



*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 6

**Sunday, August 4**  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after

**Pentecost**

10 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15am Fellowship  
Reader: Andy  
Altar: Vasilij &  
Vladislav

Counters: Pani, Andrew

**Monday, August 5**

7:00 pm Evening

Transfiguration Liturgy  
Blessing of fruit and  
church wine

**Sunday, August 11**

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 Service  
Dormition of the Mother  
of God

**Sunday, August 18**

10 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15am Fellowship  
Reader: Andy  
Altar: Vasilij &  
Vladislav  
Counters: Pani, Ilya

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

For the feast and afterfeast of Transfiguration (Aug 5 and Aug 11), you can bring in fruit to be blessed. It is also customary to bring in a bottle of communion wine to leave as an offering for the church. Some examples of communion wine include: Mavrodaphne, Kagor, Commandaira

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

We have found a volunteer to help keep up with the names on prayer corner. Please, review the prayer corner to see if anyone should be removed and let Pani know. Next week, we will have it edited and it will be updated monthly. If you have someone who needs to be added to the prayer list, please see Cynthia Brown, beginning next week.

**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, Mary, Pangratios, Tikon, Vasili, Jeremiah, Dcn. Luke, Maria, John David, Elisabeth, Joshua, Alexander, Nicholas, Rebecca, Genevieve, Panteleimon, Vladimir, Margaret, Jonathon, Simon, Judy, Fr. Michael, Anastasia, Demitrios, Alexandra, Israel, George, Michelle, Joseph, Jaqueline, Michael, Geverlyn, Thomas, Norma, Sally, Sarah, Derek, Lucy, Beth, Kathy, Phyllis, John, David, Shirley, Kalie, Madeline, Thomas, Patricia, Archimandrite David, Jake, Taylor, Sylvia, Andreas, Josh, Nicole, Joyce, Sandy, Georgina, Kathy, Pam, Ann, Donna, Kim, Lori, Nancy, George, Sharon, Kristi, Tori, Joan, Susan

The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the third century. Saint Maximilian was the son of the Ephesus city administrator, and the other six youths were sons of illustrious citizens of Ephesus. The youths were friends from childhood, and all were in military service together.

When the emperor Decius (249-251) arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizens to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Torture and death awaited anyone who disobeyed. The seven youths were denounced by informants, and were summoned to reply to the charges. Appearing before the emperor, the young men confessed their faith in Christ.

Their military belts and insignia were quickly taken from them. Decius permitted them to go free, however, hoping that they would change their minds while he was off on a military campaign. The youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon, where they passed their time in prayer, preparing for martyrdom.

The youngest of them, Saint Iamblicus, dressed as a beggar and went into the city to buy bread. On one of his excursions into the city, he heard that the emperor had returned and was looking for them. Saint Maximilian urged his companions to come out of the cave and present themselves for trial.

Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor ordered that the entrance of the cave be sealed with stones so that the saints would perish from hunger and thirst. Two of the dignitaries at the blocked entrance to the cave were secret Christians. Desiring to preserve the memory of the saints, they placed in the cave a sealed container containing two metal plaques. On them were inscribed the names of the seven youths and the details of their suffering and death.

The Lord placed the youths into a miraculous sleep lasting almost two centuries. In the meantime, the persecutions against Christians had ceased. During the reign of the holy emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) there were heretics who denied that there would be a general resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them said, "How can there be a resurrection of the dead when there will be neither soul nor body, since they are disintegrated?" Others affirmed, "The souls alone will have a restoration, since it would be impossible for bodies to arise and live after a thousand years, when even their dust would not remain." Therefore, the Lord revealed the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead and of the future life through His seven saints.

The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated, discovered the stone construction, and his workers opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord had kept the youths alive, and they awoke from their sleep, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed. Their bodies and clothing were completely undecayed.

Preparing to accept torture, the youths once again asked Saint Iamblicus to buy bread for them in the city. Going toward the city, the youth was astonished to see a cross on the gates. Hearing the name of Jesus Christ freely spoken, he began to doubt that he was approaching his own city.

When he paid for the bread, Iamblicus gave the merchant coins with the image of the emperor Decius on it. He was detained, as someone who might be concealing a horde of old money. They took Saint Iamblicus to the city administrator, who also happened to be the Bishop of Ephesus. Hearing the bewildering answers of the young man, the bishop perceived that God was revealing some sort of mystery through him, and went with other people to the cave.

At the entrance to the cave the bishop found the sealed container and opened it. He read upon the metal plaques the names of the seven youths and the details of the sealing of the cave on the orders of the emperor Decius. Going into the cave and seeing the saints alive, everyone rejoiced and perceived that the Lord, by waking them from their long sleep, was demonstrating to the Church the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead.

Soon the emperor himself arrived in Ephesus and spoke with the young men in the cave. Then the holy youths, in sight of everyone, lay their heads upon the ground and fell asleep again, this time until the General Resurrection.

The emperor wanted to place each of the youths into a jeweled coffin, but they appeared to him in a dream and said that their bodies were to be left upon the ground in the cave. In the twelfth century the Russian pilgrim Igumen Daniel saw the holy relics of the seven youths in the cave.

There is a second commemoration of the seven youths on October 22. According to one tradition, which entered into the Russian *Prologue* (of Saints' Lives), the youths fell asleep for the second time on this day. The Greek *Menaion* of 1870 says that they first fell asleep on August 4, and woke up on October 22.

There is a prayer of the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus in the *Great Book of Needs* (Trebnik) for those who are ill and cannot sleep. The Seven Sleepers are also mentioned in the service for the Church New Year, September 1.