

LIVING WATER

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral ❖ July 2024



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Living as an Orthodox Christian today is a difficult task because we are surrounded by so many temptations. Technology has made it more convenient to satisfy our desires, which has led to a decrease in religious life and an increase in selfishness and addictive behaviors. Of course, the Orthodox spiritual life offers tools to push back against the allure of the world. But yet there is another problem we run into:

our ego.

One of the phrases a priest often hears from parishioners and inquirers is, “I agree / disagree with [fill in the blank].” The assumption behind this statement is that the individual is the sole judge of what is correct or incorrect, right or wrong. A very modern idea, it elevates our own reasoning above the mind of the community—the Church spread across space and time. At the very least, this stance allows for a rejection of specific Orthodox doctrines. But at its worse, it leads to the sort of chaos described at the close of the Book of Judges: “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (21:25).

To approach our faith from this angle is to come at it in the wrong way. It is to assume that Orthodox Christianity is a simply a list of ideas, each independent from the other, which can then be examined and either approved or discarded based on one’s personal analysis. This method makes our religion into just one more ideology

like all the rest, a system that can be evaluated and tinkered with based on our pre-established views.

But our faith is not a system but a way of life. It is entirely holistic, with each part of universal doctrine and practice complementing, supporting, informing, and building on every other part. And more importantly, it is divinely-revealed, not man-made. As enshrined in the Synodikon of Orthodoxy, we believe “as the prophets have seen, as the apostles have taught, as the Church has received.” How then can we

impose our own standards on a faith handed to us by God?

We should never ask, “Must I believe such-and-such doctrine to be Orthodox?” Rather, we should strive to live and embody the fullness of the faith. We may not understand every aspect of it; but neither do we understand every aspect of a jet plane

before we trust that it will get us to our destination. It is impossible

to fully comprehend any complex reality, let alone the infinite mysteries of faith. God is not asking this of us; he is asking us to trust him, love him, and serve him.

St. Paul instructs us to bring “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor 10:5). Instead of subjecting Orthodoxy to our own standards, let us subject our thoughts to the Lord.

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

Announcements

✠ *Orthodoxy 201*

Deacon Carlos will be teaching two classes during Agape Hour in July on "The Patristic Lexicon." On July 14 the topic is "Saved (A Process)"; and on July 21 it is "Faithfulness (Love & Obedience)."

✠ *No Vespers*

There will be no Vespers services or confessions on July 13 and 20.

✠ *Parish Education*

Bible Study will resume on Aug 21. The autumn semester of Church School for the youth will commence on Sept 8. And the Autumn Adult Catechism will begin on Sept 12 and run through Nov 7.

Clergy

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

Dn. Carlos Miranda, MDiv.

Minor Orders

Sbdn. Michael Richards
Rdr. Nilus Wawerczyk
Rdr. Anthony Saborio

Retired Attached

Fr. Michael Zaparyniuk
Fr. Leonid Palceski

Parish Council

Rdr Nilus Wawerczyk - Warden, Treasurer
Leah Duboy - Secretary
Henry Campos - Social Media Manager
Rdr Anthony Saborio - Council Member
Duane Patrick Clarke - Council Member
Gabriel Ruiz - 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 Goean / Ayesha Doten
Elena Voronkova / Karen Budowski
Norma Skuby / Vernon Lee / Lee Ashby
Edward White / Georgette Hartner
Catherine Morris / Elena Morris
Georgina Nikolic / Mary Perkins
Angela Allen / Josiah Heredia
William Raynes / Theophan Petipren
Joy Richards / Tatiana Drake
Valerie Doten / Raquel Ferraguz



“A father and his children converse with each other with love. Likewise, God speaks with faithful souls with love through the Holy Scriptures; and faithful souls speak with God lovingly in prayer and glorification. Oh, the loving and sweet talk that takes place between the majesty of God and an ignoble human who is earth and ashes!”

- *St. Tikhon of Zadonsk*

July Birthdays

- 3 Hernando Mesa
- 4 Joy Richards
- 5 Esteban Umana
- 9 Janette Nieves
- 10 Sarah Butcher
- 12 Nikki (Mary) Richards
- 13 Bianca Keeley
- 19 Willie Bryant
- 20 Bruce Ross
- 20 Santiago Alvarez
- 23 Georgette Hartner
- 23 Irina Nguyen
- 24 Eileen Karachin
- 24 Esmeralda Cortes
- 31 Jacob Alvarez

July Anniversaries

- 2 Gabriel & Olympia Ruiz
- 2 Ivan & Anastasiya Chernyshov
- 6 George & Margaret Frisk

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

*Home Depot Gift Cards
for Parish Gardening / Tools*