

LIVING WATER

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



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Every August, our liturgical calendar is dominated by the memory of our Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. August 1 through the 14 is a fast in her memory, culminating in the Great Feast of her Dormition (Repose) on August 15. In the Afterfeast, we also remember that her physical body was raised by her Son three days after her death, commemorating the fulfillment of Psalm 44/45: “At thy right hand stands the queen.”

With such emphasis placed on the Theotokos, it is important to consider her role in our salvation, and to disambiguate true from false doctrine.

One of the accusations commonly directed at Orthodox Christians is that we “worship” the Theotokos. We could simply dismiss this as ridiculous, but it would be uncharitable.

The issue is rooted in the fact that Protestants have reduced their worship of the Trinity to such an extent that our veneration looks to them something like worship. But when we review the theology of our hymns and prayers, we discover that our worship of God is extremely lofty, and cannot be confused with veneration of the Theotokos or any of the saints. Of course, we should honor those whom Christ himself honors, which includes his Mother. This is what veneration is. But the word “worship” in Greek (*latreia*) means “to serve,” and we only serve God and do his will.

Even so, our veneration of the Theotokos is more elaborate than that of the other saints. Why is this? First of all, we extol her because God does. His messenger, Archangel Gabriel, called her “highly-favored one” and “blessed” (Luke 1:28). And in the Spirit she said of

herself, “All generations will call me blessed” (v. 48). These descriptions are unique, especially in that the word “blessed” used in verse 48 is not *makarios* (felicitous) as used in the Beatitudes, but *evlogos*, which is even used in the Bible to describe God. It means something like, “worthy of praise.” She was chosen for a reason, in response to her purity. Nothing in Scripture says that she was simply a vessel, randomly chosen by God.

Second, we praise the Theotokos because of the life she continued to lead.

Nowhere in Scripture does it say she sinned; and oral tradition confirms that she lived a spotless life. She is an exemplar of holiness and hesychasm. Regarding all she experienced, St. Luke says, “Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart” (2:19). She lived by faith, never doubting the will of God and his plan of salvation.

And third, the Theotokos represents the ultimate offering of mankind to

God. The entire history of Israel in the Old Testament is a preparation for God himself to become man. This narrative reaches its climax in the Theotokos—a blameless woman presenting herself, her very flesh, to be the garment our Lord will unite to his eternal divinity. Her “yes” to God undoes the “no” of Eve, and so the Second Adam comes into the world through the action of the Second Eve.

As we remember the Theotokos this month, let us keep in mind her role in the mystery of our salvation.

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 his next class on Sunday, Aug 25 during Agape Hour. The topic, from his "Patristic Lexicon" series, will be "The Law."

✦ *Two Feasts and a Fast*

In August we have two great feasts with corresponding Vigils: Holy Transfiguration (Aug 6) and Holy Dormition (Aug 15). Please check the calendar for service times. The Dormition Fast is Aug 1 - 14. Paraclesis to the Theotokos is Aug 9. Agape Hour participants need to bring fast-appropriate foods on Aug 4 and 11.

✦ *Bible Study*

Bible Study resumes Aug 21.

Clergy

V. Rev. Joseph Lucas, PhD., MDiv.
Rector of the Cathedral

Fr. Dn. Carlos Miranda, MDiv.

Minor Orders

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

Retired Attached

V. Rev. Michael Zaparyniuk
V. Rev. 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
Raquel Ferraguz / Josiah Heredia
William Raynes / Theophan Petipren
Tatiana Drake / Valerie Doten



“Indulgence in pleasure only pushes a man into a further attempt to escape from pain in further pleasure. While man by his will can renounce pleasure, he can never wholly avoid pain and sorrow. He can only overcome his sorrow, that is to say, remain in it, carrying his cross, without taking refuge in a new pleasure which would bring with it a new pain, and so on till at the end of his life, death will come as the final sorrow. Christ overcame pleasure, that is to say, the human tendency towards pleasure, by remaining in grief, victoriously bearing the cross, as the ultimate pain.”

- *St. Dumitru Stăniloae*

August Birthdays

- 1 Anetera Bryant
- 1 Rdr. Anthony Saborio
- 2 Lily (Olympia) Ruiz
- 5 Samantha Jammes
- 10 Susan Simpkins
- 13 Lazaro Cortes
- 14 Joel Clarke
- 16 Donna Jammes
- 16 Etsegenet (Tina) Waite
- 17 Christine Clarke
- 19 Catherine Devora Morris
- 22 Carly Sarmiento
- 25 Danica Simpkins-Ortiz
- 30 Diana Rodriguez
- 31 Dimitriy Nguyen

August Anniversaries

- 14 Alejandro & Raquel Ferraguz
- 15 Fr. Joseph & Matushka Irina

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*