Suburbia. Unable to connect spiritually, he tried to find his roots through secular cultural means, including New Age pursuits. In spite of his secular upbringing,

Fr. Joseph's family maintained high ethical values and morality, which was a bulwark of strength and ultimately inspiration.

After college, Fr. Joseph worked in banking. It was there he discovered Orthodoxy through a co-worker. Accepting an invitation to visit an Orthodox parish for Great Compline on Nativity Eve, he came face to face with the Living God. After the service, he approached the priest telling him that he wanted to become Orthodox, although he did not yet understand what he had experienced.

Fr. Joseph Lucas was later baptized an Orthodox Christian in 2000. He went on to attend St Tikhon's Seminary and was ordained a priest in July 2010. He brings to OCCS a wealth of experience, as well as articulate intellect, genuine compassion and understanding. Please make Fr. Joseph Lucas and his family feel at home at OCCS in Miami Lakes, FL, although he may miss having a white Christmas back in Pittsburgh!

New Sunday School Year Begins*by Lisa Herbert*

We are very happy to announce the beginning of the Sunday School year for 2011-2012. Children ages 3 to 18 are welcome!

Please join us for our Sunday School kick off on Sunday September 11th right after Liturgy for a lunch and registration. **Our first class will be on September 18th.**

This year our Sunday School will be under the direction of Mrs. Lisa Herbert. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please feel free to contact her at Lisaherbert@bell-south.net

Our Sunday School has the following three goals:

- To educate our children spiritually and morally, in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the faith and traditions of the Orthodox Church of America.



- To develop in our children the habit of attending church regularly, studying the Scriptures, and participating conscientiously in the worship and sacramental life of our church.

- To cultivate in our children an Orthodox conscience and devotion to our ideals and to prepare them so that they become faithful and devoted dynamic members of our church, our community, and our country.

Looking forward to a wonderful year with the youth!