



**Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church**

**1411 S.W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Miami, Florida 33135**

**305-858-2924**

<http://www.orthodoxpeterandpaulmiami.org/>

January, 2018

Dear Current and Former Parishioners and Friends of Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church,

It has been my great pleasure, as the OCA Dean of South Florida, to serve and help guide this God blessed community of Sts. Peter and Paul since the retirement of your last rector, Father Alexander Padlo in October 2016. I, together with Father Joseph Lucas and Deacon Carlos Miranda from Christ the Saviour Cathedral, as well as a few of the Deanery clergy as needed (including Father Alexander) have consistently kept the Divine Services going and the Holy Sacraments and prayers of the Church available. Although it has been a workable and amiable arrangement, it is not one that is best for the long-term future of the parish.

Sts. Peter and Paul Church is the most senior parish of our Diocese in the Southeast USA, having started in 1951. It has a wonderful history that has served and touched thousands of people over that time, including you and me. It has done its work in proclaiming and imparting the Orthodox Christian faith and its traditions for over three generations. It has remained steadfast in its spiritual mission through good times as well as the leaner times. Pastors assigned to it were Father Cornelius Svigoon, Archimandrite Job Radziwill, Fathers Alexander Popov, Theodore Soroka, Michael Sekela, Pavel Soucek, and Alexander Padlo. Also to be fondly remembered is Protodeacon Nicholas Fedak. Memory eternal!

The parish has been hard at work in readying itself for a yet-to-be-determined new rector who can provide the energy and pastoral care necessary to bring the parish forward. Toward this end, major renovations have taken place to the upstairs rectory to make it an appealing home for the new priest and family. Renovations have also taken place to the garage apartment which can be a future source of regular income. Much has been done but there is still more to do. Indeed, the current core of parishioners has sacrificed time and treasure to take on these renovations and keep the financial and spiritual life of the parish going. But there is only so much that a handful of people can do on their own.

We see much future potential for this parish. Downtown Miami is booming with new high rises and population. Eighth Street (Calle Ocho) is being built up and upgraded with new, modern commercial and residential building projects. Tourism in the area is expanding, and the whole area is in the beginning stages of a positive transformation. Sitting in the midst of all this is our parish of Sts. Peter and Paul, already an historic residential site of the first mayor of Miami. It is now in a position to make new history, to bear witness and present our Holy Orthodox faith to a growing and developing new Miami. With the right God-loving new rector, and with an infusion of income to help it turn the corner at this important juncture in time, Sts. Peter and Paul can become again a spiritual powerhouse, influencing many who are looking for a stable and historically-based spiritual home – which is Orthodoxy.

Today Sts. Peter and Paul is at a crossroad. The parish membership and base of support, as mentioned, are smaller than they used to be. The buildings, church and garage apartment constructed in 1926, are in need of further upgrades. Indeed, this Orthodox community has continued to serve on a shoe string budget for a long time and needs extra tender loving care. Now is the critical time for Sts. Peter & Paul's children, its current parishioners, as well as those who have been part of the family over the years, to step up and provide the much needed support.

We are looking to you for this help and support. We would like to raise at least \$40,000 during the course of this year to finish the improvements and have some income on hand with the arrival of a new priest. It seems like a lot, but not really. With some generous donations of just a small group of our "parishioners-in-exile," our Sts. Peter and Paul family, this can become reality. How you choose to support this worthy cause is up to you. We can receive monthly, quarterly, or one-time donations. Conveniently, online donations can easily be made through our website, <http://www.orthodoxpeterandpaulmiami.org/>. Please know that all assistance is truly needed and would be greatly, greatly appreciated!

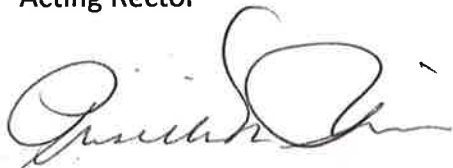
So then, let us together, old and new parishioners and friends, keep the heritage - the work, dreams, and vision of our founders and parishioners - alive and well toward a new future!

We hope and pray that this New Year will bring many blessings to you as we begin 2018!

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Philip Reese  
Acting Rector



Priscilla Murianka Rivera  
Parish Council Warden

