

# LIVING WATER

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



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

At the end of November, Americans celebrate a unique secular holiday. It began in 1621 when the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. But it wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

During the years that St. Tikhon guided the Orthodox Church in America (then known as the Russian Missionary Metropolia), he was impressed by the fact that the United States—although a pluralistic nation that practices separation of religion and government—set aside one day every year to rest and praise God for all that He bestows upon mankind. St. Tikhon was even inspired to write special hymns for the day, and encouraged Orthodox parishes to serve the Divine Liturgy on Thanksgiving, thus sanctifying a secular holiday.

This connection between Thanksgiving Day and the Divine Liturgy is evident when we consider what is the purpose of our worship: to receive the Eucharist. The word comes from the Greek *evharistia*, meaning “giving thanks.” This is primarily because the sacrament is linked to the prayers of thanksgiving recited by the priest before the consecration. But it is also much deeper than that. The Eucharist represents our entire mode of being, how we live in relationship to God.

The Church Fathers teach us that God does not need our praise and thanksgiving. The Trinity is entirely self-sufficient, and needs nothing from His creation. But

we humans need to express thanks. It is intrinsic to our nature. When we consider the miracle of our lives, the complexity of our existence and our world, the beauty that surrounds us, it is our natural desire to express gratitude. But to whom may we direct it? Only God is responsible for every good thing we see and experience.

Giving thanks to God does not mean we ignore the brokenness of the world. Christians are also realists, and we should understand that God calls upon us to shine His love and justice into a dark place. But though there is darkness, the light is always brighter; and it is precisely because of the darkness that we recognize the light in contrast. So we give thanks in spite of the evil and suffering around us.

If an attitude of constant gratitude does not change God, nor the world around us, what good is it? It changes us. Gratitude turns us toward God. It opens our eyes to blessings we normally overlook. It brings us peace and joy, even in the midst of afflictions. And, as some

neuroscientists have found (such as Jeffrey Schwartz at UCLA), gratitude literally rewires the neural networks in our brains, enabling us to overcome negativity, anger, fear, and depression.

As St Paul asks us, “What do you have that you did not receive?” (1 Cor 4:7). The implied answer to the question is “nothing.” If everything we have is a gift from God, and we can boast of nothing, then let us heed the Apostle’s advice: “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thes 5:18).





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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**

✠ *Agapē Hour (Coffee Hour)*  
Volunteers are needed to sign-up.

✠ *Annual Meeting*  
The 2019 Annual Meeting will take place on Nov 10, after Liturgy. All those who renewed their membership for 2020 may attend as voting members. Associate and non-members may attend as observers. If you haven't returned your Pledge Card, please do so before Nov 10.

✠ *Thanksgiving Liturgy*  
In honor of Thanksgiving, Liturgy will be served on Thursday, Nov 28 at 10 am. The hymns of St. Tikhon, written for American Thanksgiving, will be chanted.

**Clergy**

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

***Attached***

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

***Minor Orders***

Sbdn. Michael Richards  
Rdr. Dionysios Charles Doten  
Rdr. Christopher Herbert  
Rdr. Anthony Brian Allen

***Retired Attached***

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

**Parish Administration**

***Parish Council***

Reader Christopher Herbert - Warden / Secretary  
Rdr Dionysios Doten - Treasurer  
Leonard Giacone - Asst Treasurer  
Jim Shiskin - Council Member  
David Waite - Council Member  
Elena Voronkova - Council Member  
Mary Perkins - Council Member

***Choir Director***

Rdr Dionysios Doten

***Orthodox Book Center***

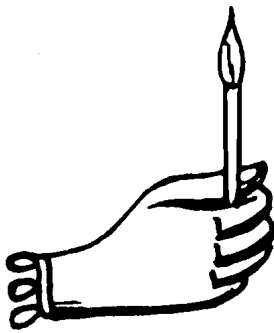
Gary George Popovich - Coordinator

***Women's Ministry***

Angela Allen - Coordinator

## Prayer List

Carrie Wusylko / Stanley Prystacky  
Enis Jakolenko / Karen Budowski  
Ludmilla Voinescu / Svetlana Roadway  
Stanley Klein / Vernon Lee / Nina Fortune  
Ann Ross / Norma Skuby  
Susan Simpkins / Antonio Nicodemo



## Highlights of September Financials

*Items should be at 75% of budget.*

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year Total</b>	
Total Exp.	\$9,499	\$133,645	68.5%
<b>Income</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year Total</b>	
Collections	\$10,726	\$91,443	62.2%
Candles	\$660	\$6,646	47.4%
Coffee Hour	\$185	\$1,669	32.7%
Kitchen	\$5,088	\$772	290.5%
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Total Inc.	\$17,060	\$115,409	58.2%*

*\*At month's close, we were 10.3% under-funded.*

## November Birthdays

- 1 Lisa Herbert
- 1 Mihai Mavrodin
- 3 Lillian Raynes
- 7 Iulia Maria Goean
- 12 Vasilisa Tikhonov
- 14 Johnathan Clarke
- 15 Pres. Irina Lucas
- 15 Kathleen Shiskin
- 16 Felipe Pineros
- 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

## Wish List

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

*Rolls of Stamps*

*Processional - Altar Cross \$1,000*

*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*

*Annual Icons Set (In English) \$1,000*