

LIVING WATER

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral ❖ Jan 2025



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

There is a Theophany custom amongst some Orthodox living in colder climates to cut through the ice sheet on frozen lakes (often in the shape of a cross) in order to sanctify the water hiding beneath the surface. In some places, brave souls will even jump into the frigid water in order to participate in the fresh blessing. This “small t” tradition is a beautiful example of how Holy Tradition (the “Big T”) can positively influence the local culture through customs and thereby convey deep theology through subtle means.

The Feast of Holy Theophany is rooted in a biblical event described in all four Gospel accounts. Jesus Christ comes down to the River Jordan to be submerged in its water by St. John. As he rose up, the heavens opened, the Father spoke, and the Spirit in the form of a dove descended upon him. What is the meaning of this event?

Some misguided persons, both now and throughout history, have asserted that Jesus was baptized to be purified of sins. But this can not be the case: as the incarnate Son of God, he is without sin, from the moment of his conception, throughout his life, and eternally. But why be baptized? Even St. John seemed confused, stating, “I need to be baptized by you, and are you coming to me?” (Matt 3:14). He recognized that Jesus is the Messiah sent from heaven, which is why he says earlier, “I baptize with water, but there stands one among you whom you do not know. It is he who,

coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose” (John 1:25-27).

Our Lord’s baptism was not meant for the remission of sins in the way St. John intended for the others. Rather, it was for the sanctification of the cosmos. The same Lord who began his creation with water (Genesis 1) has recreated the world by means of this primordial element. He

releases nature from the power of corruption, making it possible for the Church to continue his work of blessing the world and restoring it to union with himself.

It is because of Jesus Christ’s baptism that our own baptism is efficacious. Our immersion in water is not only for the remission of sins, but also for regeneration and transformation. We not

only “put on Christ” (Gal 3:27) in some sort of external way; we also become a “temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 6:19) as God indwells us. Of course, water symbolizes this act of re-creation, but it also becomes the vehicle through which it is actualized.

Blessing a lake in the Name of the Lord (even a frozen one) reminds us of what the Scriptures teach us. The waters of creation have been sanctified; and we ourselves are invited to participate in this great blessing every day.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly 'Theophany' or similar, written in a cursive script.





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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

✠ *Parish Feast Day*

On Sunday, Jan 12 we will be celebrating our patronal parish feastday (Theophany). After Liturgy we will serve the Great Blessing of Water, followed by a procession and blessing of the temple. Agape Hour will be a potluck.

✠ *New Parish Directory*

In 2025 we will release an updated parish directory. Photos will be taken on two consecutive Sundays: Jan 19 and 26. Please make sure to get your photo taken.

✠ *Catechism Program*

Our new Catechism Program will begin on Jan 26, and will be on most Sundays after the Agape Hour.

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
Rdr. Stephen Butcher

Retired Attached

V. Rev. Michael Zaparyniuk
V. Rev. Leonid Palceski

Parish Council

Rdr. Nilus Wawerczyk - Warden, Treasurer
Leah Sophia Duboy - Secretary
David Bruce - Council Member
Sophronia Lafond - Council Member
Gabriel Ruiz - Council Member
Rdr. Anthony Saborio - Council Member
William Wusylko - Council Member

Lay Leadership

Elena Voronkova - Head Chorister
Rdr. Nilus Wawerczyk - Book Center Manager
Sandy Root - Financial Secretary
Sophronia Lafond - Administrative Assistant
J. Thomas Hornsey - Director of Catechism
Mary Wawerczyk - Director of Sisterhood

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
Clarice White / Leah Duboy



“Why is not the day on which the Lord was born [Christmas] called Theophany [‘a manifesting of God’], but rather this day on which he was baptised? On this present day he was baptised and thereby sanctified the nature of water... But why then is this day called Theophany? Because Christ made himself known to all: not then when he was born, but when he was baptised. For until this time he was not known to the people.”

- *St. John Chrysostom*

January Birthdays

- 9 Norma Skuby
- 10 Emma Lowrey
- 11 Ruben Garrote
- 12 Anastasiya Kulikova
- 13 Ricardo Sarmiento
- 14 Doris Villar
- 18 Peter Tikhonov
- 25 Hugo Ortiz
- 27 Ayesha Doten
- 27 Mary Wawerczyk
- 31 Sienna Marina Sarmiento

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*