

LIVING WATER

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral ❖ Jul 2022



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Abba Xanthius, one of the renowned fourth century Desert Fathers, once remarked, “A dog is better than I am, for he has love and does not judge.” Whether you are a “dog person” or not, it is easy to admit why these creatures are such a good symbol for humble obedience. They serve their masters without complaint, and dedicate all their affection to those they trust. We can learn much by observing our canine friends.

Unlike dogs, human beings are not naturally compliant. We bristle at authority and question what is best for us. This has been true since the moment we tasted of that forbidden fruit in Paradise. Although God informed us in advance what the consequences of disobedience would be, we still rebelled, assuming we knew better than the Master of the whole universe.

Nothing has changed. We continue to question God. What about what makes *me* happy? What about what *I* want? What about what *I* learned from the “experts”? And the list goes on. Often, our questions are more an accusation of God than sincere queries. At the root of these statements is always our own limited, selfish perspectives on life. We don’t really want to know what God thinks; we want to oppose what we think on God.

Orthodox Christianity presents us with a different path. It is a way of life rooted in the community of the faithful as we extend through

space and time. In order to be an active member of the Church, we are expected to be obedient to the teachings and practices that are universally shared by our Orthodox brothers and sisters, both throughout the world, and over the course of our history going back to the Apostles. To assert our own views that contradict Holy Tradition is to place ourselves in opposition to the Body of Christ (the Church), and therefore to God himself.

Today we are bombarded by all sorts of falsehoods through the internet: false ideas, false practices, and false moralities. There are many “rabbit holes” to go down, leading to strange esoteric or conspiratorial views. Even if an iota of truth can be found in these things, they remain dangerous. They are the forbidden fruit of our modern age.

The way to salvation is the path of humble obedience.

Had Adam and Even trusted God, they would have learned the difference between good and evil through the gift of discernment. As the early Fathers assert, God would have freely given them the fruit, which symbolizes true wisdom. If we want to grow closer to God, this begins with checking our ego and self-assurance at the door. We need to look to God like a puppy looking to its owner, ready to be fed from the crumbs that fall from his table. Salvation begins with obedience.

In Christ.

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





**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*

Deacon Carlos will be leading the Obednitsa or "Readers Service" on Sunday, July 17 and 24 while Fr. Joseph is at the All-American Council in Baltimore.

✦ *Bible Study Pause*

The last Bible Study for July will be on Wednesday the 6th, and then will pause for the remainder of the month. It will resume again on August 3.

✦ *Caribbean Night*

Those interested in planning our parish Caribbean Night should contact Fr. Joseph to express your interest to serve on the committee. A date for the event will be set once the committee is formed.

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
Catherine and Elena Morris



“Let no one think, my fellow Christian, that only priests and monks need to pray without ceasing and not laymen also. No, no—every Christian without exception ought to dwell always in prayer.”

- St Gregory Palamas

July Birthdays

- 3 Hernando Mesa
- 4 Joy Richards
- 10 Sarah Butcher
- 12 Nikki (Mary) Brown
- 13 Bianca Keeley
- 19 Willie Bryant
- 19 John Montrey
- 20 Bruce Ross
- 20 Santiago Alvarez
- 21 Jacob Alvarez
- 23 Georgette Hartner
- 23 Irina Nguyen
- 24 Eileen Karachin
- 24 Esmeralda Cortes
- 31 Bruce Gerasimos Evanoff

July Anniversaries

- 6 George & Margaret Frisk
- 23 Fr. Philip & Mat. Debra Reese

Wish List

*Manischewitz Concord Grape Wine
for Zapivka (after communion)*

Olive Oil for Lamps

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

Books or Rolls of Stamps

Costco Colombian Coffee

Half and Half for Agape Hour

*Home Depot Gift Cards
for Parish Gardening / Tools*