

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. If possible, and this is preferred, announce your intention to receive Communion to Fr. Jonathan prior to the Liturgy, 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. Ted
Pr. David	Sbdn. Joseph	Irene	Laurie	Barbara
Tanya	Nicole & Noelle	Eli	Joshua	Mark
Nick	Nina	Charles	Gregory	Ricardo
Nancy	Deanna	Galina	Peter	Bill
Kay	Lydia	Mary	Mikey	Patrick
Maksim	Richard	Kathy	Dolores	John
Jerry	Charlotte	Alexandra	Zina	Grant
Nicholas	Faith	Temple & newborn son		

Expecting mothers and unborn children: Wanda, Natalie, Moriah, and Cassia

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Lyubov (ND; Larissa Khalifa's mother)

March Birthdays:

Belle Denardo (2/29)	Michael Blazo (3/6)	Willard Brown (3/09)
Marina Proskurina (3/15)	Carol Skinner (3/28)	Sue Brown (3/29)

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.thatmybrick.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

19 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy
20 Thursday	6:00 PM	Parish Council
21 Friday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy
22 Saturday	9:30 AM	Memorial Liturgy
	3:30 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Vigil of the Cross

Sunday, March 16, 2025 Tone 5
St. Gregory Palamas
(Second Sunday of Lent)

Prokeimenon Tone 5

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. (Ps. 11:7)

V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps.11:1a)

Prokeimenon Tone 1 (St. Gregory Palamas)

My mouth shall speak wisdom; / the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. (Ps. 48:3)

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 (Epistle)

And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.” But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Hebrews 7:26-8:2 (Epistle, Saint)

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Mark 2:1-12 (Gospel)

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” – He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

John 10:9-16 (Gospel, Saint)

The Lord said: “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:

Troparion Tone 5 (*Resurrection*)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

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 Palamas*)

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation,
O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians,
O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace,//
always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

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 8 (*St. Gregory*)

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom,
joyful trumpet of theology,
together we sing thy praises, O God-inspired Gregory.
Since thou now standest before the Original Mind, guide our minds to Him,
O Father//
so that we may sing to thee: “Rejoice, preacher of grace!”



Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion Tone 4 (*Lenten Triodion*)

Now is the time for action!
Judgment is at the doors!

So let us rise and fast,
offering alms with tears of compunction and crying:
“Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea;
but forgive us, O Master of all,//
so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!”

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.** 
- Architectural drawings and an artist's rendition of a **proposed fellowship hall** for St. Mark Church are on display in the Narthex. Join us in seeking God's will for the realization of this project.
- **Quarterly Charity (Jan.-Mar.): Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)**, an organization of Orthodox student groups on college and university campuses throughout the country. You can give by designated check or marked envelope.
- **Parish Council meets this coming Thursday at 6:00 PM.**
- **2025 LENTEN PROJECT:** new white, blue, and purple coverings for the icon and Confessional stands. You may give toward this project by indicating on the memo line of a check or outside of an envelope. Praise God in the beauty of His temple!
- **Debt Reduction Thermometer** – you will notice in the back corner of the Narthex a thermometer showing our progress in our Debt Reduction effort. This is a five-year goal of eliminating the debt on our mortgage, but we hope to accomplish this much sooner! May God so move us to contribute freely toward this important work. 
- **Church Cleaning, April 5 at 10:30 AM** – prior to Holy Week and Pascha, we'll be thoroughly cleaning the Church and grounds. Please plan to help if you can.