

# LIVING WATER

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral ❖ May 2019



Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

One of the modern fables we often hear is that human consciousness is merely a product of the brain. Many envision the brain as being similar to a computer, with various inputs, processors, and outputs (as in the movie “The Matrix”). And they think the human mind is simply our experience of the brain-at-work.

But as is often the case, science is beginning to catch up with theology. Neuroscientists have been discovering that human consciousness cannot be accounted for by the brain. Our unified perception of reality is beyond the ability of our neural network. And most interesting is the fact that our conscious intentions and purposeful decisions actually change the functioning of the brain, its chemistry, and its neural pathways. If the mind were a product of the brain, it would be bound by the brain’s functioning and incapable of altering it from without.

Simply put, the mind and the brain are not the same thing. Our consciousness is unique, extraordinary, miraculous. We may use our brain to assist us in the process of thinking—just as we use our heart to supply life to our entire body—but our consciousness is a reflection of our spiritual (noetic) reality. The mind belongs to the soul.

Once we acknowledge this, we can begin to understand the root of our various spiritual dilemmas. The mind is the battlefield where we struggle to overcome temptations, and where we strive to focus our attention on the presence of God. Each of us is capable and meditating on good or evil, depending

on what we allow our mind to be drawn towards. As the writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn stated in his classic, *The Gulag Archipelago*, “The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.”

The fable of scientism (not to be confused with authentic scientific endeavor) tells us that we are not responsible for our actions because they are merely our brain’s response to various stimuli. Based on such ideas, the physicist Stephen Hawking mistakenly believed that everything humans do is predetermined, and thus free will does not exist.



But from the beginning, the Church has affirmed our free will. We are free to choose, to either respond to good with evil, or to evil with good. We are free to either react unconsciously, or to act intentionally. Our salvation rests on the truth that we can decide, and that we are responsible for the consequences of those decisions.

When we will to become completely focused and aware of the thoughts in our minds, and then purify those thoughts through prayer, we attract the grace of God, power from on high. He enables us to overcome temptation by guarding our thoughts. For the human mind is a powerful thing; but ultimately, the victory over sin comes from God himself.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Joseph Lucas

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "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](http://www.OrthodoxMiami.org)

**Announcements**

✦ *Caribbean Night*

Join us Bright Friday, May 3 (6 - 11 pm) as we celebrate the Paschal season. Experience the culture and cuisine of the Caribbean on a fast-free Friday. Tickets are \$10 for Adults, youth free. Invite a friend!

✦ *Bible Study*

Bible Study will resume on May 8 at 7 pm, continuing the Book of Revelation.

✦ *Cathedral Summer Daycamp*

The Cathedral is opening a summer-long daycamp program for children ages 6 - 12. Parishioners will staff the program. Hours are Mon - Fri, 7 am - 6 pm. Parishioners receive 10% off the weekly tuition. Go to [www.CathedralDaycamp](http://www.CathedralDaycamp) for info.

**Clergy**

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

**Attached**

Fr. Philip Reese (Rector 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  
Fr. Ernesto Rios

**Parish Administration**

Reader Christopher Herbert - Warden / Secretary  
Rdr Dionysios Doten - Treasurer  
Leonard Giacone - Asst Treasurer

**Parish Council Members**

Jim Shiskin  
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**

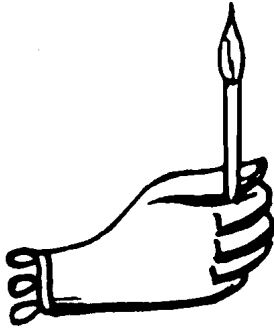
Rdr Dionysios Doten

**Orthodox Book Center**

Gary George Popovich - Director

## Prayer List

Hannah Butcher / Declan Lemieux  
Enis Jakolenko / Karen Budowski  
Ludmilla Voinescu / Svetlana Roadway  
Stanley Klein / Vernon Lee  
Ann Ross / Susan Simpkins / Carrie Wusylko  
Sbdn. Christopher Randolph LaCroix



## Highlights of March Financials

*Items should be at 25% of budget.*

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year Total</b>	
Total Exp.	\$12,430	\$41,574	20.9%
<b>Income</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year Total</b>	
Collections	\$8,341	\$29,868	20.3%
Candles	\$923	\$2,611	18.6%
Misc.	\$114	\$559	10.9%
Hall	\$750	\$1,150	19.1%
Cemetery	\$150	\$150	3.7
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Total Inc.	\$10,278	\$25,175	17.3%*

*\*At month's close, we were 7.7% under-funded.*

## May Birthdays

- 1 Honoriu Filimon
- 3 Sophia Christakis
- 3 SDn. Randolph La Croix
- 6 Mary Elizabeth Herbert
- 9 Rdr. Stephen Butcher
- 11 Edgar Arana
- 13 Duane Clarke
- 15 Leonard Giacone
- 16 Karen Budowski
- 19 Marta Diaz
- 25 Sebastian Cofino
- 26 Mat. Debra Reese

## May Anniversaries

- 9 Panagioti & Maja Georgakopoulos
- 14 Bruce & Ann Ross
- 22 Rdr. Innocent & Sierra Correa
- 31 Lazaro & Mercedes Cortes

## Camp Fundraiser

*For the month of May,  
we are raising funds for  
scholarships for our kids  
to go to Camp St Christopher*

*There is a table in the  
Cathedral Narthex with  
50 envelopes on it.  
Take an envelope and put inside  
the amount of money equal  
to the number on the envelope.  
Then place it in the box  
on that table.*