

LIVING WATER

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Cathedral ❖ Feb 2024



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

The 17th and 18th centuries are commonly referred to by historians as the Enlightenment. During this period, literacy and access to printed books was on the rise, and individual rights had become the subject of economic and political discourse. The old world, formed by Christian symbolism, was giving way to the modern age; and the medieval worldview was rapidly being replaced by a scientific one.

It has been said that the Orthodox Church finds itself in an odd place. On the one hand, our religion did not go through the Enlightenment. Our theology and hymnography remain rooted in an ancient way, untainted by “progress.” But on the other hand, we as individuals did not escape the march towards modernity. We are products of our time and place and culture. And we are trained to think a certain way by our educational institutions. So try as we might, we will naturally struggle to understand the original vision of the Scriptures and Church Fathers. Our default mode is to think in rationalist, materialist, and scientific ways which we then attempt to square with our tradition. This rarely turns out well.

One tendency that comes out of this modern worldview is that of looking for mechanisms. Whereas the ancients made sense of the world and their experience of God through images and poetry, we tend to collect proofs and look for a process that can logically explain something. A good example of this is the Doctrine of the Atonement, as professed by many Protestants. In this theory, death is taken to be the just punishment for Adam’s crime, which permanently altered human nature. The legal guilt is then passed

on to all Adam’s descendents, placing them under the wrathful judgment of the Father, and his sentence of death. In order to correct this problem, Jesus had to bear the wrath of his Father by dying on the cross. He bears the brunt of the entire punishment, thereby making it possible for his followers to be forgiven. Problem solved.

However, we do not find this sort of mechanism of salvation in the actual Bible. Of course, various proof-texts are brought forward to support the hypothesis. But we may rightly ask: if the text clearly points to this explanation, why did no early Church Father figure it out? The answer is simple: They possessed a different worldview. They lived within the same symbolic reality as the Apostles, and read the Scriptures through that same lens. They engaged biblical images precisely as images, as refractions of an infinitely complex light that the human mind can grasp only in part.

Someone may riposte: why would it be necessary for Christians today to think like this? Simply put: because the Bible is not a modern document produced by enlightened men; rather, it is an ancient text authored by saints guided by the Holy Spirit. In other words, it’s an “in-Spirited” work. If we want to delve into our sacred writings, we have to open our minds to a different way of seeing. Rather than forcing our contemporary questions on to the text, we should let the imagery in the text guide our questions. In doing so, we may have a chance to reclaim the true meaning of the Scriptures, and of our lives.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name.





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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

✠ *Home Blessings*

Father Joseph will be away the first week of February for the Diocese of the South Pastoral Conference. If you have not yet scheduled a home blessing, email him your availability in February and he will contact you to coordinate.

✠ *Meeting of the Lord in the Temple*

This feastday celebrates when Jesus was brought to the temple in Jerusalem when he was 40 days old (see Luke 2:22-40). The All-Night Vigil will be on Thursday, February 1 at 6 PM, followed by the Divine Liturgy at 8 PM. Candles will be blessed after the service.

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. Anthony Saborio

Retired Attached

Fr. Michael Zaparyniuk
Fr. Leonid Palceski

Parish Council

Rdr Nilus Wawerczyk - Warden, Treasurer
Leah Duboy - Secretary
Henry Campos - Social Media Manager
Rdr Anthony Brian Allen - Council Member
Duane Patrick Clarke - Council Member
William Wusylko - Council Member
Gabriel Ruiz - Council Member

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
Catherine & Elena Morris
Georgina Nikolic / Mary Perkins
Angela Allen / Josiah Heredia
William Raynes / Theophan Petipren
Joy (Helen) Richards / Tatiana Drake



“Do not say that faith in Christ alone can save you, for this is not possible if you do not attain love for Him, which is demonstrated by deeds. As for mere faith: ‘The demons also believe and tremble’ (Jms 2:19). The action of love consists in heartfelt good deeds toward one’s fellowman, magnanimity, patience, and chaste use of things.”

- St Maximus the Confessor

February Birthdays

- 1 Joy Lee
- 4 Reader Nilus Wawerczyk
- 8 Daniel Gallo
- 8 Maximus Rand
- 9 Zachariah Doten
- 10 Alexis Alvarez
- 11 Natalia Bunina
- 12 Isaiah Bryant
- 14 Kenneth Lowrey
- 14 Daniel Ortiz
- 18 Leidy (Alina) Arana
- 19 Elijah Rand
- 21 Bogdana Hornsey
- 23 Mary Perkins
- 23 Angie Allen
- 25 Jeremy (Nicodemus) Paulovkin

February Anniversaries

- 3 David & Tine (Etsegenet) Waite
- 17 Ricardo (Athanasiu) & Carly Anne Sarmiento
- 19 Daniel & Crystal (Cristina) Martinez
- 20 Kenneth & Violet Lowrey
- 20 Ann & Bruce Zipper
- 20 Spiro & Luba Baltas
- 23 James & Kathleen Shiskin

Wish List

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

*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

*Home Depot Gift Cards
for Parish Gardening / Tools*