

**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
Barbara	Tanya	Caitlin & n.b. son	Kathy	Dolores
Eugenia	Nicole & Noelle	Eli	Joshua	Mark
Constance	Nick	Nina	Charles	Gregory
Ronald	Tatiana	Bradley	Nancy	Deanna
Bill	Kay	Lydia	Nicholas	Mary
Heike	Mikey	Patrick	Medhat	Richard

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

Archpr. Moses (ND)	Rose (ND)	Archpr. Sergius (ND)	Juliette (ND)
Kevin (ND)			

**February Birthdays:**

Lois Evancho (2/12)	Daniel Button (2/17)	Joe Ciampa (2/20)
Logan Kulikowshi (2/25)		

**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](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)

[www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch](http://www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch)

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**

14 Wednesday 6:00 PM	Vespers/Faith & Life
15 Thursday 1:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
17 Saturday 3:30 PM	Intro To Orthodoxy
17 Saturday 5:00 PM	Great Vespers
18 Sunday 9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Zacchaeus Sun.)
18 Sunday 11:30 AM	Sunday School

**Sunday, February 11, 2024 Tone 3  
36<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste**

**Prokeimenon                      Tone 3                      (Resurrection)**

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!*  
(Ps. 46:6)

*V. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! (Ps. 46:1)*

**1 Timothy 1:15-17 (Epistle)**

**This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen**

**Matthew 15:21-28 (Gospel)**


Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

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**The Holy Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste**

Born in the province of Armenia, Blaise was elected Bishop of Sebaste in eastern Anatolia (Turkey). He ministered to martyrs while in their confinement and collected the relics of martyrs for veneration. Bishop Blaise withdrew to a cave at Mount Argea to live in undistracted prayer to God and virtue, attracting wild animals for blessings and cures. Agricolaus, the Governor of Cappadocia, sent soldiers to capture wild animals for the destruction of Christians in the arena, and they encountered them grazing peacefully outside of St. Blaise's cave. He was subsequently arrested and brought before the governor, healing many of diseases along the way. He was beaten with rods, thrown into prison, and condemned to be drowned in a lake. Making the sign of the Cross, St. Blaise walked across the lake and stood at its middle, returning to shore by an angel's invitation to martyrdom. He was eventually beheaded along with two undaunted children around the year 320.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Our Parish website is [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. You can also find Saint Mark online at [www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch](http://www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch).
  - **Quarterly Charity (Jan.-March): Orthodox Prison Ministry**
  - **CHOIR PRACTICE will take place following Liturgy each Sunday beginning February 18.** The Choir will be preparing specifically for the season of Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha. As God has gifted you, come and sing in the Choir!
  - **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.
  - **On the Thursday evening before the Parish Council meeting**, we gather at 6:00 PM for a *Prayer Service for Peace and Protection*.
  - **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.
  - **General Parish Meeting immediately following Liturgy. All are welcome to attend, and parishioners in good standing are eligible to vote for official business.**
  - Anyone interested in helping count the Sunday collections, please see a Parish Council member.
  - **A baby shower of Emma Bortins** will take place at the home of Arlie Button (in Wimauma) on Saturday, February 24 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. Please RSVP to Arlie (231-286-8564) if you plan to attend.
  - **Next Sunday is known as Zacchaeus Sunday (Lk. 19:1-10), the Sunday before Pre-Lent begins.** Pre-Lent encompasses three weeks (four Sundays) as follows:
    1. **Publican and Pharisee** (Lk. 18:10-14 [Feb. 25]; *fast-free week*);
    2. **Prodigal Son** (Lk. 15:11-32 [Mar. 3]);
    3. **Last Judgment** (Matt. 25:31-46 [Mar. 10]; *meatfare*)
    4. **Expulsion of Adam from Paradise/Forgiveness Sunday** (Matt. 6:14-21 [Mar. 17]; *cheesefare*)
- Great Lent begins Monday, March 18; Pascha is May 5.**

*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 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 4      (*St. Blaise*)**

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
thou didst become a successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O  
inspired one of God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the  
shedding of thy blood.//  
O Hieromartyr Blaise, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

**Kontakion      Tone 3      (*Resurrection*)**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,  
leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//  
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

**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 2      (*St. Blaise*)**

Godly shoot, unfading flower,  
most fruitful branch of Christ the Vine,  
God-bearing Blaise, fill with joy those who in faith honor thy memory//  
as thou unceasingly intercedest for us all.

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

**Theotokion      Tone 6**

Steadfast Protectress of Christians  
Constant Advocate before the Creator  
Despise not the cry of us sinners  
But in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith  
Hasten to hear our petitions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos//  
For you always protect those who honor you!