

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 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:

Archbp. Nathaniel	Archpr. Stephen	Archpr. Elias	Mat. Marion	Irene
Laurie	Tanya	Eugenia	Nicole & Noelle	Eli
Barbara	Joshua	Mark	Nick	Nina
Charles	Gregory	Ronald	Tatiana	Bradley
Nancy	Deanna	Bill	Kay	Lydia
Nicholas	Mary	Heike	Mikey	Patrick
Medhat	Richard	Kathy	Dolores	Frances
John				

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Archpr. Moses (ND) Anna (ND)

March Birthdays:

Michael Blazso (3/06)	Willard Brown (3/09)	Marina Proskurina (3/15)
Carol 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

25 Monday	8:15 AM	Matins of Annunciation
25 Monday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Annunciation)
27 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy
28 Thursday	6:00 PM	Prayers for Peace
28 Thursday	7:00 PM	Parish Council Meeting
29 Friday	9:30 AM	Presanctified Liturgy
30 Saturday	9:30 AM	Memorial Liturgy
30 Saturday	3:30 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
30 Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
31 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 24, 2024 Tone 1

First Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday of Orthodoxy; Forefeast of Annunciation

Prokeimenon **Tone 4** (*Song of the 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 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Epistle)


By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 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. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 1:43-51 (Gospel)

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see. Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called

you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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. 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.** 
- Anyone interested in helping count the Sunday collections, please see a Parish Council member.
- **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.
- Architectural drawings and an artist's rendition of a proposed **Fellowship Hall** for St. Mark Church are on display in the Narthex. Please join us in prayer seeking God's will for the realization of this project.
- **Great Vespers & Procession with Icons** this evening beginning at 5:00 PM, followed by a Lenten supper; not only is this the Sunday of Orthodoxy, but it is the eve of the Feast of Annunciation. We will be joined by the faithful from Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Venice and the relics of 8 saints for veneration. All are welcome!
- **Saint Mark Teens** are planning an ice skating outing at the rink in Ellenton after Liturgy on Sunday, April 7. Admission is \$16/skater of which our Youth fund will pay for half. See Fr. Jonathan for details.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:

Troparion Tone 1 (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!//
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

Troparion Tone 2 (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.
Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy.
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:
“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,//
by coming to save the world.”

Troparion Tone 4 (Forefeast)

Today is the prelude of joy for the universe!
Let us anticipate the feast and celebrate with exultation:
Gabriel is on his way to announce the glad tidings to the Virgin;
he is ready to cry out in fear and wonder://
“Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!”

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

Kontakion Tone 8 (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty.//
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion Tone 8 (Forefeast)

Thou art the beginning of salvation for all of us on earth, Virgin Mother of God.
For the great Archangel Gabriel, God’s minister, was sent from heaven to stand
before thee to bring thee joy://
Therefore, we all cry to thee: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

The following petition and prayer are for seeking the Lord’s will and blessing for the building of a Fellowship Hall here at Saint Mark Church. Please include them in your daily prayer rule.

Petition for Building:

(also said during services at Church)

O Lord our God, whose might upholds all creation: Establish the work of our helpless hands, and make this lowly church a place for the showing of Thy glory and for all peoples a house of prayer pleasing in Thy sight. We pray Thee: Hear us and have mercy.

Prayer for Building:

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Cornerstone of Your holy Church, Giver of every good gift, the One who first loved us, look down upon us Your people who desire to build a hall unto Your glory and grant us the wisdom, strength, and resources to accomplish this task in accordance with Your will. Remember the friends and benefactors of this parish who support the construction of this hall and bless them with Your good things. And as You did proclaim that even if Your disciples were silent, the very stones would cry out, so also grant that this hall may proclaim You and draw all who dwell in this city and county to worship You in spirit and in truth. In flame our hearts with love for You that we may offer to You ourselves and all You have given us to the glory of Your holy Name. For You are the true Philanthropist—the Lover of Mankind—and to You we send up glory, together with Your eternal Father, and Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.