

LIVING WATER

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



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Every four years the United States goes through a certain civic ritual in which her citizens argue over who is most fit to lead the nation, and then argue over who actually won after everything is said and done. Although interaction with politics is nearly impossible to avoid in a democracy—for it affects the lives of everyone—regular exposure to it is enough to make anyone cynical of its actual utility.

But this is not an article about voting. (It is up to each member of the Orthodox Church to decide whether or not they will vote, and if they do, to choose a candidate who best exemplifies the ethical teachings of our faith). Rather, this is a word about what it means to be both an Orthodox Christian and an American. How do we reconcile these realities?

Many have answered this question in unsatisfactory ways. Some have said it is best we hunker down in our ethnic ghettos, exalting the cultural traditions of the places our Orthodox ancestors came from. But this fails to take into account a few things: the command to evangelize “all nations” (Matt 28:19); the fact that converts will soon outnumber “cradle” Orthodox in the United States; and the impossibility of avoiding some measure of assimilation.

Some have proposed that we formulate a uniquely “American” form of Orthodoxy, focusing our energy and talents on administratively unifying the jurisdictions, affirming a common tradition in terms of liturgical practice, and inventing an American musical repertoire from whole cloth. But such a project would smack of innovation rather than the typically organic process by which the Church has historically been locally enculturated.

Some have suggested that we completely separate our secular and religious lives, never bringing our faith into the public square in order to avoid conflicts. But this directly contradicts the words of our Lord: “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt 5:16).

There are likely many other responses to the question of what it means to be an Orthodox Christian in America; but there is only one correct answer. Our job is to become true disciples of Jesus Christ—here and now, in the place and time we inhabit.

The Orthodox Church has already given us the tools we need to do this. We have a standard for asceticism: prayer, fasting, and charity. We have the Menaion: the calendar of feastsdays. And no matter which cultural manifestation our local parish inherited, we are exposed to an authentic form of worship. When we participate in all these things with all our hearts, the results will spill over into everything we do, affecting our “secular” lives and even influencing our politics!

Does this mean that Orthodox Christianity will never be unified or enculturated in the United States? Not at all. If we live out our faith as we have inherited it, and continue to interact with Orthodox Americans of other cultural backgrounds, we will gradually, over centuries, stamp it with what is unique to our culture. Bit by bit, the contributions of clergy and monastics, musicians and scholars, will impact the character of American Orthodoxy. And in time we will also become a single administrative body (according to the canons); because in that day we will see in each other a common way of life.

Nothing good ever comes from a committee bent on change and forced reformation. The danger of distorting the Apostolic Tradition is too great to approach our religion as a project. But if we do our best to embody the faith, God will guide us in our endeavors; and he alone shall bless the outcome. Until then, let us strive to live faithfully and piously, praying for our nation and investing the talent we’ve been given in edifying the Church and evangelizing our land.



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

- ✦ *Annual Meeting on Nov 10*
The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held during Agape Hour. All adult pledged members are voting members.
- ✦ *Nativity Fast Begins Nov 15*
Fish is permitted on all weekends.
- ✦ *Three Feasts in November*
On Nov 7 we will celebrate the Synaxis of the Angels. Nov 20 will be the Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple. And Nov 28 will be Thanksgiving.
- ✦ *Readers Class in December*
A class will be offered on Saturday afternoon, Dec 14 for men interested in learning to read during liturgical services.

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
Matteo Campos / Georgette Hartner
Catherine Morris / Elena Morris
Georgina Nikolic / Mary Perkins
Raquel Ferraguz / Josiah Heredia
William Raynes / Theophan Petipren
Mary Wawerczyk / Valerie Doten
Edward White & Clarice White



“Patriotism is a natural quality, but Christianity is supernatural. Patriotism is a provincial truth, but Christianity is a pan-human truth. Patriotism means love of one’s country or one’s generation; Christianity means love of all countries and all generations. Christianity includes a sound and true patriotism, but excludes untrue and exaggerated patriotism as it excludes every untrue thought and feeling. Of course, an exalted patriotism in a frame of hatred all around excludes the Christian religion and is its most dangerous enemy.”

- St. Nikolai of Žiča

November Birthdays

- 2 Elena Morris
- 3 Lillian Raynes
- 7 Iulia Maria Goean
- 12 Vasilisa Tikhonov
- 13 Mekhi Bryant
- 14 Johnathan Clarke
- 15 Pres. Irina Lucas
- 15 David Bruce
- 15 Kathleen Shiskin
- 16 Felipe Pineros
- 17 Joshua Thomas Hornsey
- 18 Joseph Waite
- 27 Luke Thomas Paulovkin

November Anniversaries

- 1 J.T. & Victoria Hornsey
- 7 Mikail & Laura Ramcharan
- 10 Herman & Xenia Garcia
- 11 Luis & Janette Nieves
- 27 Henry & Natasha Campos

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*