



*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 4

Sunday, January 5 29th Sunday After Pentecost

10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Fellowship
1:00 Great Blessing of
Waters

Reader: Brian

Counters: Tom, Cynthia B

Monday, January 6 10:00 am Theophany Liturgy

Tuesday, January 7
10:00 am Liturgy for St.
John the Baptist
Ukrainian/Slavonic
language and traditional
carols

Sunday, January 12
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Fellowship
Reader: Joseph
Counters: Tom, Natalie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

There are house blessing sign up sheets in the hall and church. If you would like to have your house blessed, please write your name, address and phone number on the sheet. Even if Father has been to your house before, we need you to write down your address and phone number so we have it all on one sheet.

Today's second collection is for the emergency fund.

Beginning in February, the first Sunday of every month Fr. Fred will be teaching a class on icons.

This year the day before Theophany (Epiphany) falls on a Sunday. This means that the schedule is a bit different from normal.

On Sunday January 5, the Pre-Feast of Theophany (Epiphany) we will be having the following schedule: 10am Divine Liturgy for the Pre-Feast of Theophany 11:30am (or shortly thereafter) we hope to have a traditional Jordan/Holy Supper with lenten dishes such including kutya, borscht, pierogy/varenyky, Lenten cabbage rolls, fish. All Lenten dishes are welcome! There will be no charge for this but we will need cooperative helping hands.

1pm Following the Supper at about 1pm we will be doing the Great Blessing of Waters in the context of Vespers and distribution of the Holy Water.

Monday January 6 We will have the festal Liturgy at 10am for Theophany.

The following day on Tuesday January 7 is Old Julian Calendar Nativity which is St. John the Baptist on the Constantinopolitan Calendar. We will be doing a festive Liturgy at 10am largely in Ukrainian and Slavonic with traditional old carols accompanying.

We are handing out parishioner commitment forms. They are anonymous but we need to know how much we can expect in income to do a budget for the coming year. If this is the church you attend, then this is your church and you are a parishioner! God has given this church to you so please help take care of it financially.

Please let the children and their families get their food first for fellowship so Christian Education for them can begin faster.

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

Prayer Corner Living: Please pray for the ailing: Kathy, William, Mat. Mary, Randee, Olga, Katy, Joy, Will, Mike D, Alex, Linda, Freda, John, Joe, Amy, Joshua, Brian, Jacob, George, Sally, Walter, Nina, Mike M, Heidi, Paula, Mikey, Dan, Vilma, Nadia, Darla, Ned, Agnes, Steve, Linda C., Donna, George, Patsy, Beth, Bill, Deanna

Reposed: Virginia, Harry, Millie, Harry, Richard, Albert, Mary, John, Doris, Mary, Subdeacon John, Vera, Beverly, James, Dessie, Ernest, Elbert, Bill, Viva, Ina

We are looking for a volunteer to clean out the candle boxes before they go home on Sundays. If interested, please see Scottie.

Pani does the bulletin, if you need something put in the bulletin you must let her know through text 813-451-9829 or email panicarrie@yahoo.com by Friday evening.

Please review the ministry wall often for updates!

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, Marijean (571) 275-0810, Alternates: Ilya and Svetlana

If your pew book is in need of repair, please give it to Pani.

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.

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.

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.

Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. In his first marriage, he had four sons and two daughters. After he became a widower, Saint Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity.

An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. Saint Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter. Saint Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred.

Saint Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, his Feast is moved to December 26. The Righteous Joseph is also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers.

14,000 Holy Infants were killed by King Herod in Bethlehem. When the time came for the Incarnation of the Son of God and His Birth of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, Magi in the East beheld a new star in the heavens, foretelling the Nativity of the King of the Jews. They journeyed immediately to Jerusalem to worship the Child, and the star showed them the way. Having worshipped the divine Infant, they did not return to Jerusalem to Herod, as he had ordered them, but being warned by God in a dream, they went back to their country by another way. Herod finally realized that his scheme to find the Child would not be successful, and he ordered that all the male children two years old and younger at Bethlehem and its surroundings be killed. He thought that the divine Infant, Whom he considered a rival, would be among the dead children.

The murdered infants thus became the first martyrs for Christ. The rage of Herod fell also on Simeon the God-Receiver (February 3), who declared before everyone in the Temple that the Messiah had been born. When the holy Elder died, Herod would not give permission for him to be properly buried. On the orders of King Herod, the holy prophet and priest Zachariah was also killed. He was murdered in Jerusalem between the Temple and the altar (Mt. 23:35) because he would not tell the whereabouts of his son John, the future Baptist of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The wrath of God soon fell upon Herod himself: a horrid condition struck him down and he died, eaten by worms while still alive. Before his death, the impious king murdered the chief priests and scribes of the Jews, and also his brother, and his sister and her husband, and also his own wife Mariam, and three of his sons, and seventy men of wisdom who were members of the Sanhedrin. He initiated this bloodbath so that the day of his death would not be one of rejoicing, but one of mourning.

The Christian Church very rightly proclaimed these murdered children as Saints, because they died at an innocent age, and were, in some way, the first martyrs of Christianity. They may not have been baptized in water, but they were baptized in the blessed blood of their martyrdom.

Last but not least, the relics (or perhaps some) of the Holy Infants are found in Constantinople, in the Church of Saint James the Brother of the Lord, which was built by Emperor Justin. Most of their Holy Relics are at the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Portions of their Holy Relics are also to be found in the Pantokrator Monastery on Mount Athos.