



*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 5

### **Sunday, September 2**

9:45 am Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship  
Youth Education

### **Sunday, September 9**

9:45 am Divine Liturgy  
Annual Parish Meeting  
11:15 am Fellowship  
Youth Education

### **Thursday, September 13**

6:30 pm Bible Study  
7:00 pm Vigil for the Elevation of the Cross

### **Sunday, September 16**

Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship  
Youth Education

### **Sunday, September 23**

Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship  
Youth Education

### **Sunday, September 30**

Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am Fellowship  
Youth Education

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday night's Parish Council meeting is cancelled, and instead we will be email communication and phone as needed to finalize plans for General Assembly.

Keep Brian Delp in your prayers as he recovers from open heart surgery.

If you would like to send John and Vera Juhaz a card, their address is: 4461 Fairway Oaks Dr. Mulberry, FL 33860

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)

We will have our annual parish meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a meeting of updates and setting direction for our parish. We need all who are able to attend on this important day.

We will be voting on Liturgy times at the parish meeting. The two times to pick from are 9:45 am and 10:00 am.

September shopping list: napkins,

Are you good with social media? We are looking for someone to help with our advertising ministry.

We assembled the 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 Pani, 813-451-9829, and she will make sure it is off.

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.

Projects that need done around the church: Cleaning of hall bathrooms, bushes trimmed around church. If you can do any of these, let the parish council know!

From the Parish Council: Dearest members. Our Church is a small one, and the summer months become very difficult for us financially for many reasons. We need everyone to give regularly even for weeks they are not here. The bills still need paid on weeks that we are away. The electric still needs paid, the phone bill needs paid, the priest needs paid, the security company needs paid the lawn guy needs paid, the fire service and water service techs need paid, the government inspectors need paid, and the people who do periodic work such as service techs all need paid. The A/C has to be left running inside the church to protect the icons especially during the summer, when we have lower attendance and thus lower amounts of money to pay the bills. If everyone would please set aside money for your church just the way you do for your family home (i.e. set money aside to give with your regular bills), we would not have the stress of wondering how to pay the bills in the summer months. Please don't punish the church by only giving for Sundays when you come, since that is like only providing food for your family on days when you don't have to work late.

**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

The Holy Great Martyr Mamas was born in Paphlagonia, Asia Minor in the third century of pious and illustrious parents, the Christians Theodotus and Rufina. The parents of the saint were arrested by the pagans for their open confession of their faith and locked up in prison in Caesarea in Cappadocia.

Knowing his own bodily weakness, Theodotus prayed that the Lord would take him before being subjected to tortures. The Lord heard his prayer and he died in prison. Saint Rufina died also after him, after giving birth to a premature son. She entrusted him to God, beseeching Him to be the Protector and Defender of the orphaned infant.

God heard the dying prayer of Saint Rufina: a rich Christian widow named Ammia reverently buried the bodies of Saints Theodotus and Rufina, and she took the boy into her own home and raised him as her own son. Saint Mamas grew up in the Christian Faith. His foster mother concerned herself with the developing of his natural abilities, and early on she sent him off to study his grammar.

The boy learned easily and willingly. He was not of an age of mature judgment but distinguished himself by maturity of mind and of heart. By means of prudent conversations and personal example young Mamas converted many of his own peers to Christianity.

The governor, Democritus, was informed of this, and the fifteen-year-old Mamas was arrested and brought to trial. In deference to his illustrious parentage, Democritus decided not to subject him to torture, but instead sent him off to the emperor Aurelian (270-275). The emperor tried at first kindly, but then with threats to turn Saint Mamas back to the pagan faith, but all in vain. The saint bravely confessed himself a Christian and pointed out the madness of the pagans in their worship of lifeless idols.

Infuriated, the emperor subjected the youth to cruel tortures. They tried to drown the saint, but an angel of the Lord saved Saint Mamas and bade him live on a high mountain in the wilderness, not far from Caesarea. Bowing to the will of God, the saint built a small church there and began to lead a life of strict temperance, in exploits of fasting and prayer.

Soon he received a remarkable power over the forces of nature: wild beasts inhabiting the surrounding wilderness gathered at his abode and listened to the reading of the Holy Gospel. Saint Mamas nourished himself on the milk of wild goats and deer.

The saint did not ignore the needs of his neighbors. Preparing cheese from this milk, he gave it away freely to the poor. Soon the fame of Saint Mamas's life spread throughout all of Caesarea.

The governor sent a detachment of soldiers to arrest him. When they encountered Saint Mamas on the mountain, the soldiers did not recognize him, and mistook him for a simple shepherd. The saint then invited them to his dwelling, gave them a drink of milk and then told them his name, knowing that death for Christ awaited him. The servant of God told the servant of the Emperor to go on ahead of him into Caesaria, promising that he would soon follow. The soldiers waited for him at the gates of the city, and Saint Mamas, accompanied by a lion, met them there.

Surrendering himself into the hands of the torturers, Saint Mamas was brought to trial under a deputy governor named Alexander, who subjected him to intense and prolonged tortures. They did not break the saint's will, however. He was strengthened by the words addressed to him from above: "Be strong and take courage, Mamas."

When they threw Saint Mamas to the wild beasts, these creatures would not touch him. Finally, one of the pagan priests struck him with a trident. Mortally wounded, Saint Mamas went out beyond the city limits. There, in a small stone cave, he gave up his spirit to God, Who in the hearing of all summoned the holy Martyr Mamas into His heavenly habitation. He was buried by believers at the place of his death.

Christians soon began to receive help from him in their afflictions and sorrows. Saint Basil the Great speaks thus about the holy Martyr Mamas in a sermon to the people: "Remember the holy martyr, you who live here and have him as a helper. You who call on his name have been helped by him. Those in error he has guided into life. Those whom he has healed of infirmity, those whose children were dead he has restored to life, those whose life he has prolonged: let us all come together as one, and praise the martyr!"