

LIVING WATER

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



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

It has long been observed that modern society is defined by a culture of taking rather than giving. To whatever extent this is true, it is the result of a radical individualism that emerged out of the European Enlightenment. The ancient Christian worldview in which a person flourishes within the concentric rings of overlapping relationships—nation, city, parish, family (all under God)—has been replaced by the idea of “each to his own.”

The responsibilities a person once held towards others in their community has been supplanted by the demand for rights and privileges.

Some ideologies go so far as to outright reject all forms of altruism. The “selfish gene” is the means to human progress, they will say. Even so, society at large is shy about appearing self-serving. Many attempt to assuage their conscience by virtue signaling: by supporting the right cause, buying the right products, or sending money to the right charity. But these superficial actions do not constitute true virtue; they cannot transform a person from a taker into a giver.

It is difficult for an Orthodox Christian living in this environment to break free from this mentality. Both those reared within the Church and those who convert to the faith carry around the baggage of our self-centered society. We may be tempted to approach our religion in terms of what we get out of it. When we think this way, Orthodoxy is reduced to an identity marker, a social program, or a “third space” to meet people. In other words, we come to

take from the Church rather than to give.

St. Paul writes in 2 Cor 9:7, “God loves a cheerful giver.” This applies to everything we do. If God himself is *agapē* or “selfless love” (1 Jn 4:8), then we are called to imitate and embody the same. Our fallen nature, of course, does not want to cooperate; so we must pushback by choosing selfless acts. Most importantly, we need to ask our Lord for grace in order to set aside our desires for the sake of others.

We can begin to change by taking small steps, such as being more courteous to others during worship, cleaning up after ourselves at fellowship times, and volunteering for work days or various projects. And we can also be more generous in our donations to the parish, moving towards an actual tithe of our income and giving more to the needy. We must not wait until we feel “authentic” about such choices. It is best simply to act; our feelings will eventually catch up with us.

Our personal transformation is not about individual salvation, but about how we grow closer to Christ together. It begins with simple choices, a gentle trickle that slowly becomes a rushing river. But what begins within our parish can radiate outward to affect the local community, even our nation. It is then we will understand the power of our Lord’s saying, “It is better to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the author, written in a cursive style.





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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

Instagram: [christ.thesaviour.miamilakes](https://www.instagram.com/christ.thesaviour.miamilakes)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/OrthodoxMiami

YouTube: [@orthodoxmiami7309](https://www.youtube.com/@orthodoxmiami7309)

Announcements

✦ *Sisterhood Meeting*

The Sisterhood will be meeting on Feb 9
after Liturgy for a discussion.

✦ *Saturday Meatfare Bash*

An evening of food, music, and dancing
will take place on Saturday, Feb 22 from
7 - 11 PM. Tickets are \$20 for adults.

✦ *Sunday Meatfare Barbecue*

Our meatfare BBQ will be at Agape Hour
on Sunday, Feb 23. Meat will be provided
by the Cathedral. Please donate side
dishes.

✦ *In-door Work Day*

Volunteers needed to work indoors to
clean-up on Feb 15, 9 am - 12 pm

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 Asher Lafond - Council Member
Gabriel Ruiz - Council Member
Rdr. Anthony Saborio - Council Member
William Wusylko - Council Member

Lay Leadership

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

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
Leidy Arana / Valerie Doten
Mercedes Cortes / Leah Duboy



“I have taken you in my arms, and I love you, and I prefer you to my life itself. For the present life is nothing, and my most ardent dream is to spend it with you in such a way that we may be assured of not being separated in the life reserved for us... I place your love above all things, and nothing would be more bitter or painful to me than to be of a different mind than you.”

- *St. John Chrysostom*
(on a husband's love for his wife)

February Birthdays

- 1 Joy Lee
- 4 Rdr. Nilus Wawerczyk
- 9 Zachariah Doten
- 10 Alexis Alvarez
- 11 Luis Nieves
- 12 Isaiah Bryant
- 14 Kenneth Lowrey
- 14 Daniel Ortiz
- 18 Leidy Arana
- 21 Bogdana Hornsey
- 23 Mary Perkins
- 23 Roxana Castellanos
- 25 Jeremy Paulovkin

February Anniversaries

- 3 David & Etsegenet (Tina) Waite
- 17 Ricardo & Carly Sarmiento
- 20 Kenneth & Violet Lowrey
- 20 Ann & Bruce Zipper
- 20 Spiro & Luba Baltas
- 23 James & Kathleen Shiskin

Wish List

*Manischewitz Concord Grape Wine
for Zapivka (after communion)*

*Winn Dixie / Publix Gift-Cards
for the Needy*

Books or Rolls of Stamps

Costco Colombian Coffee