

**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:**

Archprst. Theodore	Archprst. Stephen	Archprst. Elias	Mat. Marion	Irene
Laurie	Barbara	Tanya	Nicole & Noelle	Eli
Joshua	Mark	Nick	Nina	Charles
Gregory	Ronald	Tatiana	Nancy	Deanna
Bill	Kay	Lydia	Nicholas	Mary
Heike	Mikey	Patrick	Medhat	Richard
Kathy	Dolores	John	Taisa	Jerry
Emma & n.b. girl				

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

Eugenia (ND)      Konstantin (ND)

**May Birthdays:**

Aubrey Roth (5/2)	Joseph Michael (5/2)	Radica Koutselas (5/14)
Jason Gentile (5/18)	Fr. Stephen Plumlee (5/25)	Edward Roth (5/25)
Ian Stefanescu (5/31)		

**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.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**

5 Sunday (today)	11:30 AM	Paschal Vespers & Gospel Procession (egg hunt to follow)
6 Monday	9:30 AM	Paschal Liturgy & Gospel Procession
11 Saturday	3:30 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy Class
11 Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
12 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Antipascha/Thomas Sunday)
	2:00 PM	Grave Blessings

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

**Holy Pascha-The Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

*Instead of “Holy God” (the Trisagion), we sing:*

**As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.**

*Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:*

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

*Hypakoe (Tone 8)*

Before the dawn Mary and the women  
came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.  
They heard the angelic voice: “Why do you seek among the dead as a Man  
the One Who is everlasting Light?  
Behold the clothes in the grave! Go and proclaim to the world:  
‘The Lord is risen! He has slain death, //  
as He is the Son of God, saving the race of men!’”

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and  
unto ages of ages. Amen**

*Kontakion (Tone 8)*

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,  
Thou didst destroy the power of death.  
In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God,  
proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the myrrhbearing women, //  
granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

**Prokeimenon                      Tone 8**

*This is the day the Lord hath made! / Let us rejoice and be glad in it!  
V. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!  
(Ps. 117:1)*

*Acts 1:1-8 (Epistle)*

**The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to  
do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through  
the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had  
chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by  
many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and  
speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being  
assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from  
Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said,  
“you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you  
shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”  
Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord,  
will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them,**

**“It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in  
His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has  
come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all  
Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

*John 1:1-17 (Gospel)*

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the  
Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made  
through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him  
was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the  
darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent  
from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear  
witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that  
Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light  
which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the  
world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know  
Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many  
as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to  
those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the  
will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became  
flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the  
only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of  
Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes  
after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” And of His  
fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given  
through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

*Instead of “It Is Truly Meet”:*

The angel cried to the Lady full of grace:  
“Rejoice, rejoice, O Pure Virgin!  
Again I say: Rejoice! Thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
With Himself He has raised all the dead!  
Rejoice, rejoice, O ye people!”

Shine! Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem!  
The glory of the Lord has shone on thee!  
Exult now, exult and be glad, O Zion!  
Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection, //  
the Resurrection of thy Son.

*Communion Hymn:*

Receive the Body of Christ, taste the Fountain of immortality. Alleluia.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Parish website is [www.bradentonorthodox.org](http://www.bradentonorthodox.org). Please give any feedback you might have to Fr. Jonathan or a Council member. See also [www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch](http://www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch).
- **Quarterly Charity (April-June): Care Net**
- **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.
- Our annual **LENTEN PROJECT** (continuing past Pascha) 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.
- A **BABY SHOWER for Savanah Shanks** is planned for Saturday, May 18 9:30-11:30 AM at the home of Marsha Blazso. Please RSVP to Marsha at 941-704-1430.
- Fr. Jonathan will be **BLESSING GRAVES** on *St. Thomas Sunday (May 12)* beginning at 2:00 PM at Mansion Memorial Park in Ellenton, then proceeding to Manasota Cemetery in Bradenton, The Palms in Sarasota, and the National Cemetery in Sarasota. Please speak with Fr. Jonathan for approximate times of blessing at various cemeteries, and to bless graves at any other locations.
- Later this morning we gather for **Paschal Vespers at 11:30 AM** followed by an **egg hunt** for the children. *Pascha Baskets will be blessed at the conclusion of the Paschal Liturgy, NOT AFTER THE PASCHAL VESPERS service later this morning.*
- **THANK YOU** to our volunteer Maintenance and Groundskeeping Crew here at Saint Mark Church. This group expended many hours during Lent clearing out brush and debris, mulching around trees, re-finishing the Church doors, and servicing our mechanical systems.
- **MEN'S GROUP COOKOUT:** Sunday, May 19, after Liturgy; all men of the Parish are invited – will include cornhole and horseshoes



## PASCHA MEANING & PRACTICES

- \* The word **Pascha** is the Hebrew word *Pesach* rendered in Greek, and now English, letters (see 1 Cor. 5:7). **Pascha** means “Passover,” our Christian Passover fulfilled in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior, accomplished at the time of the Jewish Passover ; therefore, Orthodox Pascha always follows the Jewish Passover, which is why the date of Orthodox Pascha frequently differs from Western Easter.
- \* The week following the Feast of Pascha is called **Bright Week** and is liturgically considered one day in which the Sun of Righteousness has risen (Mal. 3:20). During Bright Week, each weekday Liturgy repeats the Paschal Liturgy, the doors in the Iconostasis (Icon-screen) remain fully open, and each day is fast-free.
- \* The Sunday after the Feast of Pascha is known as **Antipascha**, meaning “instead of Pascha.” In other words, the Sunday after Pascha (and every Sunday, the Day of Resurrection) has essentially the same meaning as the Feast of Pascha itself. The Church every Sunday gathered in Divine Liturgy celebrates and participates fully in the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus.
- \* It is customary in many Orthodox churches to bless **Pascha baskets** at the conclusion of the Paschal Liturgy. Pascha baskets typically contain the foods from which we fasted during the season of Lent and Holy Week: various meats, eggs, and dairy dishes (e.g., Pascha bread, butter, sweet custards, etc.).
- \* **Pascha eggs** (usually dyed red, or ornately decorated) are an ancient symbol of the Resurrection as they depict a lifeless tomb from which a living person emerges, beginning with Christ Jesus Himself. Red eggs recall the miracle worked through Mary Magdalene when she was conversing with Tiberius, Pontius Pilate's successor, her white eggs turning red to demonstrate the truth of the resurrection of Christ.

### *Paschal Greetings (said for 40 days after Pascha):*

English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Slavonic:	Khristo voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Romanian:	Hristo a inviat!	Adevarat a inviat!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!