



*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, July 21

10 am Divine Liturgy

11:15am Fellowship

Reader: Joseph

Altar: Jefferson

Counters: Scottie, Tina

Sunday, July 28

Memorial Rebecca

Delp's Parents

10 am Divine Liturgy

11:15am Fellowship

Reader: Brian

Altar: Vasilij &

Vladislav

Counters: Scottie, John S

Sunday, August 4

10 am Divine Liturgy

11:15am Fellowship

Reader: Mat Terry

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: Andy

Altar: Jefferson

Counters: Pani, Andrew

Wednesday, August 14

7:00 pm Service

Dormition of the Mother
of God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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 make 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

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, Mary

The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. He was born in the city of Sarir, and descended from the tribe of Levi; he was a priest and the son of the priest Buzi. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with King Jechoniah II and many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnessar.

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in captivity by the River Chebar. When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and in the midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces (Ez. 1:6). Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back (Ez. 1:10). There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes.

Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow (Ez. 1:4-28).

According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (St Matthew), a lion (St Mark), an ox (St Luke), and an eagle (St John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all the nations of the earth. During this vision the holy prophet fell down upon the ground out of fear, but the voice of God commanded him to get up. He was told that the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic service.

The Prophet Ezekiel announces to the people of Israel, held captive in Baylon, the tribulations it would face for not remaining faithful to God. The prophet also proclaimed a better time for his fellow-countrymen, and he predicted their return from Babylon, and the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple.

There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory (Ez. 44:1-10); and the bones in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life (Ez. 37:1-14). The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel's description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter (Ez. 44: 2), is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The holy Prophet Ezekiel received from the Lord the gift of wonderworking. He, like the Prophet Moses, divided the waters of the river Chebar, and the Hebrews crossed to the opposite shore, escaping the pursuing Chaldeans. During a time of famine the prophet asked God for an increase of food for the hungry.

Ezekiel was condemned to execution because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for idolatry. Bound to wild horses, he was torn to pieces. Pious Hebrews gathered up the torn body of the prophet and buried it upon Maur Field, in the tomb of Sim and Arthaxad, forefathers of Abraham, not far from Baghdad. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him, and is included in the Old Testament.

St Demetrius of Rostov (October 28 and September 21) explains to believers the following concepts in the book of the Prophet Ezekiel: if a righteous man turns from righteousness to sin, he shall die for his sin, and his righteousness will not be remembered. If a sinner repents, and keeps God's commandments, he will not die. His former sins will not be held against him, because now he follows the path of righteousness (Ez. 3:20; 18:21-24).

Troparion — Tone 4

An angel in the flesh and the cornerstone of the prophets, / the second forerunner of the coming of Christ, / Glorious Elijah sent grace from on high to Elisha, / to dispel diseases and to cleanse lepers. / Therefore, he pours forth healings on those who honor him.

Troparion — Tone 2

The memory of Your prophet Ezekiel, / We celebrate today, O Lord. / By his prayers, we beseech You, / O Christ God, save our souls!

Kontakion — Tone 2

Prophet Elijah of great renown, / seer of the mighty mighty works of God, / by your command you held back the rain! / Pray for us to the only Lover of mankind!