



*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 6



Sunday, January 7

9:45 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship
Swearing in of council

Tuesday, January 9

7:30 pm Council Meeting

Sunday, January 14

9:35 am Memorial Fr. Martin
9:45 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship

Monday, January 15

7:00pm Women of Faith
Brandon Mall Food Court

Sunday, January 21

9:35 am Memorial Sophie
9:45 am Divine Liturgy
Take down Christmas tree
11:15 am Fellowship

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRIST IS BAPTIZED! IN THE JORDAN!

If you bring food for fellowship, which is much appreciated, please take it with you when you leave or offer it to another person if you do not want to bring it back home with you. If it is something that can be used in the future, it needs to go into the freezer. Health Department rules do not allow leftover cooked food for more than 5 days. If it is left in the fridge, it must have a date and label but will not be good the following Sunday because that is 7 days and we can only keep it for 5 days.

Our calendar order was not received by the monastery when Pani faxed it in. We have been in contact with them, and they will be sending them soon. Sorry for the inconvenience.

The council has voted that Monday and Saturday's will be Father's days off (except weeks when there is a feast day or some other duty is required). Please, do not call or text on those days, except for legitimate emergencies. If you have an emergency on one of those days, please also call or text Pani at 813-451-9829 or one of the council members.

The 2018 envelopes are in the narthex, pick up yours today.

January shopping list: 12 oz coffee cups, hot chocolate, bagels and coffee. If you are at the store, pick up something and bring to church.

Sign up in the hall for a fellowship hour! The sign up is on the window in the hall. There will no longer be stewardship teams after December. Fellowship can be very simple, just bagels or donuts. We need someone for next week, the 14th.

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

Readers Schedule:

January 7	Brian
January 14	Andrew
January 21	John
January 28	Mike

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.

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

The sixth of January is the feast of the Epiphany. Originally it was the one Christian feast of the “shining forth” of God to the world in the human form of Jesus of Nazareth. It included the celebration of Christ’s birth, the adoration of the Wisemen, and all of the childhood events of Christ such as His circumcision and presentation to the temple as well as His baptism by John in the Jordan. There seems to be little doubt that this feast, like Easter and Pentecost, was understood as the fulfillment of a previous Jewish festival, in this case the Feast of Lights.

Epiphany means shining forth or manifestation. The feast is often called, as it is in the Orthodox service books, Theophany, which means the shining forth and manifestation of God. The emphasis in the present-day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Thus, in the baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus identifies Himself with sinners as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn 1.29), the “Beloved” of the Father whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins (Lk 3.21, Mk 1.35). And he is revealed as well as One of the Divine Trinity, testified to by the voice of the Father, and by the Spirit in the form of a dove. This is the central epiphany glorified in the main hymns of the feast.

The services of Epiphany are set up exactly as those of Christmas, although historically it was most certainly Christmas which was made to imitate Epiphany since it was established later. Once again the Royal Hours and the Liturgy of Saint Basil are celebrated together with Vespers on the eve of the feast; and the Vigil is made up of Great Compline and Matins.

The prophecies of Epiphany repeat the God is with us from Isaiah and stress the foretelling of the Messiah as well as the coming of His forerunner, John the Baptist:

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His path straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God (Is 40.3–5; Lk 3.4–6).

The main feature of the feast of the Epiphany is the Great Blessing of Water. It is prescribed to follow both the Divine Liturgy of the eve of the feast and the Divine Liturgy of the day itself. Usually it is done just once in parish churches at the time when most people can be present. It begins with the singing of special hymns and the censing of the water which has been placed in the center of the church building. Surrounded by candles and flowers, this water stands for the beautiful world of God’s original creation and ultimate glorification by Christ in the Kingdom of God. Sometimes this service of blessing is done out of doors at a place where the water is flowing naturally.

*The voice of the Lord cries over the waters, saying: Come all ye, receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, even Christ who is made manifest.
Today the nature of water is sanctified. Jordan is divided in two, and turns back the stream of its waters, beholding the Master being baptized.*

As a man Thou didst come to that river, O Christ our King, and dost hasten O Good One, to receive the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner [John], because of our sins, O Lover of Man (Hymns of the Great Blessing of Waters).