

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.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 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

Sub-Deacon James Abraham

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

24	Sunday	5:00 PM	Vigil of Christmas
25	Monday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy of St. Basil: Nativity of our Lord
26	Tuesday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy 2 nd Day of Christmas: Synaxis of Theotokos
27	Wednesday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy 3 rd Day of Christmas: Firstmartyr Stephen
30	Saturday	3:30 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
30	Saturday	9:30 AM	Vespers
31	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 24, 2023 Tone 4
29th Sunday After Pentecost (14th Sunday of Luke)
Sunday of the Holy Fathers
Eve of the Nativity of Christ

Prokeimenon Tone 4 (Holy Fathers)

*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)*

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Epistle, Sunday Before)

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Matthew 1:1-25 (Gospel, Sunday Before)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

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.
- **Prayers for Peace and Protection** will resume once a month in January at 6:00 PM on the Thursday of the Parish Council meeting.
- **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.
- **A Building Committee** chaired by Michael Kulisz has been formed to investigate the possibilities of providing more space for extra-liturgical meetings and fellowship, either expanding the Narthex into the porch area, or a structure (e.g., pavilion, metal building, etc.) behind the Church. ***The next meeting is scheduled at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 3, at Church.*** The Committee is seeking persons with experience and/or interest in raising funds and capital for such a project. Please see Michael or Fr. Jonathan with questions or to contribute to this needed work.



Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:

Troparion Tone 4 (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen, //
granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion Tone 2 (Holy Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. //
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Troparion Tone 4 (Forefeast)

Mary was of David's seed,
so she went with Joseph to register in Bethlehem.
She bore in her womb the Fruit not sown by man.
The time for the birth was at hand.
Since there was no room at the inn,
the cave became a beautiful palace for the Queen. //
Christ is born, raising up the image that fell of old.

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

Kontakion Tone 1 (Holy Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha!
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.
The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him, //
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion Tone 3 (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!
Glorify with the angels and the shepherds
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!