

# South Florida (Miami) Deanery Report

July 28, 2013

## **Christ the Cathedral – Miami**

### **Annual Report for the Orthodox Cathedral of Christ the Saviour July 15, 2013**

#### **Statistics:**

The 2012/13 ecclesiastical year has been very productive for the Miami Cathedral. In terms of basic metrics, there were 11 infant baptisms, 1 adult baptism, and 4 marriages. Our parish continues to grow as many new catechumens and inquirers are coming to services and classes. There are currently 8 adult catechumens, and multiple inquirers. On an average Sunday, our attendance at Liturgy has increased dramatically. In 2011/12, our average attendance was 50-60. For 2012/13, our attendance is 90-100. Our Saturday Vespers attendance has increased from 5 to 14. In addition to converts, the parish has seen a slight increase in immigrants from Russia, Romania and Georgia.

#### **Education:**

The Cathedral continues to offer numerous educational opportunities. On Saturday evenings before Vespers, Fr Philip leads the Adult Study, offering continuing education to members. On Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings, Fr Joseph leads an adult Bible Study. Attendance for the evening class averages 15, and 5 for the morning class. Fr Philip and Fr Joseph both conduct regular catechism classes. This past Spring, a Lenten Inquirers class was attended by 28 persons (21 of whom are new to Orthodoxy).

The Cathedral also offers Fall and Lenten retreats. This past Fall, the retreat was led by Fr Athanasios of St Tikhon's Monastery, who also brought the Myrrh-streaming Icon of St Anna with him. More than 300 persons came to venerate the icon, and close to 100 stayed for the lecture. During Lent, the Cathedral hosted Dr Christopher Veniamin and author Klaus Kenneth.

In addition to the regular educational outlets, the Cathedral is also home to the Diocese of the South Diaconal Formation Program, connected to St Tikhon's Seminary. Five students completed their first year of the program in April, and are scheduled to begin the second year this September. Fr Joseph is the director of the program, and both he and Fr Philip are instructors.

### **Building Project:**

The Cathedral continues with its next phase of building, with an addition to the present hall. Four classrooms, three offices and a new bookstore will be housed in the new facility. The bookstore will be the jewel of the facility, approximately four times larger than its present size. The parish council now awaits approval of the final blueprints, and are securing a contractor so that construction can begin by the end of the year.

**Ss. Peter & Paul – Miami** The parish continues to struggle with serious maintenance issues. The congregation remains small but there have been slight increases in membership (5 new) and attendance. The Iconostasis is being refurbished with new icons.

**St. Nicholas – Ft. Lauderdale** Thriving parish with large numbers of ethnic Slavs. Fr. Kirrill stays extra busy!

**St. Herman of Alaska – Lake Worth** Parish is stable. Fr. Michael perseveres despite health issues.

### **St. Peter the Apostle – Jupiter**

This parish has added volunteering for Habitat for Humanity as a parish activity and Fr Philip Kontos has become a volunteer Sheriff's Chaplain for this area. They have added some families and continue to have weekly Bible studies and catechism/adult classes. Vespers are held in various homes twice a month and the parish participates in pan-Orthodox gatherings.

### **St. James – Port St. Lucie**

ANNUAL REPORT ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE MISSION  
JULY, 2013

Dear Fr. Gleb,  
Christ is in our midst! He is and ever will be!

Since our last assembly St. James has had a small increase in our Parish family. We have had one chrismation and three baptisms. We have now approximately 65 adults and 14 teens and youngsters. Our Sunday school classes are well attended although we are currently in our summer break.

Last August our Brotherhood sponsored a Family day with picnic and water slide and together with the Sisterhood had a Rummage Sale. Our Sisterhood has also had their December Cookie walk and monthly first Sunday brunches. Our youth group also had its first car wash and a second one is scheduled this August. All proceeds will be for the iconography fund.

This year we had our first St. James Festival, February 1st thru 3rd. Our parish family really came together and worked very hard. The main goal was to bring our members together and this was a resounding success. We made our expenses and a little profit and St. James became much more visible within the community. Our next festival is scheduled for January 10th thru the 12th. Peter Economy is the chairman of our Festival Committee and we thank him for his experience and expertise without which we would not have been able to have such a successful event. Our Sisterhood and Brotherhood are now gearing up for it as well as other parish functions. Family Picnic Day, Rummage Sale, Bake Sale, Youth Car Wash & Bake Sale and Sisterhood Basket raffle are also scheduled.

The most important event, however, was the installation of our new iconostasis in time for Pentecost Sunday. Up to 14 of the men of our parish worked very hard and long hours along side Fr. Menas to complete the installation. Fr. Menas took 27 months to hand carve this Holy wall. Words cannot describe it or do it justice only seeing it can this gift to Our Lord be believed. The icons were written by Dimitry Skolnik who will also be arriving the middle of October to install the first phase of the iconography. His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon, will be blessing the this newest addition to our temple on the weekend of November 2. There are many pictures posted on our face book page courtesy of our most talented photographer, Constantino "Dean" Sfikas. Steve Mamangakis is the chairman of the Iconography committee and we thank him for his diligence and hard work. St. James has come into its own with a lot of hard work and devotion from all the parish membership and I would be very remiss in not stating this fact.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for your prayers both for me and my Madrecita Marta during our medical emergencies. I have been blessed with a very loving and caring parish family without whose prayers and concern I would not be here today. Thank God that he has permitted me to see at least the beginning of the beautifying of His Holy Temple.

Your most most unworthy brother in Christ,

Fr. Ernesto

**Holy Spirit – Venice** The parish is has remained vibrant and engaged despite a very traumatic event. Attendance is good and the assignment of a priest-in-charge is imminent. The parish is very active in community outreach and while delayed, the building program continues.

**Holy Cross – Ft. Myers** The parish has seen one wedding and one baptism in the past year and continues to maintain itself in difficult economic times.

**St. Demetrius – Naples** Attendance is growing and the parish continues to upgrade the facilities. A new iconostasis is under construction and additional projects are anticipated. The parish is involved with the other Orthodox parishes in the area to further an Orthodox presence in Naples.

**The Keys – Big Pine Key** Divine Liturgy is celebrated whenever we can arrange for a visiting priest. The attendance averages around 20-30 for Liturgy and about 10 for reader services. Many donations of items have been made to the mission and they have purchased a building on US 1 on Big Pine Key and are in process of renovating this building to serve as a temple and hall. Visiting priests are always welcome!

**Santos Apostoles Mission – Miami** The first Spanish mission in south Florida has had some disappointments and problems to sort out in this past year, but a significant group continues to meet under their Priest, Fr. David Wooten. A revised plan of action and mission is underway to create the best solution possible for this important group.

**In Christ,**

**Fr. Gleb McFatter, Dean**