

# LIVING WATER



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST THE SAVIOUR ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

- DECEMBER 2025 -

Every year as we approach Christmas, we encounter the long reading from Matthew's Gospel that contains the genealogy of Jesus Christ. For those who enjoy tracing their ancestry as hobby (like myself), this long list of ancestors is quite interesting. But what is the theological purpose of its inclusion in the Bible, and why is it read prior to the feast of our Lord's birth?

One of the earliest heresies the Church encountered was that of Docetism (from the Greek verb "dokein" meaning "to seem"). This sect believed that Jesus resembled a man but was in fact entirely spiritual, lacking a tangible human existence. Influenced by dualism, they could not reconcile the idea that the Son of God indeed became flesh and bones. But the Apostles knew better. The person they came to recognize as the eternal Word of God also had a biological mother and an adoptive father. His ancestry is evidence of his incarnation.

Scholars sometimes refer to the human nature of Christ as "the scandal of particularity." By becoming man, he appropriated all the natural attributes of our mode of existence. Included in this is the particularity of his biography: he was born in a certain place and at a certain time (first century Judea and Galilee); he spoke specific languages (Aramaic and Greek); and he wore fashions customary for his culture (a tunic and beard). To be a human being is to be particular—not generic—and thus Jesus was also a unique individual.

However, the Church also teaches that Christ assumed human nature, not a separate person. In other words, it was the Son of God himself who was conceived, born, lived, died,

and rose again as an historical figure. The Son did not unite himself to a man named Jesus; rather he became a man who was then given the name Jesus by his mother.

These two aspects of our Lord's origin help us to understand our vocation as Orthodox Christians. Each of us has a unique story: we all come from a time and place and culture. We all are entries in a long genealogy that stretches back to Adam yet now exists in twenty-first century America. When we begin to follow after Christ, we bring our particularity along with us. Yet as we are slowly transformed and our human nature is sanctified, we begin to realize our consubstantiality with all mankind. What is meet and right about our heritage is taken up and baptized in the Church, while what contradicts the Gospel must necessarily be purged.

As we draw closer to Christmas, let us remember that the Son of God was born from the Virgin in order to save all Nations—regardless of where we come from. An Orthodox Christian is not generic; we all preserve our unique temporal and cultural traits. But we also must put on the identity of Christ by making Orthodoxy a way of life, not something merely superficial. It was for this reason that the Spirit brought St Herman of Alaska to our shores over 230 years ago: to begin the process of bringing America into the ancient Church of God-Man Jesus Christ.





## **Christ the Saviour**

ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL · EST 1962

Visit our website for news, announcements and changes to our schedule.

[www.OrthodoxMiami.org](http://www.OrthodoxMiami.org)  
Instagram: [christ.thesaviour.miamilakes](https://www.instagram.com/christ.thesaviour.miamilakes)  
[www.facebook.com/OrthodoxMiami](https://www.facebook.com/OrthodoxMiami)  
YouTube: [@orthodoxmiami7309](https://www.youtube.com/@orthodoxmiami7309)

### **- Announcements -**

**12/6** St Nicholas feast day  
10am Divine Liturgy  
12-3pm Celebration

**12/13** St Herman of Alaska feast day  
10am Divine Liturgy  
2pm Baptisms

**12/20** 8am-12pm work day

**12/21** Parish Council Meeting

**12/24** All night Christmas Vigil/Di-  
vine Liturgy/Christmas potluck

### **- 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  
Rdr. Thomas Hornsey  
Rdr. Gabriel Ruiz

### **- Retired Attached -**

V. Rev. Leonid Palceski

### **- Parish Council -**

Rdr. Nilus Wawerczyk - Warden, Trsr.  
David Bruce - Member  
Sophronia Asher Lafond - Secretary  
Rdr. Gabriel Ruiz - Member  
Rdr. Anthony Saborio - Member  
William Wusylko - Member  
Luis (Seraphim) Nieves - Member

### **- Lay Leadership -**

Elena Voronkova - Choir  
Rdr. Nilus Wawerczyk - Book Center  
Rdr. Thomas Hornsey - Catechism  
Mary Wawerczyk - Sisterhood  
Sophronia Asher Lafond - Administration  
Sandy Root - Financial Secretary

**- Prayer List for Healing -**

Fr Anastasios/Bianca Goean /  
Ayesha Doten  
Elena Voronkova / Karen Budowski  
Norma Skuby / Vernon Lee /  
Vincent Penalozza / Georgette Hartner  
Catherine Morris / Elena Morris  
Georgina Nikolic / Mary Perkins  
Raquel Ferraguz / Josiah Heredia  
William Raynes / Theophan Petipren  
Mary Wawerczyk / Valerie Doten  
Mercedes Cortes / Leah Duboy

“Behold, the time of our salvation has drawn near. O Cave, make ready! The Virgin is drawing near to give birth. O Bethlehem, land of Judah, be glad and rejoice, for from you our Lord has dawned. Listen, mountains and hills, and lands around Judea, for Christ is coming to save man whom He fashioned, since He loves mankind.”

**- Vespers of the Forefeast,  
December 20, first hymn of the  
Aposticha**

**- December Birthdays -**

- (6) Victoria Hornsey
- (7) Ann Zipper
- (7) Camila (Serafina) Sarmiento
- (8) Henry (Daniel) Campos
- (9) Sandy Root
- (9) Alexander Forbes
- (11) Andrei Voronkova
- (12) James Shiskin
- (12) Alexander Nieves
- (12) Koa Quinones
- (14) Natasha Campos
- (14) William Wasylko
- (15) Cristian Lucas
- (16) Ava Campos
- (16) Ioann Pineros
- (16) Natalia Bondina
- (20) William Raynes
- (25) Luis Rodriguez
- (28) Chuyi (Catherine) Huang
- (31) Nghia Nguyen
- (31) Tamara Wagner
- (31) Carrie Wasylko

**-December Anniversaries -**

- (12) Nghia & Irina Nguyen
- (20) Jeremy & Sai Paulovkin
- (26) Edgar & Leidy Arana
- (27) Eduardo & Mariana Diaz
- (30) Nilus & Mary Wawerczyk

**- Wish List -**

Manischewitz Concord Grape Wine  
for Zapivka (after communion)

Winn Dixie / Publix Gift-Cards  
for the Needy

Books or Rolls of Stamps

**- Giving -**

