



**Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral**  
16601 NW 77th Court, Miami Lakes, FL 33016



FEBRUARY 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 31  8:30 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy	1  7 PM Vespers	2  <b>MEETING OF THE LORD</b>  10 AM Liturgy Blessing of Lights	3  6:30 PM Compline Confessions 7 PM Bible	4	5	6  5 PM Adult Study 6 PM Vespers Confessions
7  8:30 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy	8	9	10  6:30 PM Compline	11	12	13  9 AM Work Day  5 PM Adult Study 6 PM Vespers Confessions
14  <i>Zacchaeus</i>  8:30 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy Board Mtg	15	16	17  6:30 PM Compline Confessions	18	19	20  5 PM Adult Study 6 PM Vespers Confessions
21  <i>Publican &amp; Pharisee</i>  8:30 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy	22	23	24  6:30 PM Compline Confessions	25	26	27  5 PM Adult Study 6 PM Vespers Confessions
28  <i>Prodigal Son</i>  8:30 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy Sisterhood Mtg	29	Mar 1	Mar 2  6:30 PM Compline Confessions	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5  5 PM Adult Study 6 PM Vespers Confessions

# VOICE OF ORTHODOXY

JAN / FEB 2016

*Orthodox Cathedral of Christ the Saviour*

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

With the upcoming Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord (Jan. 6), also called Theophany or Epiphany, the Holy Church prescribes for us the Service of the Great Blessing of Water. The same service will also take place on our formal Parish Feast Day celebration on Sunday, Jan. 24. Through our participation in this service by our attentive hearing of the hymns, the readings and the prayers, we become witnesses and participants in the sacred events themselves. This will help to inform and strengthen our faith, as well as to receive the Grace of God through the sprinkling and partaking of the Holy Water. I have always seen the participation in Holy Water as an opportunity for the reaffirmation of our own Baptism to more seriously live the "Baptized, Christian Life."

With the Great Blessing of Water also comes the visitation of the faithful by the parish priest(s) to their homes, in order to pray in the home and to bless the home with Holy Water. This is one of the best loved traditions of our church, linking the parish church with the various "home churches" of the members and friends of the parish. In the old days, where people lived nearby the church, this was accomplished in one or two days. Today, where members live miles away and in various directions, it can take months. Nevertheless, it is an important event and provides also the opportunity for the family to spend

some time with the priest "on their turf" to have conversation and ask questions.

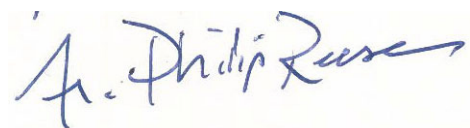
Fr. Joseph and I will be canvassing the parishioners over the upcoming weeks to set up appointments for home blessings. You can make this easier on us by coming to, calling or emailing us to request a date.

For the home blessing you will need the following: Holy Water from the Great Blessing at church, a bowl large enough to carry the Holy Water throughout the house, an Icon (or more), a placemat or small cloth to put on the table, a candle that can stand on the table, a slip of paper

with two columns of first names – 1st column of everyone who lives in the house, followed by other living family members who live elsewhere; 2nd of the departed family members. Also, please don't be eager to feed the priest. I know from experience that eating a few meals a night could lead to bad things. A cup of coffee/tea/soft drink and a cookie would be fine!

We look forward to celebrating this upcoming and extended Feast with you, at church and at your home! May God's blessing be with all of us as we begin 2016!

Yours in Christ,



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

[www.OrthodoxMiami.org](http://www.OrthodoxMiami.org)

ANCIENT WORSHIP. ANCIENT TEACHINGS.  
ANCIENT CHRISTIANITY . . . TODAY.

**Clergy**

*Rector*  
Archpriest Philip Reese

*Associate*  
Priest Joseph Lucas

Deacon Carlos Miranda

*Subdeacons*  
Randolph LaCroix  
Alexander Dimich  
Julio Gurrea

*Readers*  
Dionysi Charles Doten  
Christopher Herbert  
Stephen Butcher  
Anthony Brian Allen

