

Concerning Holy Communion:

- 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.
- 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	Dn. Michael
Sbdn. Joseph	Irene	Laurie	Barbara	Galina
Tanya	Nicole & Noelle	Eli	Joshua	Mark
Nick	Nina	Charles	Gregory	Ricardo
Nancy	Deanna	Karen	Peter	Bill
Kay	Lydia	Mary	Mikey	Patrick
Maksim	Richard	Kathy	Dolores	John
Jerry	Charlotte	Alexandra	Zina	Grant
Faith	Patricia	Temple & newborn son	Wanda & newborn child	

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

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Lyubov (ND)

April Birthdays:

Marion Mitchell (4/1)	Nate Kulikowski (4/10)	Cristina Stefanescu (4/12)
Clyde McKenzie (4/15)	George Graban (4/21)	Mark Giverc (4/24)
Sarah Taylor (4/24)	Diane Cholcher (4/26)	

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.thatismybrick.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
(Fifth Week of Lent)**

30 Sunday	12:30-5 PM	Open House Fellowship (at Bryan Ewers’)
2 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy
3 Thursday	9:30 AM	Matins & Great Canon (Life of St. Mary of Egypt)
4 Friday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy
5 Saturday	9:30 AM	Matins & Akathist to the Theotokos
	10:30 AM	Church cleaning
	3:30 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers

**Sunday, March 30, 2025 Tone 7
Ven. John Climacus of Sinai**

Prokeimenon Tone 7 (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps. 28:11)

V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (Ps. 28:1a)

Prokeimenon Tone 7 (St. John Climacus)

Let the saints exult in glory; / let them sing for joy on their couches! (Ps. 149:5)

Hebrews 6:13-20 (Epistle)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Ephesians 5:9-19 (Epistle, Saint)

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Mark 9:17-31 (Gospel)

Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him

down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Gospel, Saint)

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:

Troparion Tone 7 (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art 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 1 (St. John Climacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,
thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.
Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!
Glory to Him Who granted thee a ^crown!//
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Kontakion Tone 7 (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith://
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

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 4 (St. John Climacus)


The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence,
to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe,//
O our father and teacher John.

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!

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 (Apr.-June): 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.
- **Church Cleaning** will happen next Saturday, April 5, beginning at 10:30 AM (following Matins). Please come and help if you are able as we prepare God's House for Holy Week and Pascha.
- **This Fifth Week of Lent** we serve two special services: 1) Matins with the Great Canon of St. Andrew on Thursday, April 3, during which we also read the Life of St. Mary of Egypt; and 2) Matins with the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos on Saturday, April 5. As we draw closer to the end of Lent, we consider God's great gifts to us for our salvation.
- **2025 Lenten Project:** new white, red, blue, and purple coverings for the icon stands in the Church Nave. Please give as God gives you ability.
- **This Fourth Sunday of Lent** we commemorate a great saint and spiritual director, John of Sinai (d. 649), also known as *Klimakos* (lit., of the Ladder), because of his famous book *The Ladder* outlining the path to God as 30 steps up a ladder of virtue. His counsels are an unerring guide for the Christian desiring to renounce the false hopes of this world to follow Christ to the everlasting Kingdom of God.