



*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 1

### **Sunday, November 25**

Memorial Bohdan  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship  
Youth Education  
Counters: Scottie John S

### **Tuesday, Nov 27**

6:30 Class  
7:00 Service

### **Sunday, December 2**

10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Chrismation Ethan  
11:15 am Fellowship  
Youth Education  
Counters: Paula,  
Andrew

### **Tuesday, December 4**

7:30 pm Parish Council  
Meeting

### **Saturday, December 8**

9:00 am  
Church Cleaning  
Tree Set Up

### **Sunday, December 9**

10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Chrismation/Baptism  
Decker Family  
11:15 am Fellowship  
Youth Education  
Counters: Paula, Olga

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's services are in loving memory Bohdan Neswiacheny. May his memory be eternal!

Have you visited our Orthodox Christian website lately? The address is <https://orthodoxchristianed.org/>

2019 Church calendars are here! We ask for \$5 to cover the cost of the calendar. Pick yours up in the narthex today.

We have a sign up sheet for house blessings. If you want your house blessed, sign up with your name, address and phone number by December 23 so we can make a schedule of times.

Save the date!! There will be a Lenten Retreat on March 23.

HELP US! The Maintenance Ministry has compiled a list of projects that need to be addressed around the property. "Ongoing projects" are those which need to be done regularly. We ask that you sign up and take responsibility for these tasks for a 3-month period. A second list highlights "One-time repairs". Please review both lists on the bulletin board in the Social Hall and see if you can lend a hand. If you have questions or have items you feel need to be addressed please see any Council member or Mike B.

There will be a church cleaning day to get the church ready for Christmas on December 8. We will begin at 9. If we have enough people, we should be finished by noon!

The class on Tuesday, November 27 will be the last one until after home blessings in January.

If you are coming to confession, please be in line by 9:50 am on a normal Sunday. On a Sunday there is a Memorial scheduled, please be in line by 9:35 am. Please line up down the center isle of the church.

Scottie did a great presentation on Ministries last week. If you are interested in any, please see a member of the parish council.

Please allow the youth and their families to get their food first at fellowship so the youth can go over the church for their lesson.

Parish council contacts: Scottie (President): 813-629-6027, Brian (Vice President): (813) 763-5226, Rebecca (Treasurer): (813) 763-5225, Paula (813) 838-4554 (Secretary) Tom Moore Financial Secretary 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.

We will be collecting items for A Kids Place, a foster home in Brandon. We will begin on November 25 and collect through December 16. Look for the tree in the hall to pick an ornament for what to purchase for this great charity.

**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, Jaqueline, Michael, Geverylyn, 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, Joan

#### Troparion Tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,  
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.  
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,  
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.  
Let us rejoice  
and sing to her://  
“Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation!”

#### Tone 4 Kontakion

The most pure Temple of the Savior;  
the precious Chamber and Virgin;  
the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,  
is presented today to the house of the Lord.  
She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,  
therefore, the Angels of God praise her:  
“Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!”

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called “Psalms of Ascent.”) The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. “If anyone were to ask me,” said Saint Jerome, “how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian.”

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin’s stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.