

LIVING WATER

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

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

The Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is one of the most important feastdays of the year (perhaps second only to Pascha). In Orthodox lands, the feast became associated with many ethnic and family traditions: festive food dishes; singing of carols; holiday decorations; and gift-giving practices. These traditions are good, pointing us to the joyful tidings that Christmas represents. But we should never forget the core meaning of the day: the advent of the Son of God.

It was on this day, over 2,000 years ago, that the Eternal One, the Word of God who is of one essence with the Father, became flesh for our sake. The miraculous events surrounding His birth—the angelic star, the three magi, the heavenly chorus—reveal to the world that the true King of Kings has come. And with this day begins the unfolding of the events leading up to Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection on the third day. Thus, it could be said that our Lord comes forth from the womb to journey to the tomb.

In a time when darkness is enveloping the world (both physically and spiritually), we need Christmas more than ever. But not the commercialized Christmas of Main Street; rather, we need the quiet and reverential Christmas of ages past. We need to rekindle the spark of the season instead of being overwhelmed by the busy-ness of the world.

One of the important ways we can begin to do this is by fasting. When everyone else is gorging themselves with egg nog and cookies, we Orthodox

Christians are summoned to prepare to meet our Lord by orienting ourselves towards prayer and spiritual discipline. There will be a time for feasting when the holiday arrives, but we first must purge our hearts of sin through repentance, and fill our mind with peace through thanksgiving. Only then will we be ready for Christmas Day.

Ideally, our Church's Holy Tradition should trump American and family traditions. For this reason, it best to observe the fast properly, from its beginning on November 15, until we break it after the

Divine Liturgy on December 25. And according to our calendar, Christmas Eve is the strictest fast day of this period. For this reason, our Holy Supper at the Cathedral will reflect the traditional guidelines prescribed for that day.

In the same way we fast during Lent in order to properly experience the joy of Pascha, we fast prior to the Nativity of our Lord. Self-denial

is not an end in itself, but a means to an end: love for God and our fellow man. May each of us come to experience the joy of this blessed season, having cut off the temptations of the world so that we make our house our fitting place to receive the Son.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Joseph Lucas





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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

✦ *St Nicholas Celebration*

St Nicholas will be visiting us at the end of the Liturgy on Sunday, Dec 9. We will also bless vehicles after the service.

✦ *Holy Supper.*

Join us on Christmas Eve for worship (Great Compline) at 5 PM, followed by our traditional fasting meal, Holy Supper, at 6 PM. Tickets will be sold every Sunday until the event: Adults \$15, Teens \$6, Kids 5 - 12 \$2.

✦ *Bible Study.*

Our last study on Romans will be Dec 5, and our class will take a break until Jan 9. We will be studying the Apocalypse of John (Revelation) at that time.

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

Dionysios 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 / Secretary
Rdr Dionysios Doten - Treasurer
Leonard Giacone - Asst Treasurer

Members

Jim Shiskin
Gary Popovich
Corina Mavrodin
David Waite
Elena Voronkova
Mary Perkins (Alt)
Gerasimos Evanoff (Alt)

Sisterhood

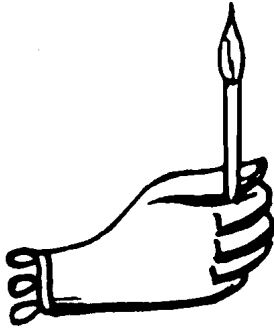
Corina Mavrodin - Director
Karen Budowski - Asst Director
Angela Allen - Treasurer
Susan Simpkins - Secretary

Choir Director

Rdr Dionysios Doten

Prayer List

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



October Financial Report

As Reported at the November Board Meeting

Starting with this newsletter edition, at the request of the Board, we will offer a brief summary of the financial information of the parish, as reported by the Treasurer at the most recent Board Meeting.

Collections \$11,825
Monthly Amount Should Average \$12,250

Candledesk Sales \$777
Monthly Amount Should Average \$1,166

December Birthdays

- 2 Theodore Budowski
- 2 Hannah Butcher
- 2 Ryan Garcia
- 7 Ann Zipper
- 8 Henry Campos
- 8 Rdr. Innocent Correa
- 9 Benjamin Doten
- 10 Mercedes Cortes
- 12 Marcus Jammes
- 12 James Shiskin
- 14 Natasha Campos
- 15 Cristian Lucas
- 16 Ava Campos
- 16 Ioann Pineros
- 18 Yadiel Maldonado
- 19 Chris Hamilton
- 19 Carol Klein
- 20 William Raynes
- 24 Robert Brookes
- 29 Lesley Bowser
- 31 Bruce Strom

December Anniversaries

- 18 Rdr. Brian & Angie Allen
- 20 Jeremy & Sai Paulovkin

Parish Wishlist

Rolls of 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

Kitchen Remodeling

We need volunteers for:

Lawn Care and Hedge Trimming

Greeters

Choir Singers