

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:

Archpr. Dimitri	Archpr. Stephen	Archpr. Elias	Mat. Marion	Dn. John
Sbdn. Joseph	Sbdn. James	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	Charlotte	Alexandra
John	Jerry			

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

December Birthdays:

Dan Telychka (2)	Barb McKenzie (3)	Nancy Serko (5)
Barb McCollum (100 th ; 10)	Tim Lurowist (12)	Ivan Ciampa (15)
Bob Matzkevih (17)	Kim Moroz (17)	Karen Moroz (17)
Bryan I. Ewers (22)	Daniel Cholcher (24)	Michael Pisansky (24)

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

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

18	Wednesday	4:45 PM	Parish Council Meeting
		6:00 PM	Vespers/Faith & Life Class (Heb. 7)
19	Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
21	Saturday	1:00 PM	Baptisms and Chrismations
		5:00 PM	Great Vespers
22	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Sun. before Christmas)
		11:30 AM	Sunday School

Sunday, December 15, 2024 Tone 8

25th Sunday After Pentecost

13th Sunday of Luke; 2nd Sun. before Christmas

Sunday of the Forefathers

Prokeimenon **Tone 4** **(Forefathers)**

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*)



Colossians 3:4-11 (Epistle)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Luke 14:16-24 (Gospel)

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.' For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Parish website is www.bradentonorthodox.org. See also 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 Cathy Johns 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.
- Architectural drawings and an artist's rendition of a **proposed fellowship hall** for St. Mark Church are on display in the Narthex. The first phase of the work, eliminating our current septic system and tying into the city sewer via a lift station, is fully funded and proceeding. Please join us in prayer seeking God's will for the realization of this project.
- **Donations for the BOOTH family** were to be brought to the Church by today. If you have not returned them to Church, please speak with Marsha Blazso to arrange bringing them before they are delivered this week! This Advent season we adopted the Booth family living in Palmetto who is in special need of help due to losses in the recent hurricanes. Thank you to everyone sharing the love of Christ to the Booths. 
- **This coming Saturday, December 21**, we welcome 12 persons into membership of the Orthodox Church via Baptism and Chrismation: Elijah Albritton; Joshua and Natalie Aluzzo; Joseph Barber, Jordan and Siena Brooks; Sarah Hogan; Sam, Stephany, Camille, and Maximus Montes; and Jaron Schultz. *The Service of Baptism and Chrismation will begin at 1:00 PM.* God grant these newly illumined servants of God, and their sponsors, many years!
- **Services for Christmas (Nativity of Christ):**
 - Tu Dec. 24 1:00 PM Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil (Christmas Eve)
5:00 PM Vigil of Christmas
 - We Dec. 25 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast
 - Th Dec. 26 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (2nd Day of Christmas/Synaxis of the Theotokos)
 - Fr Dec. 27 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy (3rd Day of Christmas/Firstmartyr and Archdeacon Stephen)

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:

Troparion Tone 8 (*Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!

Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Troparion Tone 2 (*Forefathers*)

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the Gentiles.

These saints exult in glory,

for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:

she who bore Thee without seed.//

So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

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

Kontakion Tone 6 (*Forefathers)**

You did not worship the graven image,

O thrice-blessed ones,

but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,

you were glorified in a trial by fire.

From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:

“Hasten, O compassionate One!

Speedily come to our aid,//

for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

* This Second Sunday before Christmas we remember the holy Forefathers of Christ which includes all the faithful, both Jew and Gentile, who preceded the birth of the Son of God in the flesh. These Forefathers perpetuated the faith and hope in the coming Savior by passing that promise on to their descendants who then lived in accordance with the blessed life promised in Jesus Christ. In Christ is realized the hope of all the nations beginning with Adam, to be sons and daughters of God in His kingdom.