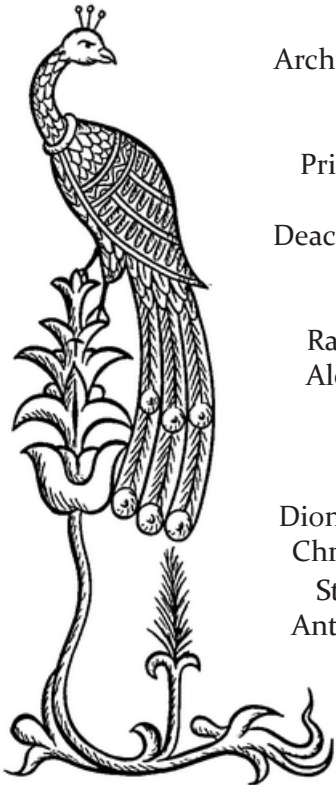
**Council**

*Senior Warden*  
Christopher Herbert

*Secretary*  
Mikhail Ramcharan

*Treasurers*  
Jim Shiskin  
Alex Pouschine

*Members*  
Gary Popovich  
Dionysi Doten  
Gerasimos Evanoff  
Mary Perkins  
Alexander Dimich  
Vernon Lee





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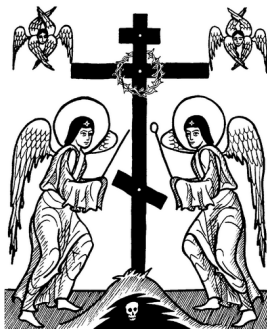


JANUARY 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 27  8:30 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy Seminarian Coll.	Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31  7 PM Vespers	1  <i>St Basil</i>  10 AM Liturgy Vasilopita	2  6 PM Vespers Confessions
3  8:30 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy	4	5  6 PM Vigil	6  <i>THEOPHANY</i>  9 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy Water Blessing	7  <i>Synaxis of the Baptist</i>  10 AM Liturgy	8	9  9 AM Work Day  5 PM Adult Study 6 PM Vespers Confessions
10  8:30 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy Board Mtg	11	12	13  6:30 PM Compline Confessions 7 PM Bible	14  10 AM Matins 10:30 AM Bible	15	16  5 PM Adult Study 6 PM Vespers Confessions
17  <i>St. Anthony</i>  8:30 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy Sisterhood Mtg	18	19	20  6:30 PM Compline Confessions 7 PM Bible	21  10 AM Matins 10:30 AM Bible	22	23  5 PM Adult Study 6 PM Vespers Confessions
24  <i>Patronal Feast</i>  9:30 AM Matins 11 AM Liturgy Feastday Banquet	25	26	27  6:30 PM Compline Confessions 7 PM Bible	28  10 AM Matins 10:30 AM Bible	29  7 PM Vespers	30  <i>Three Hierarchs</i>  10 AM Liturgy  5 PM Adult Study 6 PM Vespers Confessions
31  8:30 AM Matins 10 AM Liturgy	Feb 1  7 PM Vespers	Feb 2  <i>MEETING OF THE LORD</i>  10 AM Liturgy Blessing of Lights	Feb 3  6:30 PM Compline Confessions 7 PM Bible	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6  5 PM Adult Study 6 PM Vespers Confessions

**Announcements**

**In Need of Our prayers**

Kathryn LaCroix / Lillian Raynes  
 Lidia Brookes / Valentin Jakolenko  
 Fr. George & Mat. Vasilka Gerov  
 Ludmilla Voinescu / Susan Simpkins  
 Svetlana Roadway / Betty Calvert  
 Julian Gurrea / Hannah Butcher



**Parish  
 Feastday**

January 24

Divine Liturgy at 11 AM  
 Complimentary Banquet at 1 PM

**Blessing of  
 the Lights**

February 2

*Meeting of the Lord in the Temple  
 Bring your candles, wicking and light bulbs to church  
 to be blessed after the Divine Liturgy.*

**January Birthdays**

- 7 SDn. Alexander Dimich
- 8 Ion Mavrodin
- 9 Norma Skuby
- 10 Emma Lowrey
- 11 Jennifer Lemieux
- 19 Juliana Dimich
- 27 Ayesha Doten
- 29 Anna Bond
- 29 Alexander Pouschine
- 30 Svetlana Roadway

**January Anniversaries**

- 21 Robert & Lidia Brookes

**February Birthdays**

- 1 Joy Lee
- 6 Nina Fortune
- 9 Zachariah Doten
- 14 Kenneth Lowrey
- 16 Daniel Mazur
- 20 Joan Marston
- 23 Mary Perkins
- 23 Angie Allen
- 23 Walter Budowski

**February Anniversaries**

- 2 Stanley & Carol Klein
- 2 Alexander & Natalya Mazur
- 3 David & Etsegenet (Tina)Waite
- 19 SDn. Julio & Jessica Gurrea
- 20 Kenneth & Violet Lowrey
- 20 Ann & Bruce Zipper
- 21 Lesley & Deborah Bowser
- 23 James & Kathleen Shiskin



## Dear Abba

Dear Abba, recently a co-worker told me that she is suffering from “gender dysphoria,” and that she intends to undergo medical treatment to change her gender from female to male. Is it really possible for a man to be born in a female body or vice versa?

