



The Orthodox Cathedral of Christ the Saviour

16601 NW 77 Court
Miami Lakes, Florida 33016

Phone: 305-822-0437

Fax: 305-822-0842

Rectory: 305-825-9541

www.orthodoxmiami.org
ierej@orthodoxmiami.org

The House of God

Truly the Church is heaven upon Earth; for where the throne of God is, the the awful sacraments are celebrated, where the angels serve together with men, ceaselessly glorifying the Almighty, there is truly Heaven. And so let us enter into the house of God, with the fear of God, with a pure heart, laying aside all vices and every worldly care, and let us stand in it with faith and reverence, with understanding attention, with love and peace in our hearts, so that we may come away renewed, as though made heavenly; so that we may live in the holiness natural to heaven, not binding ourselves by worldly desires and pleasures.

*Select passage from
Father John of Kronstadt's book:
"Spiritual Counsels"*

Now on sale at the
Orthodox Book Center

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

How Should We Come to the Divine Services of Our Church?

The spiritual depth of our Orthodox Church is amazing. When we encounter and pay attention to our Divine Services, we can sense the beauty, spiritual maturity and experience which come from the Holy Spirit through the Holy Fathers of our Church. The prayer life of our Church, which are the Divine Services, has nurtured and inspired generations of the faithful, including all the Saints to tremendous spiritual heights. In order for the Divine Services to begin to do this, they must be approached with care as well as commitment.

The Divine Services (the Liturgy, Vespers, Matins, etc.) are not entertainment! The liturgical life is not set up for us to attend a service here and there. As good as that may be, the real benefit comes from active, regular, attentive participation over time - years of time being constantly exposed to the prayers, the scriptures, the hymnography, the doctrine, the history, and the spirituality. It is set up to gradually build a formation and identity in the individual and in the family, firmly rooted in our Orthodox faith.

This is serious business! It is hard work to come to church, stand, focus and pay attention. It is easier to sit or stand back, watch the ceremony, be a people watcher and day dream, putting the focus on everything else except where it needs to be. This is why care is needed on our part to prepare and schedule ourselves for the Divine Services. This is why, too, commitment is necessary - the commitment to attend frequently and be attentive in order for the Divine Services to do its patient work over time in us. The goal is our sanctification.

We may feel that our lives are so busy that it is impossible to include more Divine Services into our lives. My advice is to begin to prepare properly for the services you currently attend. Practice faithfully attentiveness and focus. You will be surprised how difficult it is. By practicing it however, you will be gradually pushing your attentive and spiritual capacity. When this happens, inner benefits begin to happen, even the desire to attend even more of the Divine Services.

As we are looking forward to the Feast of the Lord's Nativity, let us begin to look at how we attend the Divine Services. Let us give some thought to the practice of greater attentiveness.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Philip Reese

Guest Article

Christmas on a Tight Budget

By Fr. Thaddeus Hardenbrook

Already this year, I've been a part of several conversations revolving around Christmas gift-giving anxiety. Many of us are much tighter than ever financially, which conflicts directly with the cultural conviction that gift-giving is somehow tied to how successful we are as a person or, worse, how much we love someone. Both are rotten fruits of capitalism. Neither has anything to do with the birth of Christ.

Whether it is our own family experience or not, as Orthodox Christians we have to submit, at some point, to the spiritual reality that it is our relationships that matter the most: our relationships with God, neighbor, and self. The best times are had by intentionally being together. That's all. Knowing that, the rest of our energy can joyfully go into creating the opportunities to simply be together.

Stated in extreme simplicity, "being together" is the life of the Holy Trinity. It is the cause for which mankind was created. It is essential to natural human existence, the purpose of the Incarnation, and the root of every liturgical celebration. *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them"* (Matt. 18:20).

As Christians preparing to celebrate Christmas, our communion with family, friends, strangers, and God must remain as the central purpose. Being on a tight budget is a blessing in the sense that it makes it much easier to practice the spiritual reality. The Incarnation is not simply one of many themes to be coordinated during the season; it is the root of the season from which everything natural to it springs forth. Those practices (and anxieties!) that do not graft successfully to the Incarnation are cut away.

Here's a couple of practical ideas that can help us get past the debt-accruing urges and free up some time and energy for planning an affordable, Christian Christmas:

- Reframe expectations. Compared to many, locally and globally, having a roof over one's head, some personal belongings, and memories intact is a state of abundance and blessedness. Want what you have, not what you don't have.
- "It is better to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Take up the work of giving love and blessings to others rather than financing expensive gifts.
- Extravagant spending doesn't make the holidays any more special. What you do, not how much you spend, defines how joyous and memorable the season will be.

