

LIVING WATER

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral ❖ Feb 2020



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

According to the Book of Proverbs, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (9:10). This statement offends our modern sensibilities. We often try to soften the idea, saying that “fear” in this context refers to awe, or wonder. But this is not what the text says in either Hebrew or Greek. But why should fear be an appropriate response to God? Our discomfort with this idea comes from our own misunderstanding about who God is.

When we read the Gospel accounts, or the words of St Paul, we hear often that God loves us. And so, we might assume that love is the only real attribute of God. But the Apostle tells us that the God who loves us and “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4) is the same one whose “wrath...is coming upon the sons of disobedience” (Col 3:6). Or to put it another way, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb 10:31).

As Christians, we must hold together these two depictions of God. He is both the God who loves, and the God who judges; the God of mercy, and the God of wrath; the God of forgiveness, and the God of condemnation. Theologically speaking, God does not change—He is “ever-existing, eternally the same,” to quote the anaphora in the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom. It is we humans who change in our relationship to Him. According to St Anthony the Great, we perceive God according to

our disposition: when we disobey Him by sinning and following our selfish desires, we experience God as wrath; but when we love and serve Him in humility, we experience God as light and life.

Returning to our quote from Proverbs, we should understand that to begin our journey towards God, we must first recognize that He is “a consuming fire” (Heb 12:29), and that sin and impurity cannot stand in the face of His holiness. Fear of God’s might is meant to convict us of our sins so that we may repent. But with repentance we begin to experience the mercy of God, and the more we seek His forgiveness, the more we experience His love.

St John presents us with the goal of Christian life: “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment” (1 Jn 4:18). As we grow closer to our Lord in sanctification and righteousness, the fear of His judgment is replaced with constant awareness of His loving presence. As St Sophrony of Essex taught, the servile fear of the sinner is replaced by a very different sort of fear—the fear of losing God’s love by disobeying Him.

Our God is both terrifying unto the wicked, and merciful unto those who seek His face in repentance. It is up to us how we shall behold the face of the Lord.





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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

✦ *Agapē Hour (Coffee Hour)*

Volunteers are needed to sign-up. When signing up during Lent, please be mindful of fasting guidelines.

✦ *Pre-Lenten Retreat*

Join us on Saturday, Feb 15 for a spiritual retreat led by Archbishop Alexander and Fr. Joseph, 10:30 am - 3 pm. A relic of the True Cross will be here for veneration.

✦ *Home Blessings*

Home blessings are still underway. Please contact Fr. Joseph to schedule a date to have your house or apartment blessed for 2020.

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

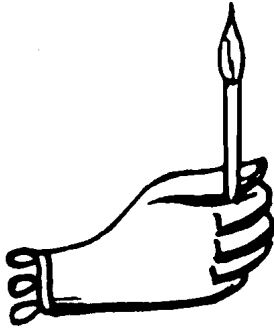
Gary George Popovich - Coordinator

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 December Financials

Items should be 100% of budget (\$198,000 proposed).

Expenses	Month	Year Total	
Total Exp.	\$15,685	\$179,357	90.6%
Income	Month	Year Total	
Collections	\$11,982	\$122,369	83.2%
Candles	\$613	\$8,137	58.1%
Coffee Hour	\$172	\$2,156	42.3%
Fundraisers	\$320	\$6,130	306.5%
Hall Rental	\$250	\$2,400	40.0%

Total Inc.	\$14,626	\$150,321	75.9%*

**At year's end, we were 14.7% under-funded for 2019.*

February Birthdays

- 1 Hardai (Joy) Lee
- 6 Nina Fortune
- 9 Zachariah Doten
- 12 Isaiah Bryant
- 14 Kenneth Lowrey
- 21 Michael Snavely
- 23 Mary Perkins
- 23 Angie Allen
- 23 Walter Budowski
- 24 Maja Georgakopoulos
- 25 Jeremy Paulovkin

February Anniversaries

- 2 Stanley & Carol Klein
- 3 David & Etsegenet (Tina) Waite
- 20 Kenneth & Violet Lowrey
- 20 Ann & Bruce Zipper
- 21 Lesley & Deborah Bowser
- 23 James & Kathleen Shiskin

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

*Large canisters of olive oil
for church lamps*

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

Costco Columbian Coffee