

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	Irene	Laurie
Tanya	Eugenia	Kevin	Nicole & Noelle	Eli
Joshua	Mark	Constance	Nick	Nina
Charles	Gregory	Ronald	Tatiana	Bradley
Nancy	Deanna	Bill	Kay	Richard
Lydia	Nicholas	Mary	Barbara	Frances

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Archpr. Sergius (ND)	Juliette (Patterson; ND)	Rose (Abraham; ND)
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January Birthdays:

Heike Cordero (1/8)	Philip Grayton (1/9)	Abegail Insley (1/16)
Emilia Stankevskaya (1/16)	Robert Serko (1/25)	Galina Tschursin (1/28)
Angela Orras (1/29)	Chris Traycoff (1/31)	

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

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

10	Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers/Faith & Life Class
11	Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
		6:00 PM	Prayers for Peace
		7:00 PM	Parish Council Mtg.
13	Saturday	3:30 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
		5:00 PM	Great Vespers
14	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
		11:15 AM	Sunday School

Sunday, January 7, 2024 Tone 6

31st Sunday After Pentecost

Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

Prokeimenon Tone 1 (Sunday After Theophany)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!

(Ps. 32:22)

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

Prokeimenon Tone 7 (Forerunner)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him. (Ps. 63:11a)

Ephesians 4:7-13 (Epistle, Sunday After)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Acts 19:1-8 (Epistle, Forerunner)

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

Matthew 4:12-17 (Gospel, Sunday After)


Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

John 1:29-34 (Gospel, Forerunner)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes

a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

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.
- **Quarterly Charity (Jan.-March): Care Net**
- **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.
- **One Thursday evening a month at 6:00 PM** (before the Parish Council meeting) we gather for a *Prayer Service for Peace and Protection* in these times of unrest and war. May God grant to us and our leaders the faith and wisdom to conduct ourselves in the peace of Christ.
- **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.
- **Men's Group** will meet this Tuesday, January 9, at 6:30 PM at the home of Michael Kulisz (5528 Country Lakes Trail, Sarasota). All men of the Parish are welcome and invited!
- **A Baby Shower for Emma Bortins** will be held on Saturday, February 24th from 9:30 to 11:30 at the home of Arlie Button (16919 Trite Bend St., Wimauma). *Please RSVP to Arlie at 231-286-8564.* Emma is registered on Amazon (baby girl).
- **The Myrrhbearers** (Ladies group) will meet after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 21. All women are invited to participate.

Hymns after 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 4 (Feast)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,
and called Thee His beloved Son;
and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself //
and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Troparion Tone 2 (Forerunner)

The mem'ry of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,
but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner.
You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,
for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom
they foretold.
Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,
you proclaimed to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh,
Who takes away the sin of the world, //
and grants us great mercy.

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

Kontakion Tone 6 (Forerunner)

The river Jordan trembled, and was driven back,
filled with fear at Your coming in the flesh,
while John drew back in awe
as he fulfilled the ministry of a prophet.
The ranks of Angels stood amazed
when they beheld You in the flesh being baptized in the streams.
And we who were in darkness are filled with light. //
as we praise You, who have appeared to enlighten all.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion Tone 4 (Feast)

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord,
and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us.
Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises:
"Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, //
O unapproachable Light."