

**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. Dimitri	Archprst. Stephen	Archprst. Elias	Mat. Marion	Dcn, John
Sbdn. Joseph	Irene	Laurie	Barbara	Tanya
Nicole & Noelle	Eli	Joshua	Mark	Nick
Nina	Charles	Gregory	Ronald	Ricardo
Nancy	Deanna	Bill	Kay	Lydia
Mary	Mikey	Patrick	Maksim	Richard
Kathy	Dolores	John	Jerry	John
Charlotte				

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

*November Birthdays:*

Sbdn. James Abraham (11/6)	Moriah Hastings (11/14)	Will Brown (11/16)
Arlie Button (11/19)	Beckett Button (11/21)	Helen Moroz (11/24)
Connie Insley (11/25)	Deb Graban (11/26)	Abram Button (11/28)

**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

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**

20 Wednesday	4:45 PM	Parish Council
	6:00 PM	Great Vespers w/Litya
21 Thursday	8:15 AM	Matins
	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy ( <i>Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple</i> )
23 Saturday	3:30 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
24 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
	11:30 AM	Sunday School

**Sunday, November 17, 2024 Tone 4**

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

**St. Gregory the Wonderworker of Neo-Caesarea**

**Prokeimenon                      Tone 4                      (Resurrection)**

*O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (Ps. 103:26)*

*V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great! (Ps. 103:1)*

**Galatians 2:16-20 (Epistle)**

**[K]nowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**


**Luke 12:16-21 (Gospel)**

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops? So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

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We began the forty-day Nativity Fast two days ago this past Friday, November 15. This season also known as Advent (Lat., *arrival*) is a time of prayer and seeking to do God’s will in preparation for the great Feast of our Lord’s Birth (Christmas). Thus we fast from certain foods and drink (e.g., meats, eggs, cheese, milk, alcohol), and abstain from empty entertainments (e.g., social media, online gaming, mindless videos, etc.) to humble ourselves and become more attentive to God’s Word, the worship of God, and care of our neighbor. May God bless us this season as we strive to please Him with our lives.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Our Parish website is [www.bradentonorthodox.org](http://www.bradentonorthodox.org). See also [www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch](https://www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch).
- **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.
- **QUARTERLY CHARITY (Oct.-Dec.): Hurricane and Disaster Relief through IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities).** Please give generously by designated check or offering envelope in the Narthex.
- **FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS:** this month we are collecting especially **canned meats and fruits** for our local Food Pantry, which is in great need to replenish supplies. You can place your donations in the marked baskets in the Narthex of the Church. Thank you!!!
- 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. The first phase of the project is fully funded and proceeding as planned: eliminating our current septic system and tying into the city sewer via a lift station.
- **November 21 – The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple:** Great Vespers w/Litia at 6 PM on the eve; 8:15 AM Matins and 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy on the day. As a three year-old, the Virgin Mary was taken by her parents Joachim and Anna to the Temple in Jerusalem where she was received by Zacharias the Priest to live in dedication to God until her betrothal to Joseph some 11 or 12 years later. The Virgin Mary is the fulfillment of the Temple as she is the true Holy of Holies when the Son of God takes up His dwelling-place in her womb. Come, let us celebrate the Feast!
- **A Children’s Christmas Program** is planned for Sunday, December 22, following Divine Liturgy. Parents and children, today we have our first practice for the program; see Siobhan Awad or Fr. Jonathan to participate!
- **The Myrrhbearers** are *adopting a family* this coming Advent season, instead of participating in the Angel Tree program as in years past. More details will be forthcoming as to how you can join in this effort.
- **Parish Council meets this coming Wednesday, November 20, at 4:45 PM.**

*Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:*

**Troparion      Tone 4      (Resurrection)**

When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen, //  
granting 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 8      (St. Gregory)**

Thou didst become worthy of thy name through thy way of life;  
through thy vigilance in prayer and thy constant works of mercy.  
Therefore, O Father Gregory, beseech Christ God to enlighten our minds, //  
that we may not sleep in sin, which leads to death!

**Kontakion      Tone 4      (Resurrection)**

My Savior and Redeemer  
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.  
He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master, //  
He has risen on the third day!

**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. Gregory\*)**

Thou didst receive the power to perform miracles,  
frightening the devils and healing the sick through thy wonderworking.  
O All-wise Father Gregory, //  
thy deeds truly entitle thee to be called Wonderworker.

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

**Theotokion      Tone 6**

Steadfast Protectress of Christians  
Constant Advocate before the Creator  
Do not despise the cries 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!

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\* Saint Gregory was the Bishop of Neocaesarea in Pontus, born into an illustrious pagan family about the year 214. Sent to Beirut to study at a famous law school, Gregory (then, Theodore) and his brother took their sister to Caesarea in Palestine where they met the great Christian scholar Origen. They gave up their legal studies, were students of Origen for 8 years, and were afterward baptized. Avoiding Origen's various errors of speculation, Gregory returned to Pontus and lived alone in asceticism in the wilderness for several years. Faidimus, the Archbishop of nearby Amasia, knew of Gregory's virtues and installed him as bishop of Neocaesarea without Gregory's consent or physical consecration, to which Gregory eventually obeyed after days and nights in prayer. Informed of the mystery of the Holy Trinity by direct revelation from the Theotokos and Saint John the Theologian (Apostle and Evangelist), Gregory showed himself a tireless apostle and pastor of the Faith, winning converts by both words and the working of miracles. During the Decian persecution (year 250), Bishop Gregory and a large number of the faithful fled to the mountains where they prayed for the Martyrs, collecting the relics of the Martyrs following the persecution and instituting solemn feasts in their honor. The whole region became deeply Christian as a result. Saint Gregory reposed in 275.