**Answer:** Right now, “gender dysphoria” is one of those hot topics in American media. With celebrities such as Bruce Jenner publicizing their sex-change to the world, and numerous TV shows and magazines glamorizing such lifestyles, it would seem as if gender dysphoria is a simple medical condition that can be treated, leading to a happy life. In reality, gender dysphoria remains highly controversial, both inside and outside the medical community. Recently, John Hopkins, one of the world's leading medical facilities, has ceased performing sex-change surgeries, which they deemed unethical. And numerous psychologists continue to classify gender dysphoria as a pathology that should be treated with therapy, not with elective medical procedures.

There are two concerns that arise when examining gender dysphoria. The first relates to the mind, and the second to the spirit.

Typically, when a person's self-perception contradicts their biological reality, we would consider it a pathology: for example, a man who thinks he is really a bird. This can also be seen in persons who believe they are someone else (like Napoleon or Jesus Christ). Another similar affliction is when someone believes he should be physically disabled, and thus blinds himself or cuts off a limb to attain this. The only difference between these afflictions and gender dysphoria is that they do not have a tide of political activism in their favor; but they are all pathologies of the mind.

Yet the greater issue concerning gender dysphoria is spiritual. Theologically, we believe that the human soul is united to the body at conception. The body and soul are perfectly joined, forming a whole person. The soul cannot be male or female unless the body is the same. The soul does not determine the sex of the body, but vice versa. But even more importantly, we are called to be sanctified in the very body and soul God has given us—we should not physically alter our body to be happy. Being thankful to God means being content with all He has given us, even our gender. ❖

*If you have a question for “Dear Abba,”  
email it to [orthodoxmiami@hotmail.com](mailto:orthodoxmiami@hotmail.com)*

## Reader's Corner

“Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives”  
by Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

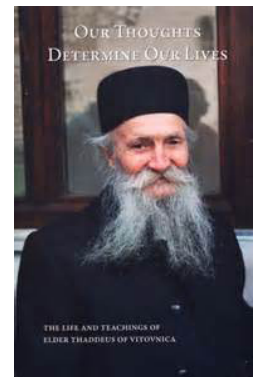
Reviewed by Michael Richards

Not too many people give much thought to the subject of thinking. However, the subject of thoughts is one of the teachings of the Orthodox Church that sets it apart from other Christian faiths. In “Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives,” we get the insightful and heart warming teachings of Father Thaddeus on the power of our thoughts, where they come from, and how they apply to our spiritual lives.

The main insight of his teaching is that thoughts effect everything around us. Even when we try to keep our thoughts to ourselves and show no outward sign of our inner feelings, they still effect all those around us. If we hold any grudge in our heart and ill thoughts toward another person, we declare war on them and effect our relationship with them regardless if they know our thoughts or not.

The key to a blessed life, whether it is among friends, family, fellow parishioners, or coworkers, is to drive out ill and sinful thoughts and learn to foster good and holy thoughts instead. These thought may not even be our own, but may be the influence of demons trying to enter into our heart and push out God from our lives and our peace along with it. It's when we harbor good and holy thoughts that we invite God and His saints into our hearts and lives and with them, the blessed peace beyond all understanding both to ourselves and others.

The book also contains a wonderful biography of Father Thaddeus which is both enjoyable and inspiring. If you don't own a copy, maybe you should think about getting one today. ❖

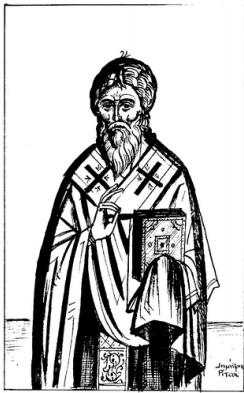


## Lectio Divina

*St Sophronius of Jerusalem on Presentation of Christ*

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ. The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.

