



*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 6

### **March 19 Sunday of the Holy Cross**

9:45 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship

### **Wednesday March 22**

10:30am Confession  
11am Presanctified Liturgy

### **Friday March 24 Annunciation**

Forefeast  
3pm Confessions  
3:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy

### **Saturday March 25 Annunciation**

10 am Divine Liturgy

### **Sunday March 26 Sunday of the Ladder**

9:15 am Confession  
9:45 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship  
5:00 pm Vespers St. Nicholas Pinellas Park

### **Wednesday March 28**

3:30 Presanctified Liturgy  
7:30 pm Great Canon Repentance

### **Friday March 31**

Church cleaning 2pm  
7 pm Akathyst to the Theotokos

### **Saturday April 1**

Church Cleaning  
Come when able, church will be open

### **Sunday April 2**

9:15am-9:40am Confession  
9:45am Divine Liturgy  
5pm Vespers Here

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church cleaning days will be 3/31 and 4/1! Please come and make the church beautiful for Pascha!

Sign up for the vespers dinner is in the hall.

The next project for the Outreach Ministry is to ask for donations of canned goods and nonperishable items. We are pursuing delivery to a local food bank and working at one of the food banks (a great thing to get our youth involved with). We will be collecting through April.

This year on Pascha Sunday, after Agape vespers, we will not be having the traditional luncheon. We will still have fellowship and if you desire, bring something to share!

The UOL is hosting an essay contest. Even adults can participate. If interested, see Pani.

### **Tampa Bay Area Lenten Pan Orthodox Vespers Series 2017**

"Behold how good it is for brethren to dwell in unity"

*\*Each Vespers begins at 5pm and features a guest homilist and light reception*

**3rd Sunday of Lent—Holy Cross (March 19):** St. Philip Church in Tampa. Fr. John Lazarek is the homilist.

**4th Sunday of the Ladder of Divine Ascent (March 26):** St. Nicholas Church in Pinellas Park

**5th Sunday (April 2):** Holy Protection Church in Dover

5pm \*TAMPA BAY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS THIS WEEK AT HOLY PROTECTION (Please note, we will observe the strictest of Lenten diet in food to host this vespers—no animal products of any kind. Shellfish are allowed but we should also have dishes without shellfish).

Pick up the full schedule in the narthex for Great Lent!

**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, Geverylyn, 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, Donna, Kim, Donnie

*\*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.

Stewardship Teams  
March 19 Nancy Lent  
March 26 Linda Lent  
April 2 Rebecca Lent  
April 9 Scottie Lent

Readers Schedule  
March 19 John  
March 26 Brian  
March 5 Andrew  
March 12 Mike

Please don't forget that if you want a memorial service to please, in addition to mentioning it, to also email both Fr. and Pani (she keeps Fr.'s schedule).

Please remember to follow the preparatory guidelines for communion (see website [www.holyorthodox.org](http://www.holyorthodox.org) for details).

Don't forget that Great Lent is a time for reflection and confession. See also our website for examination of conscience which should be done by everyone during Lent.

The **Sunday of the Holy Cross** is the Third Sunday of Great Lent, also called Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross. On this Sunday, services includes a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week and the holy Resurrection.

Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own special theme. This Sunday's theme is that in the cross of Christ crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor 1:24). On this Sunday in the middle of the Lenten season, the cross stands in the middle of the church, not merely to remind the faithful of Christ's redemption and for them to keep the goal of their Lenten efforts, but also as a reminder: "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:38).

#### **Historical theme**

The historical theme, as seen in the hymnology, is the victory and joy of the cross, not the suffering. The Church fathers equate the life-giving cross with the tree of life and plant it in the middle of the Lenten pilgrimage. It was the tree that was planted in Paradise; it is to remind the faithful of both Adam's bliss and how he was deprived from it.

#### **Spiritual theme**

For the catechumens of the early church, and the faithful preparing for Pascha today, the spiritual theme starts to change from personal *faith*, and personal *effort*, to Christ. The Church teaches that it is Christ's cross that saves. One cannot take up his own cross and follow Christ unless one has Christ's cross which he took up to save mankind. Partaking of this tree, one will no longer die, but will be kept alive.

This is done to refresh, reassure and to encourage those participating in Great Lent. The Church equates the appearance of the cross at this time to the banners and symbols that precede the return of a victorious king. The Epistle reading is from Hebrews 4:14-5:6 and explains Christ's priesthood, and the Gospel lesson from Mark 8:34-9:1 ends with *And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."*