



*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 813-659-0123 or 813-451-9829 (Pani's cell). If they are off duty please call Parish Council President below**

## Schedule

Tone 5

**Sunday, April 14**

**St Mary of Egypt**

9:15-9:50 Confessions

10 am Liturgy

Counters: Paula, Olga

Altar: Jefferson

Reader: Mat. Terry

5pm Vespers St. Philips

**Wednesday, April 17**

6:00 Basic Orthodoxy

7pm Presanctified

Liturgy

**Friday, April 19**

6:15 pm Decorating for

Palm Sunday

7:00 pm Presanctified

Liturgy

**Sunday, April 21**

Palm Sunday

9:15-9:45 am

Confessions

9:55 am Blessing Palms

and Branches

10 am Liturgy of the

Triumphal Entry of

King of Kings

**Monday, April 22**

7 pm Bridegroom

Matins

**Tuesday, April 23**

7 pm Presanctified

Liturgy

**Wednesday, April 24**

6:30 – 7 Confessions

7 pm Holy Unction

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pascha Sunday after Agape Vespers, we will be having a pot luck luncheon.

Mark your calendar! On May 4<sup>th</sup> our parish picnic will be at Andy and Kathy's from 11-3. It will be potluck and there will be swimming!

During Holy Week, if you can come a little early or stay a little later, we will be preparing the church for Pascha.

Pick up your updated Pre-Lent/Lent service calendar, they are in the Narthex.

Great Lent is about doing extra in charity, stewardship, prayer and fasting. We have a list of items that need done during Lent and Holy week in the Narthex. Take a look at the list and see what you can do to help out!

Reminder...Father's days off are Monday and Saturday.

We are looking for people interested in helping out with youth Christian Education. If we get several people, we can have a rotating schedule. See a parish council member or Pani if you are interested in helping.

It's time for the UOL essay contest again! Information packets are in the Narthex.

Please let anyone that you know may be interested in Orthodoxy that there will be classes during Great Lent on Wednesdays. We left spring break week off the schedule intentionally. Denis may still do the class but is important to know if participants will show up first before it is scheduled. Also may be good for a brush up for those who want to know more about their faith.

The Maintenance Ministry has updated the projects list. God Bless all who have helped us complete some of the necessary tasks. There is still much to accomplish both in ongoing and one time projects. This includes the Lenten preparation for Pascha. Please check the new lists posted in the Social Hall and see how you can help! If you have questions or have items you feel need to be addressed please see any Council member or Mike B.

If you are coming to confession, please be in line by 9:50 am on a normal Sunday. On a Sunday there is a Memorial scheduled, please be in line by 9:35 am. Please line up down the center isle of the church

We need a team of men who will, ever two weeks after Liturgy, empty out the large trash in the back of the church (around the corner from the men's bathroom) into the large street trash bin on wheels that sits over at the hall. It gets very heavy because there are many heavy things in there. This will require wheeling that can over every two weeks, putting the trash in there, and wheeling it back to the social hall so that we throw the trash bags from fellowship away. The Linsinbiglers will then take the large trash bin down on Monday night as usual. It would be a huge help (starting today please).

**Prayer Corner:** Please pray for the ailing: Mary, Kathy, Susan, Helen, Neila, Olexander, Anna, John, Carol, Mat. Mary, SD. John, Randee, John, Ryan, Marie, Paul, Mary, Pangratios, Tikon, Vasili, Jeremiah, Dcn. Luke, Maria, John David, Elisabeth, Joshua, Alexander, Nicholas, Rebecca, Genevieve, Panteleimon, Vladimir, Margaret, David, Sarah, Jonathon, Simon, Judy, Fr. Michael, Anastasia, Demitrios, Alexandra, Israel, George, Michelle, Joseph, Jaqueline, Michael, Geverylyn, Thomas, Norma, Sally, Sarah, Derek, Susan, Lucy, Beth, Kathy, Phyllis, John, David, Shirley, Kalie, Madeline, Thomas, Patricia, Archimandrite David, Jake, Tom, Beverly, Taylor, Sylvia, Andreas, Josh, Nicole, Joyce, Sandy, Georgina, Kathy, Pam, Ann, Eli, Shay, Ocean, Lauren, Donna, Kim, Lori, Nancy, George, Sharon, Sylvia, Kristi, Gary, Tori, Joan, Thomas, Susan, Alexei, Mary

Sign up for fellowship! It can be as simple as bagels or donuts. Please see the board in the hall, or a council member if you have any questions. Please refer to the Fellowship guidelines when it is your Sunday to do fellowship.

Parish council contacts: Scottie (President): 813-629-6027, Brian (Vice President): (813) 763-5226, Rebecca (Treasurer): (813) 763-5225, Paula (813) 838-4554 (Secretary) Tom Moore Financial Secretary

## The 2019 Pan-Orthodox Vespers Schedule for Great Lent

All Vespers services on this schedule begin at 5pm

Sunday April 14 @ St. Philip in Tampa (OCA) 9100 El Portal Dr, Tampa, FL 33604

She began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, refusing money from the men that she copulated with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things.

Following 47 years in solitude, she met the priest St. Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great humility while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan.

Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. When he attempted to bow, she rebuked him, saying that as a priest he was far superior, and furthermore, he was holding the Holy Mysteries. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions about his monastery and that he should return to where they first met exactly a year later. When he did so, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported to the spot where she now lay). So Zosima, amazed, began to dig, but soon tired; then a lion approached and began to help him, that is, after Zosima had recovered from his fear of the creature. Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried. Zosima returned to the monastery, told all he had seen, and improved the faults of the monks and abbot there. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery.

Later, the story of Mary's life was written down by St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (cf. "External links").

The *Life of St. Mary of Egypt* is read during Great Lent along with the Great Canon of St. Andrew.

