

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	Eli
Joshua	Mark	Constance	Nick	Nina
Charles	Gregory	Ronald	Tatiana	Bradley
Nancy	Deanna	Bill	Kay	Richard
Lydia	Nicholas	Mary	Lisa	

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Archpr. Sergius (ND)

December Birthdays:

Dan Telychka (12/2)	Barb McKenzie (12/3)	Nancy Serko (12/5)
Barb McCollum (12/10)	Tim Lurowist (12/12)	Ivan Ciampa (12/15)
Kim Moroz (12/17)	Karen Moroz (12/17)	Bob Matzkevich (12/17)
Bryan I. Ewers (12/22)	Daniel Cholcher (12/24)	Michael Pisansky (12/24)

TO SPONSOR COFFEE HOUR, please sign up on the calendar book on the glass case. 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.thatmybrick.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 57th Street E
Bradenton, FL 34208

"The Messenger"

V. Rev. Fr. Jonathan Cholcher
Rector

V. Rev. Fr. Stephen Plumlee
Attached

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Roth
Attached

Subdeacon James Abraham, Parish Council President
Subdeacon Joseph (Clyde) McKenzie [winter resident]

Parish Phone: (941)-749-7662

Parish Website: Bradentonorthodox.org

www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch

Parish E-mail: stmarkocarector@gmail.com

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

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

This week at St. Mark

20	Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers Faith/Life
21	Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
21	Thursday	6:00 PM	Akathist to the Theotokos
21	Thursday	7:00 PM	Parish Council Meeting
22	Friday	9:30 AM	Royal Hours of Christmas
23	Saturday	3:30 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
23	Saturday	5:00 PM	Vespers
24	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
24	Sunday	5:00 PM	Christmas Vigil

Sunday, December 17, 2023 Tone 3

28th Sunday After Pentecost (13th Sunday of Luke)

Sunday of the Forefathers

Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths

Prokeimenon Tone 4

(Forefathers)

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! (Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)
V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)*


Colossians 3:4-11 (Epistle)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Luke 14:16-24 (Gospel)

Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’ For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Parish website is www.bradentonorthodox.org. Please check it out and give any feedback you might have to Fr. Jonathan or a Council member. You can also find Saint Mark online at www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch.
- Parish Council is no longer utilizing PayPal as the service charge is lessening the donation.
- **Quarterly Charity (Oct.-Dec.): Tommy’s Angels**, a foundation established to research pancreatic cancer and provide relief for those families needing assistance.
- **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!
- **A COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR SHEET** is located on the glass bookstore case in the Narthex. As we draw near to the end of this calendar year, please consider sponsoring Coffee Hour in 2024. Speak with Marsha Blazso for more information.
- **Following this week, Prayers for Peace and Protection** on Thursday evenings will resume once a month in January at 6:00 PM before Parish Council meetings.
- **Immediately following each Divine Liturgy as we venerate the Cross, we pray the Post-Communion Prayers. Please maintain quiet until the prayers are completed.** 
- **2023 Contribution Statements** will be available *upon request* from our Treasurer Willard Brown. If you would like a Contribution Statement for 2023, please speak with Willard who will generate one for you.
- **Choir Practice** takes place after Coffee Hour for the Nativity. Anyone wishing to sing for our Christmas services is welcome to attend.
- **A Building Committee** chaired by Michael Kulisz has been formed to investigate options for creating more space for extra-liturgical meetings and fellowship, either expanding the Narthex into the Porch area, or a structure behind the Church (e.g., pavilion, steel building, etc.). An essential aspect of our plans is funding. ***If you have experience or interest in fundraising and capital campaigns***, please speak with Michael or Fr. Jonathan to consider volunteering for this project.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:

Troparion Tone 3 (*Resurrection*)

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

Troparion Tone 2 (*Forefathers*)

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.

These saints exult in glory,

for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:

she who bore Thee without seed.//

So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and
unto ages of ages. Amen**

Kontakion Tone 6 (*Forefathers*)

You did not worship the graven image,

O thrice-blessed ones,

but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,

you were glorified in a trial by fire.

From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:

“Hasten, O compassionate One!

Speedily come to our aid,//

for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”