

# LIVING WATER



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST THE SAVIOUR ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

- NOVEMBER 2025 -

One of the common misconceptions about faith is the idea that it is based on the imagination. After being inundated for decades by ideas from the New Age movement, many Americans now assume that faith is about visualizing what you want to happen, believing it will come true, and then waiting for the results. The “name it and claim it” practice of some is simply paganism with a Christian veneer. We should never confuse faith with positive thinking practices. Our relationship with God is not meant to take its cues from Neverland (no matter how much we scrunch up our eyes and believe really, really hard, we’ll never fly like Peter Pan).

So what then is faith? What does it mean when Christ refers to a faith that can move mountains (Mt 17:20)?

The biblical understanding of faith is rooted in knowing the character of God. The first step in this process is to recognize his attributes. What is God like? We learn from revelation—Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition—that our Lord is almighty. By his own power he has created the universe; and by his providence he has guided the affairs of man. All things are in his hand. And yet, he only does what is meet and right. He is incapable of evil because it would contradict his very nature. “God is love,” proclaims the Apostle (1 Jn 4:8), and thus he wills and acts according to his loving-kindness.

When we begin with this depiction of God, we affirm that he is capable of doing any good thing. Can he heal the sick man? Yes. Can he vindicate the innocent man? Yes. Can he protect the oppressed man? Yes. All such things are within his power, which is why we have been taught to ask for every good thing in our prayers.

However, this leads us to our second aspect of faith: God acts according to what he knows to be right, not according to what we ourselves deem proper. As we sing in the Antiphon of the Divine Liturgy, “The Lord is righteous in all his ways” (Ps 145:17). He is the God

“who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe” (Dt 10:17). He cannot be controlled or compelled by us. Neither the number of our prayers nor the power of our imagination will ultimately move God to act against his will. “And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything in alignment with his will, he hears us” (1 Jn 5:14). A common reason we do not receive what we pray for is not due to our lack of faith, but to the intention of our request. He knows what is best for us, and unfortunately what we often desire is not simply appropriate: “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures” (Jms 4:3). His silence is an act of love in such cases, protecting us from ourselves.



But what about all the times we ask for good things and receive no answer? In such instances faith is found in humble acceptance. St Paul asked thrice that the thorn in his flesh be removed, but Christ told him, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9). Faith is never mercenary; it is not based on the expectation of results; rather, it is trusting that God will be with us no matter what we encounter. He does not promise us health or wealth, but he promises to strengthen us when we are

weak, embolden us when we are afraid, and console us when we are sorrowful. To have faith is to establish a living relationship with our Lord, not simply appeal to him as a miracle dispenser. If we want to increase our faith, we must live by hope, prayer, and patience. We must be willing to ask for God’s blessings, yet accept the outcome as what is necessary. And we must seek those higher goods—the virtues and gifts of the Spirit—rather than worldly benefits. Faith is less a science than it is an art. For when we learn to place our trust in the Lord, we transcend every childish perception that would see our relationship with him as transactional, and instead enter into the ineffable beauty of his presence.



## **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 -**

**11/8** Synaxis of The Angels

**11/9** Annual Meeting

**11/10** Akathist to St. Nektarios - 7pm  
Man of God movie night - 8pm

**11/21** Entrance of The Theotokos

**11/27** Thanksgiving Day Liturgy 10am

### **- 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. Michael Zaparyniuk  
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

“God helps, directs, forgives us, but we have to stand on our feet. The saying, ‘Offer your will up to God, and receive strength!’ sums up the process of salvation for the whole world. The grace of God saves us because we ask for it and we humble ourselves. No grace comes where there is no humility. Many times grace seeks you, but can’t find you, because you aren’t humble.”

**- Elder Arsenie Papacioc**

**- November Birthdays -**

(2) Elena Morris  
(3) Lillian Raynes  
(12) Holland Quinones  
(13) Mekhi Bryant  
(14) Johnathan Clarke  
(15) Pres. Irina Lucas  
(15) David Bruce  
(15) Kathleen Shiskin  
(16) Felipe Pineros  
(17) Joshua Thomas Hornsey  
(18) Shardiaye Campbell  
(27) Luke Thomas Paulovkin  
(30) Leonardo Campbell

**-November Anniversaries -**

(1) J.T. & Victoria Hornsey  
(7) Mikail & Laura Ramcharan  
(10) Herman & Xenia Garcia  
(11) Luis & Janette Nieves  
(27) Henry & Natasha Campos

**- Wish List -**

Manischewitz Concord Grape Wine  
for Zapivka (after communion)

Winn Dixie / Publix Gift-Cards  
for the Needy

Books or Rolls of Stamps

**- Giving -**

