



*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 7

Sunday, August 11 **8th Sunday after** **Pentacost**

10 am Divine Blessing of
fruit and church wine
11:15am Fellowship
Reader: Brian
Altar: Jefferson Counters:
Pani, Olga

Tuesday, August 13 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 14
7:00 pm Vigil
Dormition of the Mother
of God
Blessing Flowers & Herbs

Thursday, August 15
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Dormition
Blessing Flowers & Herbs

Sunday, August 18
9th Sunday after
Pentacost
10 am Divine Liturgy
Blessing Flowers & Herbs
11:15am Fellowship
Reader: Andy
Altar: Vasiliy & Vladislav
Counters: Pani, Ilya

Sunday, August 25
10th Sunday after
Pentacost
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Fellowship
Reader: Andy
Altar: Vasiliy & Vladislav
Counters: Pani, Marijean

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On August 14 and August 18 you can bring in herbs and flowers to be blessed for the feast of the Dormition.

On September 27 and 28 at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Tarpon Springs there is a woman's retreat with Sylvia Leontaritis to talk about her book "Songs of Praise" Information is at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-nicholas-cathedral-womens-retreat-tickets-63539651809>
The retreat includes a copy of her book.

We are starting a new visitation ministry to visit parishioners in need. We will focus on those who are sick, elderly and shut ins. If you interested in being part of this ministry, please speak to Rebecca.

If you would like to serve on the parish council, please submit your name to a council member. The elections committee will review all names and we will elect members on September 8 at the General Assembly.

The general parish assembly is scheduled for Sept 8. Please join us for updates and discussion on the future and the election of parish council members.

Please review the calendar on the side of the bulletin and notice if you are scheduled to be a counter with a parish council member.

Please do not walk through the flower bed in front of the church, several parishioners are working hard to keep this area beautiful.

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.

Christian Education will resume after summer. Pani will still print out the Children's Word weekly for the youth.

As you take your summer vacations, please remember to keep your pledge, the church's expenses don't take a vacation.

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

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.

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

If you have someone who needs to be added to the prayer list, please see Cynthia Brown, beginning next week. You can contact Cynthia during the week at cynthiaann36@live.com or on Facebook Messenger. We will update the list monthly.

Prayer Corner: Please pray for the ailing: Alexander, Kathy, William, Walter, Helen, Neila, Olexander, Anna, John, Carol, Mat. Mary, SD. John, Randee, John, Ryan, Olga, Paul

The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on August 6. The feast commemorates the transfiguration or metamorphosis of Christ on Mount Tabor, when our Lord appeared in His divine glory before the Apostles Peter, James, and John.

The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. Jesus took the Apostles Peter, James, and John with Him up upon a mountain, and while they were on the mountain Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ, talking to Him. Peter declared how good it was for them to be there and expressed the desire to build three booths for Moses, Elijah, and Christ. This reference to the booths could imply that this occurred during the time of the Feast of Tabernacles when the Jews would be camping out in the fields for the grape harvest; for this Feast had acquired other associations in the course of its history, including the memory of the wanderings in the wilderness recorded in the Old Testament book of Exodus.

While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces filled with awe. Jesus came to them and told them to not be afraid. When the three looked up they saw only Jesus.

As Jesus and His disciples came down the mountain, He told them not to speak of what they had seen until He had risen from the dead.

In the icon of the Feast of the Transfiguration, Christ is the central figure (1.), appearing in a dominant position within a circular mandorla. He is clearly at the visual and theological center of the icon. His right hand is raised in blessing, and his left hand contains a scroll. The mandorla with its brilliant colors of white, gold, and blue represent the divine glory and light. The halo around the head of Christ is inscribed with the Greek words *Ὁ ὢν*, meaning "The One Who is".

1. *Christ appears in the center of the icon blessing with His right hand and dressed in bright white robes (detail).*

Elijah (2.) and Moses (3.) stand at the top of separate mountain peaks to the left and right of Christ. They are bowing toward Christ with their right hands raised in a gesture of intercession towards Him. Saint John Chrysostom explains the presence of these two fathers of the faith from the Old Testament in three ways. He states that they represent the Law and the Prophets (Moses received the Law from God, and Elijah was a great prophet); they both experienced visions of God (Moses on Mount Sinai and Elijah on Mount Carmel); and they represent the living and the dead (Elijah, the living, because he was taken up into heaven by a chariot of fire, and Moses, the dead, because he did experience death).

2. *The Prophet Elijah, appears on Christ's right-hand side (detail).*

3. *Moses, who is seen holding the Ten Commandments, appears on Christ's left-hand side (detail).* Below Christ are the three Apostles, who by their posture in the icon show their response to the transfiguration of Christ (4.). James has fallen over backwards with his hands over his eyes. John in the center has fallen prostrate. Peter is kneeling and raises his right hand toward Christ in a gesture expressing his desire to build the three booths. The garments of the Apostles are in a state of disarray as to indicate the dramatic impact the vision has had on them.

4. *The three Apostles who accompanied Christ to the mountain, Peter, John, and James, react to the vision of Christ's Transfiguration.*

5. *The garments of the Apostles are in state of disarray (detail).*

6. *The Apostle James reacts to the vision by falling to the ground and attempting to cover his eyes (detail).*

The icon of the feast directs our attention toward the event of the Transfiguration and specifically to the glory of God as revealed in Christ. This event came at a critical point in the ministry of our Lord, just as He was setting out on His journey to Jerusalem. He would soon experience the humiliation, suffering, and death of the Cross. However, the glorious light of the Resurrection was revealed to strengthen His disciples for the trials that they would soon experience.

The feast also points to the great and glorious Second Coming of our Lord and the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God when all of creation will be transfigured and filled with light.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Transfiguration

This Feast of our Lord is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, which is conducted on the day of the feast and preceded by the Matins service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the feast. Scripture readings for the Feast of the Transfiguration are the following: At Vespers: Exodus 24:12-18, 33:11-23, 34:4-6, 8; I Kings 19:3-9, 11-13, 15-16. At the Orthros (Matins): Luke 9:28-36. At the Divine Liturgy: II Peter 1:10-19; Matthew 17:1-9.

Resources

The Incarnate God: The Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary, Catherine Aslanoff, editor and Paul Meyendorff, translator (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995).

Festival Icons for the Christian Year by John Baggley (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2000), pp. 58-71.

The Festal Menaion translated by Mother Mary (South Canaan, PA: St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1969) pp. 61-63.