

# LIVING WATER

*The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral ❖ Apr 2022*



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I Occasionally see a bumper sticker on cars (right next to their “fish” decal) that states: “Forget the religion, Christ is risen!” The obvious statement this person is making is that they reject any sort of institutional religion, and assumes they believe that any sort of structure, ritual, or tradition is unnecessary for Christianity. We could glibly respond, “If you want disorganized religion, then come to the Orthodox Church!” (another bumper sticker I’ve seen around).

All joking aside, there is a kernel of truth in this attack on “religion,” if by religion we mean that Orthodox Christianity is just like every other system of belief such as Islam, Buddhism, or Hinduism. If we believe our faith to be revealed directly by God, and therefore the truth, then it is unlike any of these religions of men. Wherever they agree with us, it is commendable; but wherever they disagree, it is because their founders did not have access to divine revelation.

There is another problem with thinking that our faith is simply another religion: it will then take second place to our normal day-to-day existence. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann famously referred to this as the “heresy of secularism.” This is when our faith is only surface-deep—a nice addition to our lives, but really only a decorative embellishment. Such a view mutes the radical message of the Gospel, and the example and teaching given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord did not become man, die for our sakes, and rise again just to make our lives more comfortable; nor simply to give us something to look forward to in the future (after death); he did these

things in order to transform our lives. St Paul asks, “Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom 6:3-4). We are called to participate in the risen life of Christ here and now, and to be deeply changed by this.

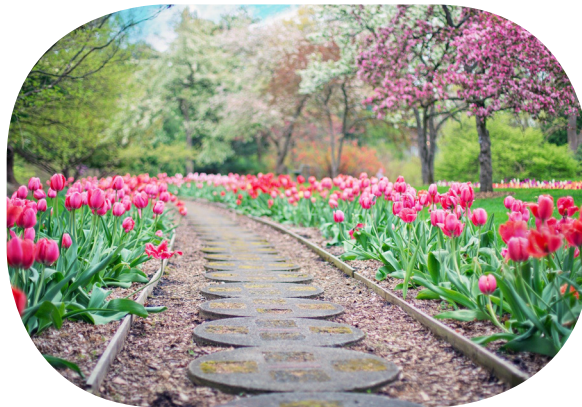
The danger we must avoid, then, is to diminish our religion by putting the “practical” things of the world first. This is our constant temptation. We often take our queues on what we think, how we live, and how we treat others from secular sources. “Beware,” the Apostle tells us, “lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ” (Col 2:8).

The way Christ has shown us is so much greater than this. He has taught us to love and forgive our enemies, and to plant the garden of Paradise in this broken world of ours. And not only does he teach us this, he enables us to do so through the gift of the Holy Spirit he first sent to us after his resurrection on the third day. A life lived in Christ, through the Spirit, could never be compared to mere religion, for it is the power of God in his people.

May each of you experience a blessed close of the Great Fast, and a wondrous and beautiful Pascha.

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

### ✦ *Blessing of Baskets*

Pascha baskets will only be blessed after the Paschal Vigil is over (sometime after 2 am).

### ✦ *Bright Monday Youth Outing*

As in past years, the Cathedral invites all the youth to take off school on Monday, April 25 for Liturgy. After Liturgy, the Cathedral will cover expenses for the youth to have a day out with fun and food. Location is TBA.

### ✦ *Youth Liturgy & Breakfast*

Join us on Lazarus Saturday. Youth can go to confession 9 - 10 am. All youth are invited to participate in the Liturgy. Breakfast will be served afterwards.

## 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. Christopher Herbert  
Rdr. Anthony Brian Allen  
Rdr. Nilus Wawerczyk

### *Retired Attached*

Fr. Philip Reese  
Fr. Alexander Padlo  
Fr. Michael Zaparyniuk  
Fr. Leonid Palceski

## Parish Council

Rdr Christopher Herbert - Warden / Secretary  
Rdr Nilus Wawerczyk - Treasurer  
Rdr Anthony Brian Allen - Council Member  
Nicole Mary Brown - Council Member  
Duane Patrick Clarke - Council Member  
Vernon Andrew Lee - Council Member  
William Wusylko - Council Member

### *Choir*

Elena Voronkova - Director

### *Orthodox Book Center*

Rdr Nilus Wawerczyk - Director

### *Financial Secretary*

J. Thomas Hornsey

### *Office Secretary*

Hope Petipren

### Prayer List for Healing

Carrie Wusylko / Ayesha Doten  
Enis Jakolenko / Karen Budowski  
Norma Skuby / Vernon Lee  
Edward White / Georgette Hartner  
Joshua Herbert / Antonio Nicodemo



**“The Theotokos is so much closer to God than others who draw near to him, that she is able to intercede more powerfully than any of them; and by this I mean not just human beings, but even all the ranks of the angels.”**

**- St Gregory Palamas**

### April Birthdays

3 George Frisk  
3 Jared Ross  
5 Valerie Doten  
12 Violet Lowrey  
14 Charles Griffin  
16 Sbdn. Michael Richards  
22 Mia Angelina Campos  
23 David Waite

### April Anniversaries

3 Dn.Carlos & Dalia Miranda  
25 Duane & Christine Clarke

### Wish List

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

*Books or Rolls of Stamps*

*Costco Colombian Coffee*

*Metal Rakes*

*Gardening Soil*

*Cleaning Supplies (Fabuloso, Windex, etc)*

*Fruit snacks and animal crackers*

*Pantry supplies (oil, rice, beans, pretzels)*

*Brooms and dust-pans*