

LIVING WATER

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



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We have just gone through a month in which the western world celebrates pride as if it were a virtue. And yet the Scriptures warn us that “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov 16:18). It was pride that brought down satan, and it is this same vice that likewise puts us in opposition to God.

For those who want to avoid the luciferian mistake, our Lord shows us a different path. He himself is “meek and lowly in heart” (11:29); and therefore, he tells us, “the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace” (Ps 37:11). God is by nature humble—the very source of humility—and those who embody his humility will also be those whom he exalts.

Humility is a difficult virtue to find these days. Our nation has always prided itself on being the home of self-made men, pioneers and rugged individualists. Humility does not mix well with the self-aggrandizement that often accompanies these traits. And with the invention of social media, we are more fixated on ourselves than ever before. Everyone desires constant attention, to have their ego stroked, or to become a star. As the 1985 pop song proclaimed, “Everybody wants to rule the world.”

When pride is left unchecked within the Church, the results are catastrophic. In recent years we have seen parishioners rebel against their priests, priests rebel against their bishops, and bishops break communion with one another—all because of a lack of humility. Very few seem ready to question their entrenched positions, let alone repent and forgive.

If we want to enter into the kingdom of heaven, we must humble ourselves and become like little children (Matt 18:3). But how? The Saints provide us the antidote to the poison of pride: obedience

Once, Abba John the Dwarf was asked by his abbot

to walk a half day’s journey into the desert and plant a dead stick into the ground. Then he was asked to go to the stick daily with a canteen to water it. After doing this for a long time, the abbot invited all the monks to travel out to see what Abba John had been doing. Showing them the stick that had now miraculously come to life and flowered, the abbot declared, “Behold, the fruit of obedience!”

The reason that monasticism can be so spiritually effective is because it’s rooted in acquiring humility through obedience. We would like to think we are obedient directly to God, but this is rarely true. We are generally selfish and self-willed. We bristle at authority and struggle to follow God’s commandments. And since God remains invisible to us, we get away with it (for now).

This is why it is necessary to obey the living and breathing authorities in our midst. When we take what they say as a commandment and put it into practice, it breaks down our ego and self-reliance and fosters humility in our hearts. This in turn opens us up to truly obeying God.

There are many places we can look for opportunities to be obedient. Of course, within the life of the Church we can obey the hierarchy above us (our priest and bishop). But this is not enough; we need daily obedience. So we can obey our boss at work, our parents or spouse, and even the laws of the land. However, there is one caveat to all this: we must *choose* to obey: actively, voluntarily, and without grumbling. Otherwise, our obedience enslaves rather than liberates.

As the world enshrines pride as if it’s a virtue, let us instead flee to its opposite, humility. Through obedience, may we become like little children and find our way to the kingdom of God.

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

✦ *Traveling*

Fr Joseph will be away July 3 - 14 for vacation, and July 17 -21 for the Diocese of the South Assembly. If you have a pastoral emergency while he is away, please text him and he will have a priest contact you as soon as possible

✦ *Bible Study*

Bible Study will resume on August 9 with Exodus 26.

✦ *Presentation on Preparing for Death*

On Sunday, July 30 representatives from Vista Funeral Home and Cemetery will give a presentation during Agape Hour on practical preparations pertaining to funerals and burial.

Clergy

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

Dn. Carlos Miranda, MDiv.

Minor Orders

Sbdn. Michael Richards
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 Vera Budowski
Norma Skuby / Vernon Andrew Lee
Edward White / Georgette Hartner
Antonio & Nicole Nicodemo
Catherine and Elena Morris
Georgina Nikolic / Mary Perkins
Angela Allen / Joshua Herbert
Jennifer Mary, Josiah, & Gabriela Heredia



“Be ashamed when you sin,
not when you repent.
Sin is the wound, repentance
is the medicine. Sin is
followed by shame,
repentance by boldness.
Satan has overturned
this order and given
boldness to sin and
shame to repentance.”

- St John Chrysostom

July Birthdays

- 3 Hernando Mesa
- 4 Joy Richards
- 10 Sarah Butcher
- 12 Nikki (Mary) Brown
- 13 Bianca Keeley
- 19 Willie Bryant
- 20 Bruce Ross
- 20 Santiago Alvarez
- 21 Jacob Alvarez
- 23 Georgette Hartner
- 23 Irina Nguyen
- 24 Eileen Karachin
- 24 Esmeralda Cortes
- 31 Bruce Gerasimos Evanoff

July Anniversaries

- 6 George & Margaret Frisk
- 23 Fr. Philip & Mat. Debra Reese

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*