



*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)

Schedule

Today is Tone 4

Sunday Sept 3

9:35 am Memorial
9:45 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship

Thursday, Sept 7

7:00 pm Vigil
Nativity of the Theotokos

Friday, Sept 8

7:30 am Divine Liturgy
Nativity of the Theotokos

Sunday Sept 10

9:45 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship

Wednesday, Sept 13

7:00 pm Vigil
Exaltation of the Holy Cross
(45 minutes)

Thursday, Sept 14

7:30 am Liturgy for Exaltation of the
Holy Cross
(about 30 minutes)

Sunday, Sept 17

9:45 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Fellowship

Monday, Sept 18

7:00 pm Women of Faith
Bandon Mall Food Court

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's services are in loving memory of Margaret and John Juhasz and John and Catherine Ginda. May their memory be eternal!

Please don't forget that if you want a memorial service to please, in addition to mentioning it, also email both Fr. and Pani (panicarrie@yahoo.com) (she keeps Fr.'s schedule).

Please note, that bible study is temporarily canceled until further notice. Denis will be working overtime with all the insurance claims from Texas. Please note that there is a service this Thursday and Friday, as well as

Stewardship Teams
Sept 3 Nancy
Sept 10 Linda
Sept 17 Rebecca
Sept 24 Scottie

Readers Schedule
Sept 3 John
Aug 13 Brian
Sept 17 Andrew
Sept 24 Mike

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

The grounds ministry needs your help! We need someone with a truck to haul away some trash on the church grounds. If you can help, please see Natalie and Mike Brennan.

We have scheduled a clean up day on October 28 to clean out the sheds! Put in on your calendar now to come and help out. The more help we have, the faster it will go!

We need you for our Lenten Retreat Planning! The theme is "Need for Repentance in an Unsorry World". The dates are February 23-24 at the Bethany Center in Lutz and February 25 at our church. Save the dates now, think of your talents and how you can be a part of this fantastic event. Please see Natalie or a Parish Council member for more information.

Time to help Texas! The Outreach Ministry will be accepting donations to help those by Hurricane Harvey. New or used clothes, shoes, blankets, ect, paper plates, plastic ware, cups and cups will be collected from September 10 to October 8. See Sue Johnson with questions. Thank you!

If you would rather give monetarily, you can write a check to the church, with Hurricane relief in the memo.

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.

Would you like to sponsor a fellowship hour? There is a sign up calendar in the hall, just write your name down on the Sunday you would like!

Have you turned in your information sheet to the council? Did you lose it and need a new one? Please see a Parish Council member if you need one, and if you still have it, please turn it in.

In addition to the celebration of the Annunciation, there are three major feasts in the Church honoring Mary, the Theotokos. The first of these is the feast of her nativity which is kept on the eighth of September.

The record of the birth of Mary is not found in the Bible. The traditional account of the event is taken from the apocryphal writings which are not part of the New Testament scriptures. The traditional teaching which is celebrated in the hymns and verses of the festal liturgy is that Joachim and Anna were a pious Jewish couple who were among the small and faithful remnant—"the poor and the needy"—who were awaiting the promised messiah. The couple was old and childless. They prayed earnestly to the Lord for a child, since among the Jews barrenness was a sign of God's disfavor. In answer to their prayers, and as the reward of their unwavering fidelity to God, the elderly couple was blessed with the child who was destined, because of her own personal goodness and holiness, to become the Mother of the Messiah-Christ.

The fact that there is no Biblical verification of the facts of Mary's birth is incidental to the meaning of the feast. Even if the actual background of the event as celebrated in the Church is questionable from an historical point of view, the divine meaning of it "for us men and for our salvation" is obvious. There had to be one born of human flesh and blood who would be spiritually capable of being the Mother of Christ, and she herself had to be born into the world of persons who were spiritually capable of being her parents.

The feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, therefore, is a glorification of Mary's birth, of Mary herself and of her righteous parents. It is a celebration as well of the very first preparation of the salvation of the world. For the "Vessel of Light," the "Book of the Word of Life," the "Door to the Orient," the "Throne of Wisdom" is being prepared on earth by God Himself in the birth of the holy girl-child Mary.

Thus, on the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, as on all liturgical celebrations of Christ's Mother, we proclaim and celebrate that through God's graciousness to mankind every Christian receives what the Theotokos receives, the "great mercy" which is given to human persons because of Christ's birth from the Virgin.

