

LIVING WATER

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral ❖ Nov 2018



Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Very few people realize the influence that philosophy has on society. The average person likely thinks that such abstract ideas are only the concern of professionals, like university professors. But in fact, philosophy tends to gradually trickle down, eventually affecting the entire population. For example, Atheism and Agnosticism were once the ideologies of intellectuals; but since the beginning of the Enlightenment, such views have become very common.

One such system of ideas based on Atheism is that of Nihilism: the belief that truth is subjective and life is meaningless. The most famous proponent of this philosophy was Friedrich Nietzsche (d. 1900). His ideas have slowly infiltrated society, leading to a massive rejection of objective morality. Because of the popular interpretation of Nihilism, many people believe that morals (and laws) should be based merely on human desires or majority opinion, rather than on divinely-inspired truths about human nature and inter-personal relationships.

Another common philosophical view is that of Utilitarianism: the doctrine that an action is right insofar as it promotes happiness, and that the greatest happiness of the greatest number should be the guiding principle of conduct. In its popular form, utilitarianism is often taken to mean functionalism; in other words, assessing the value of something based on its practical function. With the spread of this idea, society has assumed the role of judging everything—and everyone—based on whether it (or she) is deemed useful. Religion is of little importance in such a scheme because it doesn't offer anything "useful" to society (or at

least not anything that couldn't be obtained elsewhere). A prime example of this is how many view prayer or worship. They consider it to be of minimal use, and therefore do not value it highly. Such sentiments can be seen in the way many people view pastors, devaluing their position because "all they do is pray."

Another set of ideas, not quite a philosophy but more of a worldview, is consumerism. Here the person is deemed useful in as much as she is a consumer. Society is defined as the production, marketing, and sale of goods; and only those persons able to buy are valued. As in the other philosophies mentioned, the human person is thereby diminished.

In response to all such temptations, St Paul warns us, "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit" (Col 2:8). We must be very careful to examine what we believe about ourselves, and about the world. As Orthodox Christians, we should look to Christ, and our Holy Tradition, to define our views. In the eyes of God, each person is of inestimable worth. Based on this, we do not assess a person's value based on function or consumption. And based on this, we look to God's commandments, not our desires, to know how to relate to each other.

Society is full of competing ideologies. We do not need new ideas; we need timeless truths.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Joseph Lucas

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Joseph Lucas'.





**Christ the Saviour
Orthodox Cathedral**

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**OFFERING THE LIVING WATER
TO SOUTHEAST FLORIDA**

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

www.OrthodoxMiami.org

Announcements

✠ *Turkey Dinner.*

November 11 after Liturgy.

✠ *Orthodox Movie Night.*

Join us for a showing of "The Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer," a documentary on Orthodox spirituality. Friday, November 16 at 7 PM.

✠ *Non-Perishable Food Donations*

We will continue to collect food items for the Miami Dade College food pantry.

✠ *Young At Heart Club*

We will launch our new group for Seniors on Thursday, Nov 1 at 11 AM. We will start with a spiritual reflection, and then have fellowship with refreshments and games.

Clergy

Fr. Joseph Lucas, PhD. Cand., MDiv.
*Rector of the Cathedral
Dean of South Florida*

Attached

Fr. Philip Reese (Pastor Emeritus)
Dn. Carlos Miranda

Subdeacons

Randolph (Christopher) LaCroix

Readers

Dionysi Charles Doten
Christopher Herbert
Stephen Butcher
Anthony Brian Allen
Innocent Correa

Retired Attached

Fr. Peter Tutko
Fr. Alexander Padlo
Fr. Michael Zaperyniuk

Parish Administration

Parish Council Officers

Reader Christopher Herbert - Warden
Jim Shiskin - Treasurer

Members

Gary Popovich
Reader Dionysi Doten
Corina Mavrodin
David Waite
Elena Voronkova
Leonard Giacone
Mary Perkins (Alt)
Gerasimos Evanoff (Alt)

Sisterhood

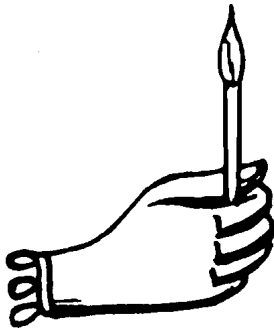
Corina Mavrodin - Director
Karen Budowski - Asst Director
Angela Allen - Treasurer
Susan Simpkins - Treasurer

Choir Director

Reader Dionysi Doten

Prayer List

Hannah Butcher
Lillian Raynes
Enis Jakolenko
Ludmilla Voinescu
Svetlana Roadway
Ted & Karen Budowski
Vernon Lee



The Meaning of Thanksgiving

The word “thanksgiving” has a long and venerable history. Our English word refers to an act of prayer, of showing gratitude to God for all the blessings He bestows upon us each year.

In Greek, the word “thanksgiving” is translated as “eucharastia,” and it is from this word that we derive the name given to Holy Communion: the Eucharist. We call it by this name because we recite prayers of thanksgiving at the time when we ask God to bless and sanctify the bread and wine and make it into His Body and Blood. It is also called this because it represents our entire life, which we receive as a gift from God, and therefore leads to our great gratitude.

Thanksgiving is not a once-a-year event, it is a daily task, a way of life. The more grateful we are to God for giving us life, the greater our love for Him will be.

November Birthdays

- 1 Lisa Herbert
- 1 Mihai Mavrodin
- 3 William Patterson
- 3 Lillian Raynes
- 7 Iulia Maria Goean
- 9 Tatjana Geez-Ruiz
- 12 Vasilisa Tikhonov
- 14 Johnathan Clarke
- 15 Pres. Irina Lucas
- 15 Kathleen Shiskin
- 15 Leonardo Villalobos
- 16 Felipe Pinos
- 17 Stanley Klein
- 18 Joseph Waite
- 18 Costica Idriceanu
- 20 Joshua Herbert
- 20 William Herbert
- 28 Brian McDonald

November Anniversaries

- 5 Stanley & Carol Klein
- 8 Costica & Maria Idriceanu
- 24 Rdr. Christopher & Lisa Herbert
- 27 Henry & Natasha Campos

Parish Wishlist

Rolls of “Forever” Stamps

Costco “Kirkland” Coffee

Winn Dixie / Publix gift cards to give to the poor

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

Signage for the Cathedral

New chairs for the temple

Construction of fountain in courtyard

We need volunteers for:

Lawn Care and Hedge Trimming

Greeters

Choir Singers