

**To Our Guests and Visitors about Receiving Holy Communion:**

1. **In Orthodox churches, Holy Communion is given to and received only by members of the Orthodox Church (the baptized and chrismated who strive to live in repentance, faith, and godliness).**
2. *If you are non-Orthodox, please refrain from approaching the Chalice, but speak with Fr. Jonathan after the Liturgy. If you are Orthodox and unfamiliar to the Priest, please introduce yourself to Fr. Jonathan prior to the Liturgy, otherwise at the Chalice.*
3. **Please approach the Chalice in the following order: children first; then row-by-row from the front of Church, going to the Chalice on the side you are positioned (if there are two Chalices), returning to you place by the outside aisle past the table with the *antidoron* (bread and wine).**

**Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered for the Health of:**

Archprst. Stephen	Archprst. Elias	Mat. Marion	Archprst. John	
Archprst. Joseph	Irene	Laurie	Rose	Barbara
Tanya	Eugenia	Kevin	Nicole & Noelle	Frances
Vladimir	Paisley	Eli	Adam	Laura
Joshua	Mark	Gary	Constance	Nick
Nina	Tanya	Charles	Gregory	Ronald
Tatiana	Bradley	Nancy	Nathaniel	Deanna
Bill	Kay	Larry	Lydia	Nicholas
Arlie & newborn	Larry			

**Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:**

**September Birthdays:**

Will Bortins (9/3)	Jessie Insley (9/7)	Kristy Kanellos (9/9)
Dylan Roth (9/9)	Laurie Kohanik (9/20)	Warren Caterson (9/23)
Larissa Ciampa (9/26)	George Cordero (9/27)	

**TO SPONSOR COFFEE HOUR, please sign up on the calendar book on the glass case. Keep it simple – donuts, coffee cake, bagels, etc. IF NO ONE SIGNS UP, THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE HOUR.**

St. Mark is a Parish of the OCA Diocese of the South under the leadership of Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Alexander. Our mission is to be a spiritual home to all who enter; to be a Christ-like community of Orthodox Christians; to be active in worship, fellowship, and witness, through participation in the Sacraments to come into close union with God.

If you are unable to attend services, but wish to continue your Stewardship contributions, send them to PO Box 1315, Bradenton FL, 34206.

**Memorial Bricks for the St. Mark Memorial Garden can be ordered at [www.thatsmybrick.com/stmarkorthodox](http://www.thatsmybrick.com/stmarkorthodox). You can order a 4"x 8" or 8"x8" brick with or without an Orthodox Cross, the number of characters vary accordingly. If you have any questions about the ordering process, see Fr. Jonathan.**

**St. Mark Orthodox Church**

1517 57<sup>th</sup> Street E  
Bradenton, FL 34208

**"The Messenger"**

V. Rev. Fr. Jonathan Cholcher  
Rector

V. Rev. Fr. Stephen Plumlee  
Attached

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Roth  
Attached

Sub-Deacon James Abraham

Parish Phone: (941)-749-7662

Parish Website: [Bradentonorthodox.org](http://Bradentonorthodox.org)

Parish E-mail: [stmarkocarector@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkocarector@gmail.com)

Fr. Jonathan's Cell: (941)-807-5393

Office Hours: W, Th, F 10:00 AM – Noon

**This week at St. Mark**

23 Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
24 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, September 17, 2023 Tone 6**

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Martyr Sophia and her daughters Faith, Hope, and Love**

**Prokeimenon Tone 7 (Sunday After)**

*Extol the Lord our God: / worship at His footstool for He is holy! (Ps. 98:5)  
V. The Lord reigns, let the people tremble! (Ps. 98:1a)*

**Galatians 2:16-20 (Epistle, Sunday After)**

[K]nowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (Epistle)**

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

**Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel, Sunday After)**

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

**Matthew 22:35-46 (Gospel)**

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Our Parish website contains helpful information about our Church and the Orthodox Faith ([www.bradentonorthodox.org](http://www.bradentonorthodox.org)). Please check it out and give any feedback you might have to Fr. Jonathan or a Council member.
- Parish Council is no longer utilizing PayPal as the service charge is lessening the donation.
- **September's charity** is The Blue Butterfly Grief Center through Tidewell Hospice Grief Care
- A volunteer sign-up sheet for various weekly helping jobs is located on the table in the Narthex. If you are able, please give of your time to help keep our Church neat and clean. Routine jobs include: taking out trash, sweeping and vacuuming where needed, picking up table cloths, putting away Coffee Hour tableware, etc. Thank you for your help!
- **Sunday School classes** have begun for all our children and adults. The theme this year will be: Repentance, Confession, and Reconciliation.
- **The former Saint Mark Facebook page is not longer our official Facebook page, and all new postings on that page do not have the blessing of our Parish. We do have a new St. Mark Facebook page managed by Cara Kulikowski and are in the process of having the previous one shut down.**
- **Fr. Jonathan** will be out-of-town this coming week until next Wednesday, September 27. Therefore, no weekday services or classes are scheduled this week at Saint Mark.

*Hymns of the Day following the Entrance with the Gospel:*

**Troparion      Tone 6      (Resurrection)**

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;  
the guards became as dead men.  
Mary stood by Thy grave,  
seeking Thy most pure body.  
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.  
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.  
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//  
glory to Thee.

**Troparion      Tone 1      (Cross)**

O Lord, save Thy people,  
and bless Thine inheritance!  
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians  
over their adversaries;  
and by virtue of Thy Cross//  
preserve Thy habitation!

**Troparion      Tone 4      (St. Mark)**

From your childhood the light of truth enlightened you, O Mark  
And you loved the labor of Christ the Savior  
Therefore you followed Peter with zeal  
And served Paul well as a fellow laborer//  
And you enlighten the world with your Holy Gospel

**Troparion      Tone 5      (Martyrs)**

Thou didst blossom in the courts of the Lord  
as a fruitful olive tree,  
O holy martyr Sophia;  
in thy contest thou didst offer to Christ the sweet fruit of thy womb,  
thy daughters Faith, Hope, and Love.//  
Together with them intercede for us all!

**Kontakion      Tone 6      (Resurrection)**

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,  
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,  
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//  
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

**Kontakion      Tone 2      (St. Mark)**

You did receive the grace of the Spirit from on high  
Destroying the snares of the orators  
You did hunt all the nations O Apostle  
And led them to your Master//  
O glorious Mark the preacher of the Gospel of God

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,**

**Kontakion      Tone 1      (Martyrs)**

The holy branches of noble Sophia,  
Faith, Hope, and Love,  
confounded Greek sophistry through Grace.  
They struggled and won the victory//  
and have been granted an incorruptible crown by Christ the Master of all.

**Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen**

**Kontakion      Tone 4      (Cross)**

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,  
grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God;  
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power,  
granting them victories over their adversaries//  
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

*Being the Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross (Sept. 14), following the  
Dismissal and announcements, we sing three times with prostrations:*

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, O Master,  
and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.