

LIVING WATER

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral ❖ July 2021



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

For Orthodox Christians living in the United States, the Fourth of July is an important reminder of that fundamental freedom that enables our Church to flourish: the liberty to believe and worship as we see fit. Many of our ancestors made the arduous journey to the New World because of religious oppression they were facing in the Polish Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, or later under the Soviet Bloc. In America, they could raise their children in the faith without fear.

It is good to remember where we came from—and to continue to defend religious freedom in our own time—but there is another, more important freedom that our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to: freedom from sin.

One of the ironies of modern life is that we are offered so many choices, and yet we are enslaved to the things we choose. We mistakenly believe that choice makes us free; but in fact, we are often compelled to choose in order to satisfy our unruly desires. We are drowning in the marketplace of goods, services, and ideologies. Homo Sapiens has now become Homo Consumerus.

If ever I want to test myself, to see if this is the case, all I need do is expose myself to some temptation and then see how quickly I succumb. Whatever our strongest passions are, there are a myriad of ways to satisfy them. And the moment we are presented with the various choices, we begin to struggle with ourselves.

But there is only one choice that proves we are truly free: abstention. When we choose *not* to choose, it means that the things we desire do not control us. It means that we are able to make rational choices, not based on our passions or emotional states, but according to God's will.

One of the reasons we are unable to make free choices is because we think we must act alone. When faced with temptations, we may struggle for a time, and then fall into sin because we lack the strength to continue the battle. Or perhaps we give in immediately because we do not believe we have the fight in us at all.

In both instances, we are relying on our own strength. In truth, none of us is strong enough to overcome sin on our own. We need God to empower us by his grace in order to obtain victory in our spiritual struggles. And we only receive that grace when we surrender ourselves into God's hands. By regular and sincere prayer, and with the constant admission of our weakness, he will come to our defense.

We are not truly free until we are free from sin. Until then, our choices become tyranny as we constantly battle against temptation. May the Lord grant his aid so that we may ultimately participate in his victory over sin.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul'.





**Christ the Saviour
Orthodox Cathedral**
16601 NW 77th Court
Miami Lakes, FL 33016
ph. (305) 822-0437
Cathedral@OrthodoxMiami.org

OFFERING THE LIVING WATER
TO SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

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

www.OrthodoxMiami.org

Announcements

✦ *Obednitsa*

Fr Joseph will be away July 11 and 17.
Deacon Carlos will be leading Obednitsa
in place of the Liturgy. This is a slightly
shorter service than the Divine Lirtugy.

✦ *Bible Study*

Bible Study will resume on July 21.

✦ *Blessing of Vehicles...*

will take place after Liturgy for Prophet
Elijah on Tuesday, July 20.

✦ *Inquirers Class*

Reader Brian Anthony Allen will be
leading an Inquirers Class in August,
every Saturday after Vespers at 7 PM.

Clergy

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

Dn. Carlos Miranda, MDiv.

Minor Orders

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

Retired Attached

Fr. Philip Reese
Fr. Peter Tutko
Fr. Alexander Padlo
Fr. Michael Zaperyniuk

Parish Administration

Parish Council

Rdr Christopher Herbert - Warden / Secretary
Rdr Dionysius Doten - Treasurer
Jim Shiskin - Council Member
David Waite - Council Member
Elena Voronkova - Council Member
Mary Perkins - Council Member
Rdr Anthony Brian Allen - Council Member

Choir

Elena Voronkova - Director

Women's Ministry

Angela Allen - Coordinator

Prayer List

Carrie Wusylko / Stanley Prystacky
Enis Jakolenko / Karen Budowski
Norma Skuby / Ludmilla Voinescu
Rdr Dionysius Doten / Vernon Lee
Edward White / Georgette Hartner
Joshua Herbert / Antonio Nicodemo
Ronald Delavega / Jose Fernandez
Jennifer Heredia / Danica Simpkins



Highlights of May Financials

Estimated income/expenses = 58% of budget.

Expenses	Month	Year Total	
Total Exp.	\$15,477	\$69,060	37.1%
Income	Month	Year Total	
Collections	\$8,663*	\$41,671	34.4%
Candles	\$648	\$1,432	47.7%
Hall	\$1,600	\$6,560	54.7%
Pascha	\$2,590	\$3,160	105.3%
Endowment	\$3,000	\$6,000	--

Total Inc.	\$16,501	\$69,656**	37.4%

* Collections, based on Pledges, should be \$10,083
** Year Total includes income reflected in previous months but not the current month.

July Birthdays

- 2 Juliana Reese
- 4 Joy Richards
- 5 Maria Idriceanu
- 10 Sarah Butcher
- 12 Nikki (Mary) Richards
- 13 Bianca Keeley
- 19 Willie James Bryant
- 19 John Montrey
- 20 Bruce Ross
- 23 Georgette Hartner
- 24 Antonia Cofino
- 24 Eileen Karachin
- 24 Esmeralda Cortes
- 31 Bruce Gerasimos Evanoff

July Anniversaries

- 6 George & Margaret Frisk
- 10 Rdr. Dionysi & Valerie Doten
- 14 Peter & Ionela Dragolewicz
- 23 Fr. Philip & Mat. Debra Reese
- 24 Ion & Corina Mavrodin

Wish List

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

Books or Rolls of Stamps

*Large Containers of Olive Oil
for Church Lamps*

Costco Columbian Coffee

Hand Sanitizers & Paper Towels