The light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God. The true light has come, the light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendor, and be so



filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendor.

Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which he prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness. By faith we, too embraced, Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as he came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen him present among us and have mentally received him into our arms, we are called the new Israel. ❖

## Orthodox Teachings

*"Quietude" by Dn. Carlos Miranda*

*Not many of you should be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. In many things, we all stumble. Anyone who does not stumble in word is perfect, even able to bridle the whole body! (Epistle of St. James 3: 1-2)*

Remaining quiet is hard for a proud person, I know this from my own spiritual struggles. Pride convinces us that we have something of importance to say; something that people desire or perhaps even need to hear. It is a rare thing however that the proud person's perception and reality match. It is more likely that the proud person needs others to hear about his self perceived greatness.

The passion of pride attacks the mind in particular. Pride is the result of blindness to the reality of who God is and who we are. According to our fathers among the Saints, pride is a disordered passion.

"A disordered passion, is an excessive feeling or appetite that goes beyond what is reasonable. Disordered passions are a disturbance of the soul contrary to nature, and disobedient to reason." St. Clement of Alexandria.

In other words, passions are the direct result of an unbridled appetite and delusional fantasies. Few have been more successful in dealing with the passions than the desert fathers. Fortunately, they have left us with many successful cures for pride and its delusions. Evagrius the Monk Said: "Cut out the desire for many things out of your heart. By doing so you prevent your mind from being scattered and thus your quietude from being lost."

According to the consensus of these godly fathers, it is a lack of knowing God, and a desire for many things to fill that void that prompts us towards delusion. Consequently, these delusions result in our expulsion of a great deal of hot air to our own demise. This quietude can be quite a challenge to someone brought up with our contemporary mindset. In our day we have come to embrace the concept that most things can be cured by education, and thus by much talking. In this way of thinking it is the verbal transference of information that saves us. In fact, many in today's America mainly attend church to be educated, or to use the proper word, to be edified.

By contrast, the more ancient premodern ap-

proach accepts the fact that it is by silence that we are most edified. It is by a quiet but constant lookout for our pride, and by quietly turning ourselves around that we are saved.

The lesson is simply this, when we want to speak, we should first consider the possibility that it might be best to try being quiet instead. And if we must speak, let us first consider God, and the dysfunctions that attack us such as pride. Then ask ourself what we really want to obtain by speaking. Only if it is truly for the well being of the other should we forsake being quiet and attempt to edify our brothers and sisters. ❖

### News

The busy holiday season at the Cathedral saw an increase this year in charitable activities. The Sisterhood has begun making and selling various food items to raise funds for their various causes. Among the charitable activities they have undertaken include the Adopt-A-Seminarian fund, which continues to help the Hill family with living expenses while attending St Tikhon Seminary in Pennsylvania. The Hills were able to visit the parish the weekend before Christmas, giving them the opportunity to thank everyone for all their assistance.

Beginning in 2016, the Sisterhood is also adopted an orphanage in Romania near Ploiesti. The orphanage was established to give women a take their babies instead of aborting them. Over the next year, they will be collecting food, clothing and money to send to the orphanage. Due to the difference in converting the US Dollar to Romanian currency, your donations will go a long way to help the more than 150 children living there. The Sisterhood also took charge of the Annual Turkey Dinner, this year opting to make most of the food themselves. It was a great success.

In other news, the Cathedral has brought back Orthodox Movie Days. Every other month, another movie of interest--either specifically Orthodox or Christian in nature--will be projected on the new screen in the hall. In November we aired "A Day in the Life of a Men's Monastery," a documentary showing life in a Georgian monastery. Future features include documentaries on the Shroud of Turin, the Exodus, and several Christian fictional movies.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the the Cathedral's annual Patronal Feast Day will be on January 24 this year. Matins/Liturgy begins one hour later. ❖

### Parish Wish List

*We are looking for donations of the following items:*

Altar Wine  
("Mavrodaphne" and "Commandaria")

Cleaning Supplies

"Forever" Stamps for Mailings

11" x 17" Copy Paper

9" x 12" Self-seal Envelopes

*We are looking for sponsors for the following items:*

Medallion Icons of Saints in Church

Books for the Book Store

Sponsor a Child for Summer Camp: \$350

*We need volunteers for:*

Lawn Care and Hedge Trimming

St. Christopher Orthodox Camp in South Florida (July 2016)