



*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 8

Sunday March 18 Sunday of the Ladder

9:15am Confession
9:45am Divine Liturgy followed by fellowship
5pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers

Wednesday March 21

3:15pm-4:15pm Presanctified Liturgy
7pm-8pm Great Canon of Repentance

Friday March 23

11:30 am Presanctified Liturgy
4:30pm Salutations to the Theotokos (Akathyst)

Sunday March 25, Saint Mary of Egypt

9:15am-9:40am Confession
9:45am Divine Liturgy
5pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers

March 28 Wednesday of Lazarus Week

7:00 pm Liturgy of Presanctified

Friday March 30 End of Great Lent, Eve of Lazarus Saturday

7pm-8pm Vespers & Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts for Lazarus Saturday

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pani printed the phone list for the parish. If there are any mistakes, or anyone is missing, please let her know. Thank you!

Note the services time changes for Friday, March 23. Pick up the REVISED schedule for the remainder of Great Lent.

Christian Ed for the youth has begun. We would like to have the youth and their families be able to get in line first for their food so they can proceed to the church and the lesson in a timely manner. We appreciate your cooperation in this!

We still need a few things to be done during Holy Week. Please see a council member to see what you can do to help.

We would like to get a group of women together to see the Christian comedian Chonda Pierce at the Country Side Christian Center on May 11 at 7pm. The tickets are \$27. If we get a group of 10, the tickets are \$24. Let Pani know if you are interested.

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 weeks throughout Great Lent need to be fasting for fellowship.

*To take Communion at an evening Presanctified Liturgy, eat fasting foods (not meat, etc.) sparingly during the day, and cease eating altogether following midday light fasting lunch, ceasing eating altogether at least 4 hours prior to Communion (unless medical needs demand otherwise).

It is time for the UOL essay contest for people of all ages! The theme is "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." --Jeremiah 29:11. Please see the flyer for specific information.

Lent is a time for repentance and self-denial. Take this time to reflect on how you can become closer to God through prayer and stewardship.

Readers Schedule:

March 18 John March 25 Brian April 1 Andrew

March shopping list: hot chocolate, toilet paper. If you are at the store, pick up something and bring to church.

Lenten Vespers:

March 18 5:00 pm St. Nicholas Pinellas Park
March 25 5:00 pm St. Gregory's Tampa

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, Father Basil

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.

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) and Susan (813) 352-5024.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt.10: 12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt.24:13).

Saint Patrick, the Enlightener of Ireland was born around 385, the son of Calpurnius, a Roman decurion (an official responsible for collecting taxes). He lived in the village of Bannavem Taberniae, which may have been located at the mouth of the Severn River in Wales. The district was raided by pirates when Patrick was sixteen, and he was one of those taken captive. He was brought to Ireland and sold as a slave, and was put to work as a herder of swine on a mountain identified with Slemish in Co. Antrim. During his period of slavery, Patrick acquired a proficiency in the Irish language which was very useful to him in his later mission. He prayed during his solitude on the mountain, and lived this way for six years. He had two visions. The first told him he would return to his home. The second told him his ship was ready. Setting off on foot, Patrick walked two hundred miles to the coast. There he succeeded in boarding a ship, and returned to his parents in Britain. Some time later, he went to Gaul and studied for the priesthood at Auxerre under Saint Germanus (July 31). Eventually, he was consecrated as a bishop, and was entrusted with the mission to Ireland, succeeding Saint Palladius (July 7). Saint Palladius did not achieve much success in Ireland. After about a year he went to Scotland, where he died in 432.

Patrick had a dream in which an angel came to him bearing many letters. Selecting one inscribed "The Voice of the Irish," he heard the Irish entreating him to come back to them. Although Saint Patrick achieved remarkable results in spreading the Gospel, he was not the first or only missionary in Ireland. He arrived around 432 (though this date is disputed), about a year after Saint Palladius began his mission to Ireland. There were also other missionaries who were active on the southeast coast, but it was Saint Patrick who had the greatest influence and success in preaching the Gospel of Christ. Therefore, he is known as "The Enlightener of Ireland."

His autobiographical Confession tells of the many trials and disappointments he endured. Patrick had once confided to a friend that he was troubled by a certain sin he had committed before he was fifteen years old. The friend assured him of God's mercy, and even supported Patrick's nomination as bishop. Later, he turned against him and revealed what Patrick had told him in an attempt to prevent his consecration. Many years later, Patrick still grieved for his dear friend who had publicly shamed him. Saint Patrick founded many churches and monasteries across Ireland, but the conversion of the Irish people was no easy task. There was much hostility, and he was assaulted several times. He faced danger, and insults, and he was reproached for being a foreigner and a former slave. There was also a very real possibility that the pagans would try to kill him. Despite many obstacles, he remained faithful to his calling, and he baptized many people into Christ.

The saint's Epistle to Coroticus is also an authentic work. In it he denounces the attack of Coroticus' men on one of his congregations. The Breastplate (Lorica) is also attributed to Saint Patrick. In his writings, we can see Saint Patrick's awareness that he had been called by God, as well as his determination and modesty in undertaking his missionary work. He refers to himself as "a sinner," "the most ignorant and of least account," and as someone who was "despised by many." He ascribes his success to God, rather than to his own talents: "I owe it to God's grace that through me so many people should be born again to Him." By the time he established his episcopal See in Armagh in 444, Saint Patrick had other bishops to assist him, many native priests and deacons, and he encouraged the growth of monasticism. Saint Patrick is often depicted holding a shamrock, or with snakes fleeing from him. He used the shamrock to illustrate the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Its three leaves growing out of a single stem helped him to explain the concept of one God in three Persons.

Saint Patrick died on March 17, 461 (some say 492). There are various accounts of his last days, but they are mostly legendary. Muirchu says that no one knows the place where Saint Patrick is buried. Saint Columba of Iona (June 9) says that the Holy Spirit revealed to him that Patrick was buried at Saul, the site of his first church. A granite slab was placed at his traditional grave site in Downpatrick in 1899.