- Curb gift-giving. Many families draw names, so that everyone gives only one gift. Many couples agree not to buy anything for each other but only for the children.
- Set a price limit on gifts. Instead of shopping impulsively, set a maximum amount you can spend per person and shop accordingly.
- Make gifts when you are able (everyone loves cookies). Don't buy new decorations. Take a stroll around the neighborhood for natural, free décor you can use indoors.
- Ask what a family or person needs. Inexpensive gifts that are actually needed are more appreciated than that expensive trinket bound for the dresser drawer. If communion is the goal, center all the being-together time around a potluck Christmas meal where the burden of cooking is shared equally. Make sure there is lots of time after the meal to sit around and just be together. Listen to music and play board games, tell stories, attend the services, discuss Incarnational theology over eggnog. Build memories together. Relational bonds are natural to the process of salvation and will enter with us into eternity. And tasting of our eternal communion is just plain better than more junk in the garage.

Clergy

Diocesan Hierarchy:
Metropolitan Jonah (Locum Tenens)
Cathedral Rector: Archpriest Philip Reese
Deacon: Archdeacon Gregory (Burke)
Retired Hierarchy: Bishop Mark

Minor Orders

Subdeacons:
Christopher (Randolph) LaCroix
Alexander Dimich

Readers:
Dyonysi (Charles) Doten
Christopher Herbert
Stephen Butcher

Parish Board Members

Gary Popovich	(Chair)
Christopher Herbert	(Secretary)
Jim Shiskin	(Treasurer)
Alex Pouschine	(Asst. Treasurer)
Stephen Butcher	Charles Doten
Les Bowser	Mary Perkins
Jennifer Lemieux	Natalya Kochneva (alt)

Asking Your Prayers Please...

Remember in your prayers the ill-afflicted ones:



- Archpriest Theodore Soroka | Stephen Serenac
- Esperanza Serenac | Anna McGregor | James Perkins
- Svetlana Roadway | Kathryn LaCroix
- Ludmilla & Peter Voinescu | Tatiana Geez
- Theodore Budowski | Betty Calvert
- Elizabeth Zazarro | Ryan Rodriguez
- Andrey Idriceanu

December Birthdays

- Dec 2 - Ted Budowski
- Dec 2 - Hannah Butcher
- Dec 9 - Ben Doten
- Dec 12 - James P. Shiskin
- Dec 20 - William Raynes
- Dec 24 - Robert Brookes
- Dec 29 - Les Bowser
- Dec 31 - Bruce Strom



Happy Birthday!

December Anniversaries

No December Anniversaries Reported



Attendance Record

October & November

Oct	Sunday	17th	Liturgy	65
Oct	Saturday	23rd	Liturgy	5
Oct	Saturday	23rd	Vespers	8
Oct	Sunday	24th	Liturgy	100
Oct	Sunday	30th	Vespers	10
Oct	Sunday	31st	Liturgy	79
Nov	Saturday	6th	Vespers	19
Nov	Monday	8th	Liturgy	02
Nov	Wednesday	10th	Akathist	03
Nov	Saturday	13th	Vespers	12
Nov	Sunday	14th	Liturgy	84
Nov	Saturday	20th	Vespers	09
Nov	Sunday	21st	Liturgy	71
Nov	Tks Giv Eve	24th	Service	17

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Andrew S.

12-21-2007

ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!

**Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!**



Orthodox Cathedral of
Christ the Saviour

Holy Supper

December 24th

Compline: 5:30 pm

Holy Supper: 7:00 pm

Donation: \$15.00 Adults
\$ 6.00 Student (13-18)
\$ 2.00 Child (5-12)

OCTOBER PARISH STATISTICS

Credits: \$12,271.00

Debits: \$ 8,506.48





COFFEE HOUR

Sponsors for the following dates:

- Nov 7th - The Herbert Family
- Nov 14th - Annual Turkey Dinner!
- Nov 21st - Eileen Karachin
- Nov 28th - Ken, Violet, & Jim Lowrey
- Dec 5th - Corrina
- Dec 12th - Available
- Dec 19th - Bruce Strom
- Dec 26th - Available

Many thanks to all who have hosted our fellowship ministry!

