

LIVING WATER

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



Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

It has often been said that prayer is the both the beginning and the end of the Christian life. Everything we do is rooted in this ongoing dialogue with God; and everything reaches its fulfillment in this same conversation. And yet, so few of us pray regularly. And when we do pray, we often do it the wrong way, or for the wrong reasons. After awhile, we become frustrated with praying, and we speak less and less with God. Why is this?

There are two thoughts that attempt to dissuade us from praying. The first is, “What if prayer is not effective?” We live in a utilitarian society where the worth of everything is based on how useful it is. Prayer may seem like a waste of time, a distraction from the necessary work of solving our own problems.

But the reason we are tempted by this idea is because we have the wrong notion about prayer. Prayer should not be a list of everything we want from God. Rather, it should be a desire to know God personally, intimately. Imagine if every time you saw your parent, spouse, or best friend, all they did was barrage you with things they want you to do for them? This is what we often do with God. We should seek out God in order to be with Him, not to have our wishes fulfilled.

There are, of course, things we should ask God for, as is obvious from the written prayers in our tradition. But the most important thing we should ask for in prayer is to seek the will of God, not our own. St John writes, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (1 John 5:14). Many prayers are not answered because we do not seek His will first. And even worse,

we ask for things that we do not need, as the apostle warns us: “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures” (James 4:3). The best way to seek out the will of God in our prayers is to focus on repentance, to humble ourselves before God, and to ask for His constant guidance.

There is also a more diabolical thought that discourages us from praying: “What if there is no God to answer?” This is one of many thoughts implanted by the evil one in order to sow doubts in our mind so that, once we stop praying altogether, we shall cut ourselves from God. When faced with

such thoughts, it is best to ignore them and not let them gain any traction. Instead, we should continue to pray, asking God to overcome this temptation for us.

Ultimately, prayer is meant to be a movement of our mind and heart towards our Beloved—the God who first loved us, and demonstrated His love for us on the cross. Therefore, we must avoid letting our prayer become self-centered

or focused on what we want to have or want to happen. And according to St Theophan the Recluse, our written prayer rule is just the start, meant to warm the heart and teach us pray. We should continue praying throughout the day, striving for that goal that St Paul sets for us: to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thes. 5:17).

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

✘ *Cathedral Summer Daycamp*
The Cathedral now offers a summer-long program for youth age 5-12. The Day-camp is available Monday - Friday, 7 AM - 6 PM. Weekly rates are \$100, but members of the Cathedral receive 10% off.

✘ *Dedication of Playground*
On June 2, after the Liturgy, we will be officially dedicating the playground to the memory of Alexander Pouschine, whose generosity made it possible. We'll be blessing the name plaque at that time.

✘ *Agape Coffee Hour*
The Agape Coffee Hour is in need of volunteers to bring fresh or frozen food so that we can keep this ministry going.

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

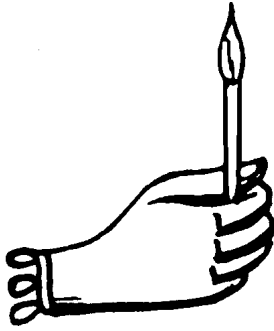
Rdr Dionysios Doten

Orthodox Book Center

Gary George Popovich - Director

Prayer List

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



Highlights of April Financials

Items should be at 33.3% of budget.

Expenses	Month	Year Total	
Total Exp.	\$18,223	\$59,797	30.2%
Income	Month	Year Total	
Collections	\$9,691	\$39,560	26.9%
Candles	\$747	\$3,358	23.9%
Misc.	\$206	\$765	15.0%
Pascha Env.	\$6,580	\$6,580	73.1%
Hall	\$100	\$1,250	20.8%

Total Inc.	\$17,324	\$51,669	26.1%*

**At month's close, we were 4% under-funded.*

June Birthdays

- 3 Gabriela Heredia
- 3 Enis Jakolenko
- 5 Elena Dichko
- 5 Stanley Prystacky
- 7 Elizabeth Fregien
- 7 Kiki McDonald
- 7 Ann Ross
- 12 Igor Bond
- 14 Fr. Philip Reese
- 21 Vernon Lee
- 21 Pablo Pineros
- 23 Nathaniel Keeley
- 26 Betty Calvert
- 29 Margaret Frisk
- 29 Dalia Miranda
- 30 Noah Cepeda

June Anniversaries

- 7 Michael & Irina Giacone
- 9 Paul & Sophia Christakis
- 13 Nathaniel & Bianca Keeley
- 21 Vernon & Joy Lee

Wish List

*New Balls & Equipment
for the Playground \$300*

*Altar Gospel in New King
James Translation \$1,500*

Processional Cross \$1,000

Candlestick Holders \$300

Printing Costs for Directory \$500

Two Altar Covers \$500 each

Glass for Altar \$300