



*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

Today is Tone 4

### **Sunday, February 18** **Forgiveness Sunday**

9:35 am Memorial Godmother of  
Rebecca Delp  
9:45 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship

### **Friday, Feb 23-Sunday Feb 25** Pan Orthodox Retreat

### **Sunday, February 25**

9:45 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship  
4:30 pm Lenten Vespers St. Nicholas  
Tarpon Springs

### **Sunday, March 4**

9:45 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship  
11:30 am Christian Ed for Children  
5:00 pm Lenten Vespers St. George  
Clearwater

Please remember to follow the preparatory guidelines for communion (see website [www.holyorthodox.org](http://www.holyorthodox.org) for details).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christian Ed for our youth is beginning March 4. The children will come to fellowship for something to eat and then Miss Lupe will give the children a lesson.

Sign up for a ministry duty for Great Lent/Pascha. The sheets are attached the bulletin. If you have any questions, please see a council member. We all have our parts, let's work together to make this season full of stewardship and repentance.

During the month of February, after the 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be dedicating the month for donations for church repair. This will be in addition to your weekly offering, which is needed for everyday expenses. Please give what you can so we can improve the church!

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.

The first day of Great Lent is Monday, February 19. All Sunday fellowship until Pascha will be fasting.

Our Lenten Retreat is scheduled for February 23-25, 2018. The time has come to register! You can do so online on our website or you can fill out a paper registration and give it to Paula

**First Week of Great Lent** (all services at Holy Protection in Dover unless otherwise noted):

Pure Monday 7pm—Canon of Repentance part 1 (about a half hour)

Pure Tuesday 7pm—Canon of Repentance part 2 (about a half hour)

Pure Wednesday 7pm—Canon of Repentance part 3 (about a half hour)

Pure Thursday 7pm—Canon of Repentance part 4 (about a half hour)

First Friday of Great Lent (at Bethany Center in Lutz) 4:30pm—hierarchical (Bishop presiding) Presanctified Liturgy

First Saturday (at Bethany center in Lutz) Retreat (see schedule)

Sunday of Orthodoxy—10am at Holy Protection in Dover, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (i.e. Bishop presiding), with Lenten (fasting—no meat, eggs, or cheese) meal following.

Bethany Center address:

18150 Bethany Center Dr, Lutz, FL 33558

**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,

*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.

We need suggestions for roof repair. If you know of someone who could give us an estimate, please see a member of the parish council.

You can sign up to read the Psalter during Great Lent with people across the country. See the flyer on how!

**Readers Schedule:**

February 18	John
February 25	Mike
March 4	Brian
March	Andrew

February shopping list: hand sanitizer, paper towels, napkins, coffee. If you are at the store, pick up something and bring to church.

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 (Secretary) and Susan.

**Lenten Vespers:**

March 11 5:00 pm St. Andrew New Port Richey  
March 18 5:00 pm St. Nicholas Pinellas Park  
March 25 5:00 pm St. Gregory Tampa

In the Orthodox Church, the last Sunday before Great Lent – the day on which, at Vespers, Lent is liturgically announced and inaugurated – is called Forgiveness Sunday.

On the morning of that Sunday, at the Divine Liturgy, we hear the words of Christ: “If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses...” (Mark 6:14-15).

What is the meaning of this rite? Why is it that the Church wants us to begin Lenten season with forgiveness and reconciliation? These questions are in order because for too many people, Lent means primarily, and almost exclusively, a change of diet, the compliance with ecclesiastical regulations concerning fasting. They understand fasting as an end in itself, as a “good deed” required by God and carrying in itself its merit and its reward. But, the Church spares no effort in revealing to us that fasting is but a means, one among many, towards a higher goal: the spiritual renewal of man, his return to God, true repentance and, therefore, true reconciliation. The Church spares no effort in warning us against a hypocritical and pharisaic fasting, against the reduction of religion to mere external obligations. As a Lenten hymn says: “In vain do you rejoice in no eating, O soul! For you abstain from food, but from passions you are not purified. If you persevere in sin, you will perform a useless fast.”

Now, forgiveness stands at the very center of Christian faith and of Christian life because Christianity itself is, above all, the religion of forgiveness. God forgives us, and His forgiveness is in Christ, His Son, Whom He sends to us, so that by sharing in His humanity we may share in His love and be truly reconciled with God. Indeed, Christianity has no other content but love. And it is primarily the renewal of that love, a return to it, a growth in it, that we seek in Great Lent, in fasting and prayer, in the entire spirit and the entire effort of that season. Thus, truly forgiveness is both the beginning of, and the proper condition for the Lenten season.

—Introduction to the booklet, *Forgiveness Sunday Vespers*, published 1975-1982 by the Department of Religious Education of the Orthodox Church in America.