



*Jesus Christ, our  
Saviour and Redeemer*

# Holy Protection Orthodox Church

Greetings on this blessed Lord's Day! Please take a green information sheet if this is your first time here. You can put in any collection basket or hand to greeter

**IN EMERGENCY CALL/TEXT**  
813-406-2620 (Fr.'s cell). If in middle of night and no answer, call home 813-719-6266 (home), or 813-451-9829 (Pani's cell)

## Schedule

Today is Tone 8

### **Sunday, Dec 11**

**9:35 am** Memorial Harry Linsinbigler  
9:45am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 Fellowship Discussion of Faith

### **Monday, Dec 12**

7:00 pm Women of Faith  
Wiregrass Mall 900 Degrees Pizza  
28512 Paseo Drive Wesley Chapel

### **Sunday, Dec 18**

9:45am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship

### **Saturday, Dec 24**

5:00pm Matins

### **Sunday, Dec 25**

9:45am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 Fellowship

### **Sunday, Jan 1**

**9:35 am** Memorial Harry Linsinbigler  
9:45am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 Fellowship Discussion of Faith

Visit our parish website:  
[www.holyorthodox.org](http://www.holyorthodox.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign out an offering envelope for 2017 in the narthex.

The 2017 calendars are here! We are asking for a \$5 donation for the calendar. Thank you!

The Women of Faith group is meeting tomorrow to see the Symphony of Lights at the Wire Grass Mall. We will be meeting at 900 Degrees Pizza.

Steph Yuschak is spending spring break in Mexico to help build orphanages. If you would like to help her, there is a letter and a form in the hall.

Be an angel, take a snowflake.

Our outreach ministry is one again sponsoring an "angel tree" for the children at A Kid's Place, a foster home in Brandon. You will be able to participate in the worthwhile project beginning Sunday 11/27 and ending Sunday 12/18. More information will follow!

Don't forget fellowship is fasting until the feast of the Nativity!

Stewardship Teams	Readers Schedule
Dec 11 Rebecca	Dec 11 Andrew
Dec 18 Scottie	Dec 18 Mike
Dec 25 Nancy	Dec 25 John
Jan 1 Linda	Jan 1 Brian

On Saturday, December 17, there will be a Christmas party for Children's Medical Services. It will have Santa, balloons, and games and the USF Sessums Mall. If you would like to help out with this event as a volunteer, please see Scottie Gursky. She is planning on helping with the wonderful Christmas party.

There is a sheet for birthday's in the hall, if you have joined our parish in the last year, please put your birthday (without the year) on the list. Thank you!

We have our ministry sign-up sheets and fellowship sign-up sheets on our information table in the hall. Our church cannot continue without you! Current projects you can help with: cleaning the kids room, cleaning out candle boxes after Sunday liturgy, cleaning the hall bathrooms, or an idea you may have. If you can help with any of these projects or have an idea, please see a member of your council (Scottie, Brian, Rebecca, Linda, Nancy, Mark or Mike) and they can point you in the right direction.

**Prayer Corner:** Please pray for the ailing: Mary, Kathy, Susan, Helen, Neila, Olexander, Anna, John, Carol, Mat. Mary, P.Vera, SD. John, Randee, John, Ryan, Marie, Paul, Mary, Pangratios, Tikon, Vasili, Jeremiah, Dcn. Luke, Maria, John David, Elizabeth, Joshua, Alexander, Nicholas, Rebecca, Genevieve, Panteleimon, Vladimir, Margaret, Sean, David, Sarah, Jonathon, Simon, Gene, Judy, Fr. Michael, Fr. John, Anastasia, Demitrios, Alexandra, Israel, George, Michelle, George, Beth, Alex, George, Joseph, Jaqueline, Michael, Geverlyn, Thomas, Norma, Sally, Sarah, Derek, Susan, Lucy, Beth, Kathy, Phyllis, John, David, Shirley, Kalie, Madeline, Thomas, Patricia, Marie, Archimandrite David, Jake, Tom, Gene, Lisa, Kelly, Beverly, Taylor, Reghyn, Sylvia, Andreas, Josh, Nicole, Joyce, Sandy, Yamileth, Georgina, Kathy, Pam, Tammy, Tatum, Ann, Connor, Dylan, Eli, Shay, Ocean, Lauren

*\*If you would like someone on the bulletin prayer list just let Pani know.* Please review the prayer list, if you know of someone who should be taken off, please let Pani know.

Our father among the saints **Nicholas of Myra**, Wonder-worker, was the archbishop of Myra in southern Asia Minor in the fourth century and is also the basis for the Santa Claus legends and imagery which accompany Christmascelebrations in much of the world.

While widely honored and venerated, not only in the Orthodox Church, but throughout most Christian groups, little is known historically of the life of Nicholas. He is known to have been archbishop of Myra and he may have participated in the Council of Nicea in 325. In addition to being honored as the patron saint of many countries, notably Greece and Russia, and of cities, he is the patron of many occupational groups, most notably of sea-farers. St. Nicholas is commemorated by the Church on December 6, and also on May 9 (the transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity).

By tradition, Nicholas born in the province of Lycia in the southern part of Asia Minor in the city of Patara to well-to-do parents. The date of his birth is not known. Having inherited his parents' estate, he became known for his generous gifts to those in need. As a youth, he made pilgrimages to Palestine and Egypt. He was subsequently consecrated Archbishop of Myra as the fourth century began. He was imprisoned during the persecutions of Diocletian and released by Constantine after his ascension to emperor. Nicholas was noted for his defense of Orthodoxy against the Arians. He is reputed to have been present at the Council of Nicea, but his name does not appear among any documents from that era. He died in Myra on December 6 in a year uncertain, but between 342 and 352.

#### St Nicholas the Wonderworker

Many of the details of his life that we have appeared during medieval times. St. Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople, in the middle of the ninth century produced a life of Nicholas in which he noted that the life of Nicholas was unknown to most of the Christians of the time, thus indicating his composition was probably based mainly on legend. Methodius noted that Nicholas was raised well by pious and well-to-do parents and related how Nicholas contributed from his inheritance the dowry for three daughters of a citizen of Patara who had lost all his money.

His feast was being celebrated by the time of St. Justinian two centuries after his death. After Methodius' life of Nicholas became available, Nicholas was acclaimed and honored throughout Europe and especially in Italy. When Myra was captured by the Saracens in 1034, many Italian cities planned to "rescue" his relics. In 1087, forces from Bari, Italy, attacked Myra and carried away his relics from the lawful Greek guardians in Myra to Bari where they were enshrined in a new church. His fame increased. The story of his rescue of sailors in the Aegean Sea during his lifetime established him as the patron of mariners. His popularity in Russia rose to the point that almost all churches had some sort of shrine honoring St. Nicholas.

