

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

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

Mat. Jeanne (Ciarciigliano, ND)

**December Birthdays:**

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

**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](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  
[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**

24 Tuesday	1:00 PM	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil
	5:00 PM	Vigil of Christmas
25 Wednesday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy for the Nativity
26 Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (2 <sup>nd</sup> day of Christmas/ Synaxis of the Theotokos)
27 Friday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (3 <sup>rd</sup> of Christmas/ First martyr and Archdeacon Stephen)
28 Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
29 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 22, 2024 Tone 1**

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

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

**Forefeast of the Nativity**

**Sunday of the Holy Fathers**

**Prokeimenon            Tone 4            (Holy 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 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Epistle, Sunday Before Christmas)*


**By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command. 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.**

*Matthew 1:1-25 (Gospel, Sunday Before Christmas)*

**The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez**

**begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Parish website is [www.bradentonorthodox.org](http://www.bradentonorthodox.org). See also [www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch](http://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.**
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- 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 project, tying into the city sewer with the lift station, is fully funded and proceeding according to plan. Please join us in prayer seeking God's will for the realization of this goal.
  - **Coming in January – Orthodox Ethos Series** especially for recent and new members of the Church. The Series will consist of four meetings focusing on *decent and proper* practices of Orthodoxy: 1) Basic Behaviors in Church; 2) Fast and Feasts of the Year; 3) Membership Duties; 4) Miscellaneous Q & A. The Series will take place either on Saturday before Vespers or following Sunday Liturgy and Coffee Hour. *If you are interested in participating, indicate to Fr. Jonathan which of the two days and times you prefer and/or are available to attend.*
  - **CHRISTMAS SERVICES ARE LISTED ON THE COVER OF THE BULLETIN. GOD BLESS OUR RECEPTION AND CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR, IN THE FLESH.**
  - **Thank you** to all who provided gifts and assistance to the Booth Family this Christmas season. All donations will be delivered to the Booths this afternoon following Divine Liturgy.
  - **Looking ahead**, The Christmas season culminates on the Feast of Theophany (Baptism of Christ; January 6). In addition to the services for Theophany in the Church, we will gather on January 6 at 4:00 PM at Jiggs Landing (Bradenton Reservoir) for the Blessing of the Water and a picnic.

*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      (Holy Fathers)**

Great are the accomplishments of faith,  
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of  
rest;  
and the Prophet Daniel appeared  
a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.//  
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

### **Troparion      Tone 4      (Forefeast)**

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!  
Adorn thyself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in  
the cave!  
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;  
if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.//  
Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.

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

### **Kontakion      Tone 1      (Fathers\*)**

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha!  
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.  
The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,//  
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

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

### **Kontakion      Tone 3      (Forefeast)**

Today the Virgin comes to the cave  
to give birth to the Eternal Word.  
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!  
Glorify with the angels and the shepherds//  
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

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\* This Sunday before Christmas we commemorate the Forefathers who are the Ancestors of Christ, His family in the flesh culminating both in Christ's step-father Joseph, of the line of David, and in the Virgin Mary, also of the tribe of Judah.