



*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, August 26

9:45 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship

Tuesday, August 28

6:30 pm Foundations of Orthodoxy Class
7:00 pm Vigil for Beheading St. John the Baptist

Sunday, September 2

9:45 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship

Tuesday, September 4

7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, September 9

9:45 am Divine Liturgy
Annual Parish Meeting
11:15 am Fellowship

Thursday, September 13

6:30 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Vigil for the Elevation of the Cross

Sunday, September 16

Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship

Youth Education will resume in September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to be on the Parish Council or would like to nominate someone for the Council, please submit the name to Brian Delp or Scottie Gursky by August 26. Elections will take place on September 9.

If you would like to send John and Vera Juhaz a card, their address is: 4461 Fairway Oaks Dr. Mulberry, FL 33860

Parish council contacts: Scottie (President): 813-629-6027, Brian (Vice President): (813) 763-5226, Rebecca (Treasurer): (813) 763-5225, Nancy (Co Treasurer) (727) 584-7907, Paula (813) 838-4554 (Secretary)

We will have our annual parish meeting on September 9th. This is a meeting of updates and setting direction for our parish. We need all who are able to attend on this important day.

We will be voting on Liturgy times at the parish meeting. The two times to pick from are 9:45 am and 10:00 am.

August shopping list: wasp spray, plates, tissues

Are you good with social media? We are looking for someone to help with our advertising ministry.

We assembled the homeless bags. They are by the door, take a few for your car to hand out when driving. Some things you can add: fresh fruit (orange, banana, apple), a bottle of water, cash, granola bar, etc.

When leaving the hall, if you are the last person there, please make sure all the lights are turned off, including the bathrooms. Also, please make sure the air conditioning is turned off. If you are unsure of how to turn off AC, text Pani, 813-451-9829, and she will make sure it is off.

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.

Projects that need done around the church: Cleaning of hall bathrooms, bushes trimmed around church. If you can do any of these, let the parish council know!

The glass table outside the hall has been cleaned and it looks great! John and Peggy stopped by last Friday and made it shine!

From the Parish Council: Dearest members. Our Church is a small one, and the summer months become very difficult for us financially for many reasons. We need everyone to give regularly even for weeks they are not here. The bills still need paid on weeks that we are away. The electric still needs paid, the phone bill needs paid, the priest needs paid, the security company needs paid the lawn guy needs paid, the fire service and water service techs need paid, the government inspectors need paid, and the people who do periodic work such as service techs all need paid. The A/C has to be left running inside the church to protect the icons especially during the summer, when we have lower attendance and thus lower amounts of money to pay the bills. If everyone would please set aside money for your church just the way you do for your family home (i.e. set money aside to give with your regular bills), we would not have the stress of wondering how to pay the bills in the summer months. Please don't punish the church by only giving for Sundays when you come, since that is like only providing food for your family on days when you don't have to work late.

Prayer Corner: Please pray for the ailing: Mary, Kathy, Susan, Helen, Neila, Olexander, Anna, John, Carol, Mat. Mary, P. Vera, 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, Gene, Judy, Fr. Michael, Fr. John, Anastasia, Demitrios, Alexandra, Israel, George, Michelle, George, Beth, Alex, George, Joseph, Jacqueline, Michael, Geverlyn, Thomas, Norma, Sally, Sarah, Derek, Susan, Lucy, Beth, Kathy, Phyllis, John, David, Shirley, Kalie, Madeline, Thomas, Patricia, Marie, Archimandrite David, Jake, Tom, Beverly, Taylor, Reghyn, Sylvia, Andreas, Josh, Nicole, Joyce, Sandy, Yamileth, Georgina, Kathy, Pam, Ann, Eli, Shay, Ocean, Lauren, Donna, Kim, Lori, Nancy, George, Sharon, Sylvia, Kristi, Gary, Tori

The Martyrs Adrian and Natalia were married in their youth for one year prior to their martyrdom, and lived in Nicomedia during the time of the emperor Maximian (305-311). The emperor promised a reward to whomever would inform on Christians to bring them to trial. Then the denunciations began, and twenty-three Christians were captured in a cave near Nicomedia.

They were tortured, urged to worship idols, and then brought before the Praetor, in order to record their names and responses. Adrian, the head of the praetorium, watched as these people suffered with such courage for their faith. Seeing how firmly and fearlessly they confessed Christ, he asked: "What rewards do you expect from your God for your suffering?" The martyrs replied: "Such rewards as we are not able to describe, nor can your mind comprehend." Saint Adrian told the scribes, "Write my name down also, for I am a Christian and I die gladly for Christ God."

The scribes reported this to the emperor, who summoned Saint Adrian and asked: "Really, have you gone mad, that you want to die? Come, cross out your name from the lists and offer sacrifice to the gods, asking their forgiveness."

Saint Adrian answered: "I have not lost my mind, but rather have I found it." Maximian then ordered Adrian to be thrown into prison. His wife, Saint Natalia, knowing that her husband was to suffer for Christ, rejoiced, since she herself was secretly a Christian.

She hastened to the prison and encouraged her husband saying: "You are blessed, my lord, because you have believed in Christ. You have obtained a great treasure. Do not regret anything earthly, neither beauty, nor youth (Adrian was then 28 years of age), nor riches. Everything worldly is dust and ashes. Only faith and good deeds are pleasing to God."

On the pledge of the other martyrs, they released Saint Adrian from prison to tell his wife about the day of his execution. At first Saint Natalia thought that he had renounced Christ and thus had been set free, and she did not want to let him into the house. The saint persuaded his wife that he had not fled from martyrdom, but rather had come to give her the news of the day of his execution.

They tortured Saint Adrian cruelly. The emperor advised the saint to have pity on himself and call on the gods, but the martyr answered: "Let your gods say what blessings they promise me, and then I shall worship them, but if they cannot do this, then why should I worship them?" Saint Natalia did not cease to encourage her husband. She asked him also to pray to God for her, that they would not force her into marriage with a pagan after his death.

The executioner ordered the hands and the legs of the saints to be broken on the anvil. Saint Natalia, fearing that her husband would hesitate on seeing the sufferings of the other martyrs, asked the executioner to begin with him, and permit her to put his hands and legs on the anvil herself.

They wanted to burn the bodies of the saints, but a storm arose and the fire went out. Many of the executioners were even struck by lightning. Saint Natalia took the hand of her husband and kept it at home. Soon an army commander asked the emperor's approval to wed Saint Natalia, who was both young and rich. But she hid herself away in Byzantium. Saint Adrian appeared to her in a dream and said that she would soon be at rest in the Lord. The martyr, worn out by her former sufferings, in fact soon fell asleep in the Lord.

