



*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 29<sup>th</sup> 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

**Sunday, January 10**  
10 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15am Fellowship  
Reader: Andy  
Counters: Tom, Mike B

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!

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.

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

On the morning of January 6, bring holy items to Liturgy to be blessed. Any questions ask Father Harry.

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](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, Darla, Steve, Ricky, Linda, Travis, Nicole, Alex

**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](mailto: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.

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.

