



*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 8

### **Sunday, December 8 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

10 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15am Fellowship

Fasting

Visit from St. Nicholas

Reader: Andy

Counters: Paula, Olga

### **Tuesday, December 10**

7:00 pm Service of  
Repentance and Office of  
Confession followed by  
7:30 pm private  
confessions

### **Sunday, December 15 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

10 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15am Fellowship

Fasting

Reader: Joseph

Counters: Paula, Ilya

### **Sunday, December 22 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

10 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15am Fellowship

Fasting

Reader: Joseph

Counters: Paula, Marijean

### **Wednesday, Dec 25 Nativity**

10 am Divine Liturgy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memory Eternal to Harry Linsinbigler, Jr, Father Harry's dad.

Thank you to John Cup for his beautiful work in making new processional candles.

Our condolences to Beth Zaroff at the loss of her mother, Jackie, and to the whole Zaroff family.

Today we remember our sister in Christ, Vera Juhasz, for the one year anniversary of her repose.

We have the custom to take off your shoes on St. Nicholas day. You don't have to participate but those who do usually get a special treat in their shoes! There is nothing wrong with taking off your shoes in Church. It was a sign of respect in the bible and many middle eastern and African churches have the rule that you must remove your shoes before entering the church because where you stand is holy ground.

The beautiful poinsettias in the front garden of the church were planted by Barb and Bob.

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.

The Outreach Ministry is collecting food donations for 2 families and also blankets for patients in hospitals. All donations need to be in by 12/15.

On December 10 there is going to be a Service of Repentance followed by private confessions at 7:30. This is in preparation for Nativity in the midst of the period of repentance during the Nativity fast. Please note you do not have to take confession exactly on this day in order to participate in the service, but should take it prior to Nativity itself.

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](mailto:panicarrie@yahoo.com) by Friday evening.

Please review the ministry wall often for updates!

The weekday book study has been canceled.

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](mailto: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

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

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.

## **Fasting Guidelines for the Nativity Preparatory Period (Nov. 15-Dec 24)**

**As one of the four periods of repentance of the Church, we do the following:**

- 1). Increase prayer (and increase attendance at services when possible).**
- 2). Increase spiritual reading (Scripture, Saints lives, Church Fathers, etc.).**
- 3). Do an examination of conscience, and confession as appropriate during the fast**
- 4). Choose an option for fasting as follows:**

In the monastic typikon tradition, which since the 15<sup>th</sup> century has been also encouraged for laity when possible, the following is the case:

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from November 15-Dec. 19, and all days from Dec. 20-24, eat nothing in the morning hours at all (until noon), with no Meat, Fish, Eggs, Cheese/Dairy, Wine or Olive Oil thereafter. On Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays Nov 15-Dec 19: Fish and olive oil are eaten.

**Other dispensational options to observe the fast for those not doing the sabbas typikon praxis:**

Option 1). One traditional way is for people to fast on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until December 17. From December 18-24 to abstain from meat and dairy (\*Note, during the first millennium, the Nativity fast for laity was only one week long), and to be careful not to overeat on other days. If one can also do so, the canons prescribe, on Wednesdays and Fridays during the whole period, eating no food on Wednesdays and Fridays until noon for those who work (i.e. from the evening before no later than midnight until noon of the following day), but for monastics to eat nothing until 3pm.

Option 2). St. Isaac of Syria wrote this: "If you cannot labor with your body, at least make efforts in your mind. If you cannot fast for two days, fast at least till evening. If you cannot fast till evening, be careful not to overeat. If you are not a peacemaker, at least do not be addicted to strife."

Option 3). Don't drink alcohol and pick one food to abstain from for the whole period that is a food from the fasting list that you are inclined to addiction towards (i.e. a type of meat or dairy which might include, for example, bacon or chocolate).

*\*Note: Hospitality from non-Orthodox is to be accepted when given (unless the food is openly known to have been sacrificed to idols, and then must be refused, or unless it would cause harm to your health such as food allergies, etc.). In other words, if someone invites you to an office Christmas party or a neighbor to a Christmas party it is appropriate to accept the invitation and dispense with the fast, but all things should be eaten with prayer.*