

To Our Guests and Visitors about Receiving Holy Communion:

- 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).**
- 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.*
- 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 your 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	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	Caitlin & n.b. son	Kathy	Dolores
John				

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Archpr. Moses (ND)	Rose (ND)	Kevin (ND)	Anna (ND)
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March Birthdays:

Michael Blazso (3/06)	Willard Brown (3/09)	Marina Proskurina (3/15)
Karen Skinner (3/28)	Sue Brown (3/29)	

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

6	Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers/Faith & Life (<i>Book of Revelation</i>)
7	Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
9	Saturday	9:30 AM	Memorial Liturgy (All Faithful Departed)
9	Saturday	3:30 PM	Intro To Orthodoxy
9	Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
10	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
10	Sunday	11:30 AM	Church Picnic (meatfare)

Sunday, March 3, 2024 Tone 6

39th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Prokeimenon Tone 6 (Resurrection)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (Epistle)

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Luke 15:11-32 (Gospel)

Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’” And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his

hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

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As of last Sunday, February 25, we entered the season of the Lenten Triodion, the ten week-long spiritual journey leading to Pascha, the Feast of our Lord’s Resurrection from the dead (this year, May 5). This journey unfolds as follows:

Pre-Lent (3 weeks):

1. Publican and Pharisee (*fast-free week*);
2. Prodigal Son;
3. Last Judgment (*meatfare*, lit., “farewell to meat” until Pascha);
4. Expulsion of Adam from Paradise/Forgiveness Sunday (*cheesefare*, lit. “farewell to cheese” and dairy until Pascha);

Great Lent (6 weeks/40 days, beginning on a Monday [this year, Mar. 18]):

1. Clean week/Great Canon of Repentance;
2. Restoration of Icons/Sunday of Orthodoxy;
3. St. Gregory Palamas (prayer of the heart, not intellectualism);
4. Veneration of the Cross;
5. St. John Klimakos (lit., *of the Ladder*; faith, hope, and love);
6. St. Mary of Egypt (model of repentance and devotion to God);

Holy Week (week before Pascha)

In addition to the extra services of this season (e.g., weekday Presanctified Liturgy), please prepare and come to Confession, that together with fasting, prayer, and the Word of God, this season is most profitable unto salvation.

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): Orthodox Prison Ministry**
- **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.
- **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.
- Anyone interested in helping count the Sunday collections, please see a Parish Council member.
- New Parish Council members: Sbdn. James Abraham, Will Bortins, Bob Matskevich, Michael Kulisz; other Council members are Joseph Ciampa, Cara Kulikowski, and Carol Skinner.
- **Our 2024 Lenten Project** is the lift station needed to tie into the Manatee County sewer system, as required by the County with any new construction. This will need to be completed before a new hall can be built.
- **CHURCH PICNIC – next Sunday, March 10 (meatfare)**, following Divine Liturgy. Everyone is invited and welcome to enjoy the Picnic together; please bring a side dish or dessert to share if able (a sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex of the Church). Parish Council will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks.
- **The Myrrhbearers are planning a Potluck Lunch** on Sunday, March 24. You are free to bring a fast-friendly Lenten dish to share, along with the recipe for the dish. “Fast-friendly” means no meat or dairy products included. If you have any questions about the Potluck, speak with Marsha Blazso.
- **Architectural Drawings and an Artist’s Rendering** of a proposed FELLOWSHIP HALL for Saint Mark Church are on display in the Narthex of the Church. Please join in prayer seeking God’s will for the realization of this project here in Bradenton.



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 (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

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

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

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion Tone 3 (Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father;
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me.
And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal:
“I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father;
receive me as a penitent, //
and make me as one of Thy hired servants!”