

LIVING WATER

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



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

With the coming of Lent (the Great Fast), we begin to see an increase in liturgical services. On weekdays, we see the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy appear, as well as special or occasional services such as the Great Canon, the Akathist to the Theotokos, and even Holy Unction. On the weekends, there is also the introduction of liturgies on Saturday mornings. Most of these are referred to as “Soul Saturdays,” and the theme at each of these is the remembrance of departed Orthodox Christians.

In a way, every Saturday throughout the year is a “Soul Saturday,” because the primary liturgical theme for the seventh day of the week is the departed. The connection between Saturday and the dead is ancient in origin. For the Jews, the last day of the week was called the Sabbath, which means “rest.” This reflects the idea that God created the entire universe, and then rested at the end. It was also a day of rest for His people, who were commanded not to work on the Sabbath.

With the coming of Christ, something changes in this regard. He was constantly accused of disregarding the Mosaic Law for doing holy works on the Sabbath. Jesus later proclaims, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” His interpretation of the day of rest pointed to something more important than physical rest: He spoke of good works on the Sabbath so that the believer can enter into an eternal rest.

Then came the arrest and trial of Christ. The sequence of events in the Gospel of John correspond to the days of the week (like a new version of the creation story in Genesis). On the sixth day (when man was created), Pontius Pilate presents the humiliated Jesus to the crowd and cries out, “Behold, the Man!” Jesus is then led up the hill of Golgotha to be crucified. And on the following day—the seventh day, the Sabbath—our Lord’s body rested in the tomb while He simultaneously freed the captive spirits in Hades.

These correlations caused the early Church to set

aside Saturday as the day to remember all those who have reposed, whose souls are in the hand of God, and who await the final resurrection. The blessing of boiled wheat (coliva) became a part of the liturgical setting on Saturdays, due to the words of Christ that use wheat as a metaphor for the resurrected life to come: “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain” (John 12:24)

Since the Church teaches that there is no repentance after death, one may ask, “Why do we pray for the departed once they are gone?” For as St Paul makes clear, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb 9:27). But every reference to the Judgement places it at the end of time, with the return of Christ and the resurrection of all. Thus, judgment has not yet occurred.

Although a person cannot repent for their own sins after death, Orthodox Christians know that our prayers, as an act of love for the departed, are a testimony to their lives. All prayers offered to God in love and humility (within our framework and understanding of time) are received by God (who is beyond time). And though we cannot be certain of His final judgment,

we can be assured that His justice is always tempered by His love and mercy.

And so the Church preserves this ancient teaching of prayer for the departed (a tradition, it should be noted, which was Jewish in origin, as mentioned in the Maccabean books and in certain pre-Christian Jewish prayers). We preserve this tradition because we know that judgment awaits us all, and because our love for our fore-bearers should inspire us to cry out to God on their behalf. We do not offer such prayers because we think it will change the mind of God; we do so because we trust in His decisions. It is an act of faith.

In Christ,





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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.

✠ *Pre-Sanctified Liturgies*
Our Wednesday evening Lenten services run March 4 through April 8. The reading of Lenten Hours begins at 6 PM, followed by the Liturgy at 6:30 PM. After that, we meet in the hall for a meal and Q&A based on the readings for that day. Fasting before the Liturgy should begin by noon prior to receiving the Eucharist.

✠ *Mission Vespers*
A "Mission Vespers" for the OCA parishes in Southeast Florida will take place at St Herman Church (Lake Worth), Sunday, March 22 at 6 PM. All are invited.

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

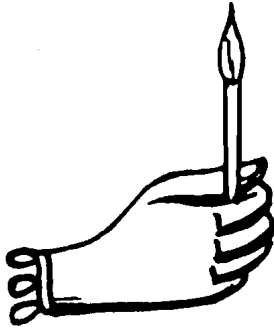
Gary George Popovich - Coordinator

Women's Ministry

Angela Allen - Coordinator

Prayer List

Carrie Wusylko / Stanley Prystacky
Enis Jakolenko / Karen Budowski
Ludmilla Voinescu / Nina Fortune
Norma Skuby / Antonio Nicodemo



Highlights of Januray Financials

Items should be at 8.3% of budget.

Expenses	Month	Year Total	
Total Exp.	\$16,037	\$16,037	8.6%
Income	Month	Year Total	
Collections	\$9,365	\$9,365	6.9%
Candles	\$511	\$511	4.3%
Coffee Hour	\$151	\$151	0.5%
Fundraising	\$1,605	\$1,605	1.6%
Christmas	\$120	\$120	---
Cemetery	\$3,000	\$3,000	150.0%

Total Inc.	\$14,752	\$14,752	7.9%*

**At month's close, we were 0.7% under-funded.*

March Birthdays

- 2 Rdr. Christopher Herbert
- 5 Alexis Cepeda
- 9 Zoe Lissette Doten
- 10 Amy Allen
- 10 Andrei Mavrodin
- 11 Rafael Lucas
- 12 Josiah Heredia
- 13 Jean Griffin
- 25 James Lowrey
- 25 Hope Petipren
- 26 Anastasia Pineros
- 28 Olga Balutina

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 Containers of Olive Oil
for Church Lamps*

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

Costco Columbian Coffee