



*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 3

Sunday, Sept. 8
Nativity of the Theotokos
12th Sunday after Pentacost
9:50 am Memorial
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Fellowship
Reader: Brian
Altar: Jefferson
Counters: Tom, Mike D

Sunday, Sept 15
Sunday after Exaltation
13th Sunday after Pentacost
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Fellowship
Reader: Brian
Altar: Vasiliy & Vladislav
Counters: Tom, Mike B

Sunday, Sept 22
14th Sunday after Pentacost
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Fellowship
Reader: Brian
Altar: Jefferson
Counters: Tom, Natalie B

Sunday, Sept 29
15th Sunday after Pentacost
10 am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Fellowship
Reader: Brian
Altar: Jefferson
Counters: Tom, Roxy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memory Eternal to the newly departed Doris Belles, grandmother of Father Harry!

Today's services are in loving memory of Mary Nakonechny, sister of Olga, on her 89th birthday. May her memory be eternal!

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.

Denis is starting up a weight loss ministry. Please see him for more details.

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 today. 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.

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

In addition to the prayer corner for the living, we would also like to have one for the reposed. If you have anyone who you would like to be put on this, please speak to Cynthia or send her a message.

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: Kathy, William, Mat. Mary, SD. John, Randee, John, Ryan, Olga, Paul, Katy, Joy, Will, Mike, Alex, Darla, Marjie, Pirkko, Freda, John, Joe, Amy, Travis, Logan, Joshua, Brian, Jacob, George, Sally, Walter, Nina, Pauline

Reposed: Virginia, Harry, Millie, Harry, Richard, Albert, Mary, John, Doris, Mary

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 on September 15. Pani will still print out the Children's Word weekly for the youth. If you are interested in helping out, please see Scottie. We would like to begin a rotation schedule.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastsdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

Troparion — Tone 4

Your Nativity, O Virgin, / Has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! / The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / Has shone from You, O Theotokos! / By annulling the curse, / He bestowed a blessing. / By destroying death, He has granted us eternal Life.

Kontakion — Tone 4

By Your Nativity, O Most Pure Virgin, / Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; / Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. / And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: / The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life!

