

LIVING WATER

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral ❖ May 2023

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

In the Orthodox Church, there is so much an emphasis on the feasts of Pascha and Pentecost that we often forget or ignore another of the twelve great feasts sandwiched in-between these two: the Ascension of our Lord. Our liturgical services for the feast mark the end of the Paschal period, but are linked to an historical event that happened forty days after the resurrection and ten days before Pentecost.

The event is recorded in Luke and Acts: “And [Jesus] led them out as far as Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while he blessed them, that he was parted from them and carried up into heaven... And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw him go into heaven’” (Luke 24:50-1; Acts 1:9-11).

It is often the case that we think the ascension is about Jesus physically leaving his Church in order to send the Holy Spirit in his place on Pentecost. But this is not the case. As the New Testament makes clear, Christ remains the head of the Church, and his members are united to him, comprising his Body. And through the gift of the Spirit, Jesus is always with us, especially when we gather together. So what, then, is this event really about?

We are told by Christ and his apostles that

he is “seated at the right hand of the Father” (as also stated in the Nicene Creed). In the ancient world, only an equal could be seated in the presence of the king in his court. This means that the Son of God reigns together with his Father. And yet, he was *always* “equal with God [the Father]” (Phil 2:6). So what has changed? When he ascends he does so as the incarnate Lord; and with his glorified flesh/body he is enthroned as king of heaven and earth. The Lord who loves us so much as to suffer for us is now ruling over us.



And yet the world does not acknowledge this. We would rather have an earthly king rule over us (whether that be a politician, a bureaucrat, an oligarch, or a celebrity). We seek security in “princes and sons of men, in whom there is no salvation” (Ps 146:3). While the apostles are clear that we should respect the government authorities (see

Rom 13:1-2 and 1 Pet 2:13-14), we should not look to them for our fulfillment. Only Christ can satisfy our deepest longings. Only he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

As we approach the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord, let us remember that our true king reigns from the heavens. We are first and foremost citizens of his kingdom. When we serve our king before anything else, all necessary things will be added to us (Matt 6:33).

In Christ,



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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

✦ *Bible Study*

Bible Study is back every Wednesday
at 7 PM. We are going through Exodus.
Zoom links will be emailed weekly.

✦ *Camp St. Christopher*

The deadline is coming up to register
your kids (age 8 - 18) for our Florida
Orthodox summer camp. If you do not
have the registration link, please request
it from Fr. Joseph.

✦ *Ascension Vigil*

The All-Night Vigil and Divine Liturgy
for the Ascension of our Lord will be on
Wednesday, May 24 beginning at 6 PM.
Please be sure to fast at least 6 hours
prior in order to receive the Eucharist.

Clergy

Fr. Joseph Lucas, PhD., MDiv.
*Rector of the Cathedral
Dean of South Florida*

Dn. Carlos Miranda, MDiv.

Minor Orders

Sbdn. Michael Richards
Rdr. Christopher Herbert
Rdr. Anthony Brian Allen
Rdr. Nilus Wawerczyk
Rdr. Artem Timofeev
Rdr. Anthony Saborio

Retired Attached

Fr. Philip Reese
Fr. Michael Zaparyniuk
Fr. Leonid Palceski

Parish Council

Rdr Nilus Wawerczyk - Warden, Treasurer
Nicole Mary Richards - Secretary
Rdr Anthony Brian Allen - Council Member
Duane Patrick Clarke - Council Member
Vernon Andrew Lee - Council Member
William Wusylko - Council Member
Henry Campos - Social Media Manager

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 Iulia Goean / Ayesha Doten
Elena Voronkova / Karen Budowski
Norma Skuby / Vernon Lee
Edward White / Georgette Hartner
Antonio & Nicole Nicodemo
Catherine and Elena Morris
Georgina Nikolic / Mary Perkins
Angela Allen / Joshua Herbert



“The beginning of wisdom
is the fear of God, which is
first like swaddling clothes;
and wisdom, having
transcended fear and
ascending further up as
love, forges us into friends
of God and sons
rather than slaves.”

- St Gregory the Theologian

May Birthdays

- 2 Vasilisa Nguyen
- 3 Sophia Christakis
- 6 Mary Elizabeth Herbert
- 9 Aella (Anastasia) Rand
- 9 Yanexis (Elizabeth) Gallo
- 9 Kathleen Gallo
- 11 Edgar George Arana
- 13 Duane (Patrick) Clarke
- 16 Karen (Vera) Budowski
- 17 Luba Baltas
- 31 Gala (Justina) Arias

May Anniversaries

- 14 Bruce & Ann Ross
- 31 Lazaro & Mercedes Cortes

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

Costco Colombian Coffee

Creamers and 1/2 & 1/2 for Agape Hour

*Home Depot Gift Cards
for Parish Gardening / Tools*