



*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

Schedule

Today is Tone 3

Sunday, Dec 17

9:45 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship

Sunday, Dec 24

10:30 am Divine Liturgy
NOON Holy Supper
10:45 pm Christmas Compline
11:30 pm Christmas Liturgy

Sunday, Dec 31

9:45 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Christmas Pot Luck

Friday, January 5

Theophany Eve
6pm Liturgy of St. Basil with Blessing of Waters

Sunday, January 7

9:45 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship

Please remember to follow the preparatory guidelines for communion (see website www.holyorthodox.org for details).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's services are in loving memory of Emberlee Sekala. May her memory be Eternal!
Next week Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:30 am! Sign up to bring something for our Holy Supper at Noon!

The council has voted that Monday and Saturday's will be Father's days off. Please, do not call or text on those days. If you have an emergency on one of those days, please call Pani at 813-451-9829 or one of the council members.

December 24, our fellowship will be the Holy Supper. Sign up to bring a dish, the only requirement is that it is meatless.

Please pick up complete schedule for Christmas and the month January.

December 31 fellowship will be our parish Christmas festive meal. If you can, please sign up to bring something.

The council will be putting up a board of parish needs in the hall. This will include volunteers for fellowship hour. There will no longer be stewardship teams after December. Fellowship can be very simple, just bagels or donuts.

Newly elected council members are Paula Karagounis and Susan Johnson. The swearing in of the council will take place in January.

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, You can text all, except Nancy

Stewardship Teams
Dec 17 Scottie fasting
Dec 24 Nancy Holy Supper
December 31 Christmas pot luck

Our Lenten Retreat is scheduled for February 23-25, 2018. Make sure you save the date!

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, Elizabeth, 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, Jaqueline, 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, Keegan

If you would like someone on the bulletin prayer list just let Pani know. Please review the prayer list, if you know of someone who should be taken off, please let Pani know.

In the Book of Daniel, The **Three Holy Children**, Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego) were all companions of the Prophet Daniel and fellow kinsmen in the tribe of Judah. During the reign of King Jechonias they were taken prisoner and led away as captives with other Jews during the Babylonian Captivity. Eventually they were taken into the court of King Nebuchadnezzar as servants, stripped of their Hebrew names, and given Babylonian names which honored pagan deities. They later would be delivered by God from death after being placed in furnace by Nebuchadnezzar. They are commemorated December 17.

As told in Chapter Three in the Book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar constructs a golden cult image of himself which he orders the populace to worship. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah defy the king's order, refusing to worship anyone but God alone. Nebuchadnezzar, in a fit of rage, orders that the three children be thrown in a furnace. Inside the furnace, Azariah prays for the forgiveness of his sins and those of his people, asking God to demonstrate his power to the Babylonians. They are delivered from the fire by an angel who makes the flames feel like a cool breeze over dew. Seen in the furnace walking with a fourth individual unscathed and praising God, the three children emerge. Nebuchadnezzar then orders the people to worship their God instead of the idol. Before this event, Daniel interpreted a mysterious dream Nebuchadnezzar had of a statue composed of precious metals which was ground to dust by a rock hewn from a mountain without human craftsmanship. This vision is said to prefigure of Christ's incarnation, the Son of God who is begotten and not made, destroying death through His Resurrection.

The Church also teaches that it was Christ taking the form of an angel who saved the youths from their torment. In icons of this miracle, the angel sports a halo bearing a cross, indicating that He is Christ. The song of the three children is alluded to in odes seven and eight of the canon in matins and on other occasions in liturgical season. The reading of the story of the furnace, including the song Prayer of the Three Holy Children, is prescribed for the vespereal Divine Liturgy celebrated by the Church on Holy Saturday.

