

# LIVING WATER

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



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross is the first of the “Twelve Great Feasts” in the Church calendar that is dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ. It commemorates the historical event of the finding of the Cross by St Helen (Elena) in the fourth century, when her entourage excavated Golgotha. After verifying the legitimacy of the Cross by using it to raise a dead man, the Archbishop of Jerusalem raised it on high as the faithful bowed down in veneration. This is reenacted today in cathedrals when the hierarch blesses the four cardinal directions with a hand-cross, while the people sing “Lord have mercy” one hundred times.

In the hymns for this feast, the Cross is called “the invincible weapon of peace.” If this sounds contradictory, it’s because it’s meant to. The Romans used crosses to execute criminals and traitors, those who were not citizens and therefore lacked any rights. To die by crucifixion is a slow, painful process of asphyxiation. And in addition to the physical agony is the mental anguish of being publicly humiliated. Even the Scriptures comment on this, saying, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” (Gal 3:13, *paraphrasing* Deut 21:23). A cross, then, represented the most terrifying and shameful way to perish.

In accepting the shame of death-by-crucifixion, Jesus truly entered into solidarity with the lowest place of our human condition. He experienced the pain and torment of the scorned

and the broken. And while the thieves to his left and right deserved their punishment, Jesus himself was blameless and pure. They had lived by death, and therefore were subject to death; but Jesus is life itself, and so death could not bind him. What seemed to those watching to be a defeat was changed to victory by the resurrection.

Since the beginning of Christianity, the Cross has been a sign of paradox. A weapon of torture became the means by which our salvation was accomplished. What was meant to inflict suffering now brings consolation. What was meant to punish sin becomes the symbol of divine forgiveness.

And so we Christians place the sign of the Cross everywhere—on and in our temples, on our bodies, on objects, and in our rituals. The Cross is a constant reminder of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us. But it’s also a reminder of what we ought to do for him as well. We have been called to deny ourselves, pick up our cross each day, and follow him. We are enjoined to love Father, Son, and Holy Spirit more than this earthly life. We are created to live sacrificially, just as Christ sacrificed himself for us.

The Cross is a “scandal to the Jews and folly to the Greeks” (1 Cor 1:23). It is not an empty symbol, but rather the emblem of those who participate in Christ’s victory.

In Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name.





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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

### ✠ *All Night Vigils*

Our Archbishop has blessed the Cathedral to serve the All Night Vigil when a Great Feastday falls on a weekday. This service consists of Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy, all served on the eve of a holiday. We will serve two in September.

### ✠ *Pledge Drive*

Please return your Pledge Cards ASAP, or email the info to Fr. Joseph. Newer Orthodox members should contact Fr. Joseph to become a pledged member.

### ✠ *Catechism for New Members*

Autumn Catechism begins Sept 11 at 7:30 pm, and is every Saturday until Oct 30. All adults and young adults are welcome.

## 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 Zaparyniuk

## 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



## September is Pledge Drive Month!

*Did you know that most of the budget for the Cathedral is based on your donations?*

Every September we ask you to renew your commitment to our parish and its ministries by making a pledge to give for the upcoming calendar year. We base the budget on these pledges, which means its important that each of us follows through with the amount we've promised to give to the Church.

In your generosity, please remember to put God's work first when you budget your income. And please remember to keep up with your pledge, even if you're away from services.

## September Birthdays

- 1 Bruce Zipper
- 2 Kristina Contreras
- 2 Jennifer (Mary) Heredia
- 4 Eduardo (Ephrem) Diaz
- 5 Stanley Prystacky Sr.
- 7 Dn. Carlos Miranda
- 20 Sai (Anastasia) Paulovkin
- 25 Paul Christakis
- 27 Andrei Lucas
- 28 Gabriel Arturo Ruiz
- 29 John Prystacky Jr.

## September Anniversaries

- 12 William & Lillian Raynes
- 25 Charles & Jean Griffin

## 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*

*Donations for Landscaping*