



*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 3

### **Sunday, Jan 1**

10 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 Fellowship  
11:45am Youth New Year Activities

### **Thursday Jan 5**

5:30pm Theophany Eve Basil Liturgy  
7:00pm Theophany Eve Supper

### **Friday January 6**

9:30am Epiphany Liturgy

### **Saturday, January 7**

10am Divine Liturgy

### **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

### **Sunday, Jan 1**

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

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3].

After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos [Luke 1:31-33, 2:21]. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught.

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 1 Linda  
Jan 8 Rebecca  
Jan 15 Scottie  
Jan 22 Nancy

Readers Schedule  
Jan 1 Brian  
Jan 8 Andrew  
Jan 15 Mike  
Jan 22 John

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.

### **THEOPHANY/EPIPHANY**

The feast of Epiphany or Theophany (*Bohoiavlennia*) is the third oldest Orthodox Christian Feast Day (Pascha/Easter, and Pentecost are the oldest). It is also known as “Yordan” (Jordan) or “Vodokhryshchi” (Blessing of Water), and one of its oldest titles is “Feast of Lights.” Originally, it was the combined feast of Christ’s Incarnation (celebrating the Annunciation/Conception, the Birth, and the Baptism of Christ), prescribed to be celebrated on January 6 (beginning in the evening on the fifth, as all feasts begin the evening prior, since biblically “evening and the morning are one day”).

Today, continuing to celebrate the Incarnation of Christ, it celebrates the Revelation of the Holy Trinity in the Baptism of Christ (The Father, Son and Spirit revealed themselves at this event), and the establishment of union with the Trinity in the waters of Baptism as the result of Christ’s Baptism in the river Jordan. We continue to celebrate the Nativity, but add to it its result—the purpose for which Christ was born—that we may be born from above by the grace of God in the waters of Baptism.

On this day, we do the GREATER BLESSING OF THE WATERS. It is traditional to take this water home for use throughout the whole year. While we may think that “Holy Water is Holy Water,” there is a difference. The Holy Water throughout the rest of the year is done with the Lesser blessing of waters. This alone is done with the greater blessing and invocation of the Holy Spirit (it is on par with the 7 great sacraments), and Fr. Harry, after the water is blessed, adds blessed water from the River Jordan (in which Jesus Himself was Baptized) to mingle with it.

On the Eve of Theophany, there is a Holy Supper similar to that of Nativity Eve (both were originally the meal directly following the Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil held on both eves). In different region of Ukraine, this supper is called different things (in some places it is called “Holy Supper” just as on Nativity, or “second holy supper, in others, it is “Kutya for the Hungry”, and in Podilia it is called Shchedryi Vechir, or Generous Eve—a name that in other regions is given to New Year supper). Kutia is one that “MUST” be served for the meal on the Eve of Theophany, representing Christ as the grain that was brought forth, planted, baptized unto death and rose again, taking us with Him as grains unto our salvation.

### **Epiphany/Theophany Thursday January 5 & January 6**

#### **Thursday January 5**

**5:30pm** Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil to open the feast of Theophany with water blessing [see note below on fasting and late-coming]

**7pm** Holy Supper with traditional “holy supper foods” from various traditions.

#### **Friday January 6**

**9am-10am** Matinal Divine Liturgy of the Feast of Theophany

#### **Saturday January 7 (Julian Nativity)**

**10am Divine Liturgy** (Julian Nativity) \*Note, this Liturgy will be largely in Ukrainian/Slavonic, as the traditional Liturgy of Nativity according to the Julian reckoning, while also honoring St. John the Baptist. Traditional Nativity season carols will be sung.

**Sunday January 8** 9:45am Divine Liturgy \*(Note, traditional Nativity&Theophany season carols are sung until February 2 (the meeting of the Lord in the Temple)

Home blessings will begin on Thursday, January 12