



*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 2

Sunday, October 7

Parish Feast Day
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship
Youth Education
Counters: Pani and
Barbara

Sunday, October 14

9:45 am Fr. Anastasije
Memorial
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship
Youth Education
Counters: Pani and
Svetlana

Tuesday October 16

9:55am Arrival of
miraculous Iveron Icon
10am Divine Liturgy

Thursday, Oct. 18

St. Joel, St. John of
Rila (we have his relics)
6:30 Foundations of
Orthodoxy
7 pm Vespers

Sunday, October 21

10:00 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship
Youth Education
Counters: Pani and
Svetlana

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

We are looking for volunteers to be on the Welcoming committee. If you are interested, please see a member of the parish council.

Tuesday October 16

9:55am Arrival of miraculous Iveron Icon
10am Divine Liturgy

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

October shopping list: tissues for 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.

Holy Protection's Vision is to be an authentic continuation of Christ's Church locally planted, to operate and to live our lives Biblically according to the will of God, walking the path of salvation that He has given us, and bring others into the life in Christ that we might have the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, living and abiding within us and among us both in this age and in the age to come.

Holy Protection's Mission is that of every parish of God's Holy Orthodox Catholic Church: to strive as a parish, as families of the parish and as faithful individuals, to fulfill His commandments that are summarized with the love of God, neighbor, one another, and even our enemies. This culminates in the Divine Liturgy on the Lord's Day, also fulfilled in the other Sacraments and Services of the Church, and in our homes and lives in prayer, self-restraint, and charitable giving.

Holy Protection's Values Holy Protection Orthodox Church, as a parish of God's Holy Orthodox Catholic Church, is a parish family of God's faithful dedicated to put God and what He wants before ourselves and what we want, because God alone has unselfish motives and knows what is best for us with regard to the one thing needful, eternal life. Holy Protection, therefore, has resolved to put God-given principles first and practice Christianity as delivered by God in Scripture and the living deposit of faith given to the Church both as individuals and together as a church. [Epitome: to live Biblically as faithful followers of Christ and to operate Biblically as a Church

We assembled homeless bags. They are by the door, take a few for your car to hand out when driving. Some things you can add: fresh fruit (orange, banana, apple), a bottle of water, cash, granola bar, etc.

When leaving the hall, if you are the last person there, please make sure all the lights are turned off, including the bathrooms. Also, please make sure the air conditioning is turned off. If you are unsure of how to turn off AC, text or call Pani, 813-451-9829, and she will make sure it is off.

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

Saint Pelagia of Tarsus in Cilicia (southeastern Asia Minor) lived in the third century, during the reign of Diocletian (284-305), and was the daughter of illustrious pagans. When she heard about Jesus Christ from her Christian friends, she believed in Him and desired to preserve her virginity, dedicating her whole life to the Lord.

Emperor Diocletian's heir (a boy he adopted), saw the maiden Pelagia, was captivated by her beauty and wanted her to be his wife. The holy virgin told the youth that she was betrothed to Christ the Immortal Bridegroom, and had renounced earthly marriage.

Pelagia's reply greatly angered the young man, but he decided to leave her in peace for awhile, hoping that she would change her mind. At the same time, Pelagia convinced her mother to let her visit the nurse who had raised her in childhood. She secretly hoped to find Bishop Linus of Tarsus, who had fled to a mountain during a persecution against Christians, and to be baptized by him. She had seen the face of Bishop Linus in a dream, which made a profound impression upon her. The holy bishop told her to be baptized. Saint Pelagia traveled in a chariot to visit her nurse, dressed in rich clothes and accompanied by a whole retinue of servants, as her mother wished.

Along the way Saint Pelagia, by the grace of God, met Bishop Linus. Pelagia immediately recognized the bishop who had appeared to her in the dream. She fell at his feet, requesting Baptism. At the bishop's prayer a spring of water flowed from the ground.

Bishop Linus made the Sign of the Cross over Saint Pelagia, and during the Mystery of Baptism, angels appeared and covered the chosen one of God with a bright mantle. After giving the pious virgin Holy Communion, Bishop Linus offered a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord with her, and then sent her to continue her journey. She then exchanged her expensive clothing for a simple white garment, and distributed her possessions to the poor. Returning to her servants, Saint Pelagia told them about Christ, and many of them were converted and believed.

She tried to convert her own mother to Christ, but the obdurate woman sent a message to Diocletian's son that Pelagia was a Christian and did not wish to be his wife. The youth realized that Pelagia was lost to him, and he fell upon his sword in his despair. Pelagia's mother feared the emperor's wrath, so she tied her daughter up and led her to Diocletian's court as a Christian who was also responsible for the death of the heir to the throne. The emperor was captivated by the unusual beauty of the virgin and tried to turn her from her faith in Christ, promising her every earthly blessing if she would become his wife.

The holy virgin refused the emperor's offer with contempt and said, "You are insane, Emperor, saying such things to me. I will not do your bidding, and I loathe your vile marriage, since I have Christ, the King of Heaven, as my Bridegroom. I do not desire your worldly crowns which last only a short while. The Lord in His heavenly Kingdom has prepared three imperishable crowns for me. The first is for faith, since I have believed in the true God with all my heart; the second is for purity, because I have dedicated my virginity to Him; the third is for martyrdom, since I want to accept every suffering for Him and offer up my soul because of my love for Him."

Diocletian sentenced Pelagia to be burned in a red-hot bronze bull. Not permitting the executioners to touch her body, the holy martyr signed herself with the Sign of the Cross, and went into the brazen bull and her flesh melted like myrrh, filling the whole city with fragrance. Saint Pelagia's bones remained unharmed and were removed by the pagans to a place outside the city. Four lions then came out of the wilderness and sat around the bones letting neither bird nor wild beast get at them. The lions protected the relics of the saint until Bishop Linus came to that place. He gathered them up and buried them with honor. Later, a church was built over her holy relics.

The Service to the holy Virgin Martyr Pelagia of Tarsus says that she was "deemed worthy of most strange and divine visions."

