

# LIVING WATER

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



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

A properly Orthodox reading of the Old Testament—one that reflects the way the Apostles and early Saints read it—looks beyond or through the narrative to discover what the text is saying about Jesus Christ. He himself tells us, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning me” (Luke 24:44). Christ is the key to unlocking the Scriptures.

An important example of this is the incident of the burning bush in Exodus 3. Most of us know the basic narrative: Moses sees a bush immersed in flame, and then God commissions Moses to go to Egypt to free the Israelites. It’s in the midst of this conversation that God reveals his name as “I AM.”

But there is much more going on in the story. Firstly, the flame is obviously not a natural one, because it does not consume the bush. Later in Exodus, we are told that God’s glory appears in the form of fire. Secondly, we are told that it is the Angel of the Lord who is in the midst of the fire, but then he speaks as God himself. This shows us that the one speaking has the authority of the Heavenly Father, and yet is distinct from him. And thirdly, the name that God tells Moses is the same one Jesus applies to himself in John 8:58: “Amen, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

The one who revealed himself in the

burning bush was none other than the Word of God. He is the voice of the Father, the one who reveals the Father to us. And he is the same one who “became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Once we know that it was the Son of God who spoke to Moses, we are better equipped to understand the meaning of the burning bush. It is, in fact, an image of Christmas.

The conception and birth of Jesus is an unparalleled miracle. As St Paul writes, the Son is “the brightness of [the Father’s] glory” ( Heb 1:3). But he limited himself and assumed human nature in the womb of Mary. She, like the bush, contained the glory of God within herself; yet she was not consumed. The image of Exodus 3 is in fact a prophecy of the incarnation.

Our Orthodox Faith is built upon this truth: God has become man, Emmanuel (God is with us). In doing so, he has elevated human nature, and enabled us to be filled with his own glory. Like the Theotokos, we are capable now of bearing the glory of God within through the gift of the Holy Spirit. God has become man, so that man may become like God (as St Athanasius proclaimed). The Nativity of the Lord is not simply about his birth in a cave, it’s about us being reborn when he enters into our hearts.

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

### ✦ *Christmas Vigil*

This year we will be serving the entire Nativity Vigil and Liturgy together on Christmas Eve. We will begin at 4 PM on December 24 with the Great Compline and Matins, and then continue into Liturgy. Afterwards we will break the fast with a festive potluck and carol singing.

### ✦ *Tour of Pregnancy Help Center*

The Cathedral will begin partnering with the Heartbeat of Miami in Hialeah to help mothers in crisis. We'll be touring their facility on Dec 10 at 10 AM. A sign-up will be going out for those who would like to come on the tour. Our Charity Committee will determine the best ways we can help with their work.

## Clergy

Fr. Joseph Lucas, PhD., 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  
Rdr. Artem Timofeev

### **Retired Attached**

Fr. Philip Reese  
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 Richards - 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

Bianca Iulia Goean / Ayesha Doten  
Elena Voronkova / Karen Budowski  
Norma Skuby / Vernon Lee / Angela Allen  
Edward White / Georgette Hartner  
Joshua Herbert / Antonio Nicodemo  
Catherine and Elena Morris  
Georgina Nikolic / Mary Perkins



“In truth, there is only one freedom: the holy freedom of Christ, whereby He freed us from sin, from evil, from the devil. This freedom freely enslaves us to God. All other freedoms are illusory, false; in other words, true slavery.”

- St Justin Popovich

### December Birthdays

- 6 Victoria Hornsey
- 7 Ann Zipper
- 7 Camila (Serafina) Sarmiento
- 8 Henry Campos
- 10 Mercedes Cortes
- 10 Daniel Martinez
- 12 Marcus Jammes
- 12 James Shiskin
- 14 Natasha Campos
- 15 Cristian Lucas
- 16 Ava Campos
- 16 Ioann Pineros
- 20 William Raynes
- 27 Edward White
- 31 Nghia Nguyen

### December Anniversaries

- 12 Alexis & Melissa Alvarez
- 12 Nghia & Irina Nguyen
- 18 Rdr. Brian & Angie Allen
- 20 Jeremy & Sai Paulovkin
- 26 Edgar & Leidy (Alina) Arana

### 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*

*Non-Dairy Creamers for Agape Hour*

*Home Depot Gift Cards  
for Parish Gardening / Tools*