

LIVING WATER

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



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

The transition from summer to autumn might not be so obvious when you are living in South Florida. In the northern climes, fall is marked by a drop in temperature, the shortening of the day, and the change of foliage. In ancient cultures, these changes were often associated with death. The fact that autumn comes at the end of the year likewise points to the end of life, as if the calendar is meant to remind us of the various stages of human life.

American society has made a habit of avoiding the topic of death. Our funeral practices attempt to disguise the evidence of mortality. Our lifestyles are focused on appearing (and acting) young, as if we can avoid death by remaining adolescents. Anything that points to our end is considered morbid; and we are afraid to face the inevitable.

The wisdom of the Orthodox Church points us in the opposite direction. At an Orthodox funeral, the hymns are vivid and visceral, reminding us of the decay and dissolution of the body. We are then invited to give “the last kiss” to the departed, making us come face to face with our own mortality. Rather than hide from death, we are instructed to embrace it.

In the Old Testament, we read the following: “In all you do, remember the end of your life, and then you will never sin” (Wis. Sirach 7:36).

Facing our mortality means keeping our eyes on the prize: this present life is merely preparation for eternity. For a Christian, death is not the end, but the beginning. If we take our faith seriously, we should bring to mind the words of the Nicene Creed: “I await the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come.” Thus, we should not fear death, but rather judgment. Are we ready to meet our Maker?

Many of us travel down the road of life acting as if we can avoid death. And while we can avoid dwelling on morbid thoughts, we are merely lulling ourselves into a false security. Yet, if we contemplate death in a meaningful way, our trust in God can be strengthened.

In many old Christian cultures, the remembrance of the dead was a way both to honor them, and to remind the living to take life seriously.

The celebration of “Soul Saturday” liturgies throughout the year connects the living and dead in a tangible way. In some parts of Eastern Europe, parishioners would go from the liturgy to the cemetery, and there have a picnic on the graves of their departed loved ones. Far from morbid, such practices are a beautiful example of how we can embrace the reality of death, while also filling it with a Christian hope in eternal life.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized name or initials.



**Christ the Saviour
Orthodox Cathedral**

16601 NW 77th Court
Miami Lakes, FL 33016

ph. (305) 822-0437

fax (305) 822-0842

joseph.lucas@orthodoxmiami.org

**OFFERING THE LIVING WATER
TO SOUTHEAST FLORIDA**

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

www.OrthodoxMiami.org

Announcements

✦ *Agape Hour (Coffee Hour)*
Volunteers are needed to sign-up.

✦ *Autumn Lecture*
Bestselling author and journalist Rod Dreher will be lecturing on "Forming Christian Community in an Anti-Christian Age," October 5, 10:30 am - 3 pm. Tickets are \$10 (under 18 free), available at EventBrite (or at door if available).

✦ *Trunk-or-Treat*
Join us on October 31 for a night of family fun. Trunk-or-Treat is an alternative to Halloween, without the scary and devilish themes common in neighborhood festivities. Costumes should be kid-appropriate, and no evil / gory themes.

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
Michael Richards

Readers

Dionysios Charles Doten
Christopher Herbert
Anthony Brian Allen

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
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

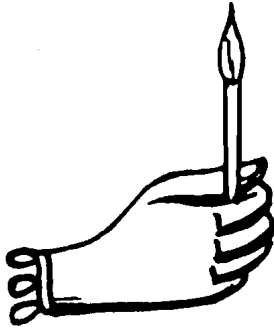
Rdr Dionysios Doten

Orthodox Book Center

Gary George Popovich - Director

Prayer List

Carrie Wusylko / Stanley Prystacky
Enis Jakolenko / Karen Budowski
Ludmilla Voinescu / Svetlana Roadway
Stanley Klein / Vernon Lee / Nina Fortune
Ann Ross / Norma Skuby
Sbdn. Christopher (Randolph) LaCroix
Susan Simpkins / Antonio Nicodemo



Highlights of August Financials

Items should be at 66.7% of budget.

Expenses	Month	Year Total	
Total Exp.	\$18,263	\$124,146	63.6%
Income	Month	Year Total	
Collections	\$10,649	\$80,717	54.9%
Candles	\$591	\$5,985	42.7%
Coffee Hour	\$75	\$1,484	29.1%
Kitchen	\$722	\$772	36.1%
Misc	\$220	\$225	5.6%

Total Inc.	\$12,857	\$98,349	49.6%*

**At month's close, we were 14% under-funded.*

October Birthdays

- 3 Mikhail Ramcharan
- 5 Anthony Chavez
- 7 Peter Suarez
- 6 Bianca Mikuski
- 12 Rdr. Anthony Brian Allen
- 15 Veronika Bond
- 15 Argentina Garcia
- 18 Taylor Rodriguez
- 19 Yuriy Kelasov
- 23 Elena Voronkova
- 29 Fr. Joseph Lucas
- 30 Jimmy Rodriguez

October Anniversaries

- 23 Marcus & Donna Jammes
- 30 Jose & Josefina Cofino
- 30 SDn. Alexander & Juliana Dimich

Wish List

*Winn Dixie / Publix Gift-Cards
for the Needy*

Rolls of Stamps

Processional - Altar Cross \$1,000

Printing Costs for Directory \$500

New Glass to Protect the Altar \$300

*Manischewitz Concord Grape Wine
for Zapivka (after communion)*

*Regular Donations of Half & Half
and Non-Dairy Creamers
for the Coffee Hour*