

**Concerning Holy Communion:**

1. *If you are a communicant member of an Orthodox parish, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Saint Mark's. Please announce your intention to Fr. Jonathan before the Liturgy, if possible, or at the Chalice.*
2. *If you are not a member of the Orthodox Church, please refrain from approaching the Chalice for Communion. Instead, you are welcome to receive some of the blessed bread (antidoron) from a small side table, and introduce yourself to Fr. Jonathan following the Liturgy.*

**Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered for the Health of:**

Archpr. Dimitri	Archpr. Stephen	Archpr. Elias	Mat. Marion	Pr. Jorge
Dn. John	Sbdn. Joseph	Sbdn. James	Irene	Laurie
Barbara	Tanya	Nicole & Noelle	Eli	Joshua
Mark	Nick	Nina	Charles	Gregory
Ronald	Tatiana	Nancy	Deanna	Bill
Kay	Lydia	Mary	Mikey	Patrick
Maksim	Richard	Kathy	Dolores	John
Jerry	Charlotte	Alexandra	Thomas	

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

Mat. Jean (ND)

**January Birthdays:**

Heike Cordero (1/8)	Philip Grayton (1/9)	Abegail Insley (1/16)
Emilia Stankevskaya (1/16)	Sarah Hogan (1/21)	Robert Serko (1/25)
Galina Tschursin (1/28)	Angela Orras (1/29)	Chris Traycoff (1/31)

**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.thatismvbrick.com/stmarkorthodox](http://www.thatismvbrick.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**

5	Sunday	5:00 PM	Vigil of Theophany
6	Monday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy ( <i>Feast of Theophany</i> ) w/Blessing of Water
		4:00 PM	Blessing of Braden River (at Jiggs Landing on 63 <sup>rd</sup> St. E) w/Picnic
10	Saturday	3:30 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
		5:00 PM	Great Vespers
11	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
		11:15 AM	Sunday School & Coffee Hour
		12:00 PM	Orthodox Ethos 1

**Sunday, January 5, 2025 Tone 3  
28<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
Sunday Before Theophany**

**Prokeimenon Tone 6 (Sunday Before Theophany)**

*O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)*

*V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)*

**2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Epistle, Sunday Before)**

**But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

**Mark 1:1-8 (Gospel, Sunday Before)**


**The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.’” John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”**

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**TOMORROW, JANUARY 6**, is the Feast of Theophany (meaning, “the appearance of God,” the Holy Trinity) commemorating the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River.

- **Vigil of Theophany**, this evening at 5:00 PM (Jan. 5);
- **Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with Blessing of Water**, tomorrow morning at 9:30 AM (Jan. 6);
- **Braden River Blessing with picnic**, tomorrow afternoon at 4:00 PM (Jan. 6), at Jiggs Landing on 63<sup>rd</sup> St. E. For the picnic, fried chicken will be provided, but please bring a dish to share if you are able.
- **House Blessings** will begin on Tuesday, January 7; see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex of the Church.

**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.** 
- 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 via a lift station, is fully funded and proceeding as planned. Please join us in prayer seeking God’s will for the realization of this project.
- Any male eight years and older interested in serving around the Altar during Church services, please see Fr. Jonathan or Subdeacon James.
- Anyone interested in reading during the Church services, or becoming a Reader, please see Fr. Jonathan or Subdeacon James.
- **SAINT MARK’S MEN’S GROUP** will meet at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 14. All men of the parish are invited and encouraged to attend.
- **ORTHODOX ETHOS Class** will convene for the first of four meetings beginning next Sunday, January 12, at 12:00 PM (following Coffee Hour and Sunday School). Topics of the series are: 1) Orthodox Behaviors and Customs; 2) Fasts and Feasts of the Year; 3) Duties of Church Membership; and 4) Miscellaneous Q & A. Come and participate in how things are done “decently and in order” in the Church.
- **Intro to Orthodoxy Class** resumes next Saturday, January 11, at its usual time of 3:30 PM before Great Vespers. This Class is especially for inquirers and catechumens (those being instructed toward Baptism and/or Chrismation). If you are new to the Class, please request a catechism from Fr. Jonathan.
- **Fr. Jonathan and Diane wish to say “thank you”** for all of your cards and gifts during this past Christmas season. We are very blessed by God to be part of this wonderful and generous parish family.

*Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:*

**Troparion    Tone 3            (Resurrection)**

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

**Troparion    Tone 4            (Forefeast)**

The River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha,  
after Elijah had been taken up to heaven.

The waters were parted in two,

and the stream became a dry path.

This was truly a type of baptism,

by which we pass over the stream of life.//

Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

**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

**Kontakion    Tone 3            (Resurrection)**

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,  
leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

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

**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

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

**Kontakion    Tone 2            (Forefeast\*)**

O Christ, in Thy compassion and infinite mercy,

Thou art coming as a man to be baptized in the Jordan,

in order to take away the many transgressions of us all,

clothing me in the garment of ancient glory//

of which I was cruelly stripped bare.

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\* Each Feast in the Church is preceded by a period of days called the Forefeast in which we anticipate the fulfillment of blessings to come in Christ. Thus in this Forefeast of Theophany we sing of Elijah and Elisha at the Jordan River looking forward to the Baptism of Christ by John the Forerunner in the same waters, which in turn becomes the pattern of our own salvation in Holy Baptism. Together with the Afterfeast following each Feast, the Forefeast enables us to focus on the Life in Christ at hand in praise and thanksgiving to God for the new creation we have in Jesus Christ our Lord.