The Great Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord December 25th

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Saturday Christmas Day!
Matins begin at 9 am
Festal Liturgy at 10 am



Sisterhood of the Holy Cross

The sisterhood is happily preparing for our Annual Christmas Bake Sale which will be held on Saturday, December 11th from 10am to 3pm. If you are able to lend a hand with cooking or baking please kindly let Karen or Matushka Debbie know soon. Next sisterhood meeting is scheduled for December 5th.

CHOIR PRACTICE



Attention all choir members! Choir practice will be held on the first and third Sunday in the months of Nov & Dec beginning at 12:30 pm after coffee hour. Dates are: Nov 7th & Nov 21st Dec 5th & Dec 19th. See Chuck for details.

Wish List



Olive Oil for the Cathedral Lampadas

Altar Wine

Thanks so much to all who have made our wishes come true!

Annual Christmas Bake Sale
Saturday December 11th
10 am to 3 pm

Cakes, Pies, Cookies, Pastries
and more!

DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH LIFE EVENTS!

Welcome back to our iconographers! We are pleased you're here!

Dec. 5th * St. Nicholas Sunday and the Blessing of Autos

Following the Divine Liturgy on this Sunday, there will be the annual procession into the parking lot for the blessing of all our vehicles. If your family has two cars, this may be the Sunday that you'd come in separate cars. St. Nicholas, in addition to being a patron of children and seafarers, is also generally known as a patron of all travelers. We understand that there will be a very special visitor with us that day. The Liturgy for St. Nicholas Day on Dec. 6th will take place at 10AM at OCCS, and 7AM at the VA chapel.

Dec. 8th * Akathist Wednesday

The Akathist to St. Nicholas will be sung. Come join us!

Dec. 11 * Annual Bake Sale Saturday (10AM to 3PM)

This is one of the major fund raisers of the year and we will need your help! Cakes, pies, cookies, pastries, etc. are needed. In the past, we have discovered the various wonderful family recipes of our parishioners. This is the time to bring them out again, making those tasty treats to benefit our parish. Thank you for efforts! See our Sisterhood officers for details.

Dec. 18 & 19 * Fr. Patrick Smith Will Be With Us

Seminary in South Canaan, PA, he may be assigned to us as our assistant priest following graduation on Memorial Day weekend. Come to meet him. He will serve and preach on Sunday.

Dec. 24 & 25 * The Great Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)

Great Compline on Christmas Eve at 5:30PM and Holy Supper at approx. 7PM. Please reserve your seats for the Holy Supper by Sun. Dec. 19. Tickets are available now.

On Saturday, Christmas Day: Matins at 9AM, Festal Liturgy at 10AM.

Put Christ first - don't make it just "Present Opening Day." Our children need to see the commitment of the adults for proper church order. The Feast is fulfilled with the Divine Liturgy and the reception of Holy Communion and not with Compline/Holy Supper on the eve.

AROUND THE CORNER IN JANUARY!

Jan. 1st - St. Basil's Day and Feast of Circumcision of Our Lord

with the cutting of St. Basil Cake.

Jan. 6th - Theophany, the Blessing of Water

and the beginning of the Annual House Blessing Season. Fr. Philip will soon be making appointments to visit your home to bless it and your family with Holy Water and say prayers for your living & departed loved ones. What a wonderful and heart-warming opportunity for families to spend some special, quality-time and prayer with our beloved spiritual Father Philip.

Jan. 7th - Divine Liturgy for Russian (Old Style) Christmas

Jan. 8th - Pan-Orthodox Epiphany Liturgy at St. Catherine's WPB

Jan. 22 & 23 - Parish Feast Day Weekend w/Church Dinner

DECEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Nov 2010	29	30	1 Dec	2	3	4
5 Blessing of Autos Matins 8:30 am Liturgy 10 am Procession w/ Blessing of autos Sisterhood Mtg Choir Practice	6 St. Nicholas Liturgy 7am at VA Liturgy 10 am at OCCS	7	8 St. Nicholas Akathist Service 7pm	9 Conception of Theotokos	10	11 Annual Bake Sale! 10 am to 3 pm No Adult Study Vespers 6 pm
12 St. Spyridon Matins 8:30 am Liturgy 10 am Board Mtg	13 St. Herman of Alaska	14	15	16	17	18
19 Sunday Before Nativity Matins 8:30 am Liturgy 10 am Choir Practice	20	21	22	23	24	25 Nativity of Christ Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am
26 Synaxis of Theotokos Matins 8:30 am Liturgy 10 am	27 St. Stephen	28	29	30	31	1 Jan 2011 St. Basil the Great Circumcision of Christ Liturgy 10 am Cutting of St. Basil Loaf