



*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

Happy New Year, 2017!

Today is Tone 4

Sunday, Jan 8

9:35 am 1 year Memorial Fr. Martin
9:45am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Fellowship Discussion of Faith

Monday, Jan 9

7:15 Council Meeting

Sunday, January 15

10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Fellowship, discussion of Faith

Saturday January 21

Workshop New Port Richey

Sunday, January 22

10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 Fellowship, discussion of Faith

Visit our parish website:
www.holyorthodox.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's services are in loving memory of Father Martin on the one year anniversary of his repose. May his memory be eternal!

The home blessing sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please write your name, address, county and phone number and we will be in contact with you.

The Outreach ministry and the Youth ministry need your help! They are working together for the new year to make blessing bags for the homeless! For this project, there will be a place in the hall to donate small shampoo bottles, small soaps, toothpaste, socks, t-shirts or other useful items. We will package them into gallon storage bags with a couple dollars and hand them out to the homeless.

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!

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.

Stewardship Teams

Jan 8 Rebecca
Jan 15 Scottie
Jan 22 Nancy
Jan 29 Linda

Readers Schedule

Jan 8 Andrew
Jan 15 Mike
Jan 22 John
Jan 29 Brian

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

January 21 there will be a workshop at St. George Orthodox Church in New Port Richey on Food, Faith and Fasting. The speaker is Rita Madden who wrote a book with the same title. It is only \$10 and includes lunch. See flyer in narthex or the hall. Pani is going, and this will be the Women of Faith activity for the month of January. It is from 10-2:30 and Pani can take 6 people.

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.

The life expectancy of a late-fourth-century Carthaginian was something less than half of what it is today, but one of the African city's most illustrious daughters lived for a full century, most of which was spent in the service of Jesus Christ. St. Dominica was born in Carthage in 384, the daughter of middle-class parents who afforded her the finest in education but not in religion. The pagan household, for all its comfort and enlightenment, lacked the shining truth of the love of Jesus Christ, a spiritual deprivation that the bright girl might not have known for her one hundred years had she remained in Carthage, clinging to her ancestors' false beliefs.

St. Dominica was twenty-one years old when the magnificent capital city of Constantinople marked fifty years beyond completion by Emperor Constantine the Great as his center of the Byzantine Empire. The city's glorious heritage and culture, not its religion, fired the imagination of this polished young lady, and she prevailed on her parents to allow her to visit the capital. Together with four other young ladies of her social circle she went to the Byzantine metropolis, where she delighted in the cultural advancements of Hellenism and the grandeur of the sprawling city.

What impressed Dominica most, however, were the high ideals of the Christian community, and she felt compelled to explore the new religion of Jesus Christ. So great was her desire to become a part of Christianity that she was granted an audience with the Patriarch Nektarios, who was so taken with the girl from Carthage that he personally officiated at her baptism. She was by then twenty-three years old and had received religious instruction from the fathers of the Patriarchate. A willing student, she ingratiated herself with all whom she came to know and felt in her heart that the service of Jesus Christ was what she desired more than anything she had discovered since coming to Constantinople.

Before she embarked on this career in religious service, she dutifully reported to her parents who, up to this point, were completely unaware of her conversion and were reluctant to grant her permission to seek what she protested was the single important thing in her life, but which her parents viewed as a waste of the talents they had encouraged in her early years. It was inconceivable to them that a life of asceticism for a girl of intelligence and spirit could be the result of anything but madness, and she was urged to once again assume her place in the society into which she had been born, a life that promised comfort and pleasure. She thanked her parents for all they had done for her and finally was able to convince them that what she chose to do was the highest order.

Back in Constantinople, Dominica entered the service of the Lord at the age of twenty-five, what she considered to be an advanced age for a novice, little knowing that she had been allotted a span of one hundred years of life, more than time enough to make up for her late start. Meanwhile, her four companions had followed with more than a passing interest the heartwarming activity of their dedicated friend, and all five entered the same convent in joint service to the Savior.

Unlike many pious Christians whose road to glory was strewn with the obstacles of ignorance and ended with agonizing death, the next seventy-five years in the long life of Dominica were spent in comparative serenity and uninterrupted service to the Christian community and to God. She made full use of a life span of biblical proportion, and if she suffered any great tragedy or misfortune, it was never recorded.

The passing years were kind to Dominica, and as she aged her reputation as a tireless worker in the vineyard of Christ spread throughout the empire. Those privileged to visit with her saw in Dominica a spark of divine grace, and in the course of her ministrations she wrought miracles of healing. Alert to the end, she was granted the title of "Righteous" in recognition of her long and distinguished service of God.

Text from Fr. George Poulos' Orthodox Saints.