

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

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

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

Gerasimos (ND)

### April m Birthdays:

Marion Mitchell (4/1)	Savannah Shanks (4/2)	Nate Kulikowski (4/10)
Cristina Stefanescu (4/12)	Clyde McKenzie (4/15)	George Graben (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](http://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 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](http://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

20	Sunday	11:30 AM	Paschal Vespers (egg hunt to follow)
21	Monday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Bright Monday)
25	Friday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Bright Friday/St. Mark)
26	Saturday	1:30 PM	Panikhida & Burial for Gerasimos
			Koukovas
		4:00 PM	Panikhida for Georgia Drakopoulos
		5:00 PM	Great Vespers
27	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Antipascha/Thomas Sunday)
		2:00 PM	Grave Blessings

Sunday, April 20, 2025 Tone 8

Resurrection of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ

### **Prokeimenon**

*This is the day which the Lord hath made! / Let us rejoice and be glad in it! (Ps. 117:24)*

*V. O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever! (Ps. 117:1)*

### **Acts 1:1-8 (Epistle)**

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

### **John 1:1-17 (Gospel)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to

become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

### *Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:*

#### **Troparion (Hymn of the Day)**

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

#### **Hypakoe      Tone 8**


Before the dawn Mary and the women  
came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.  
They heard the angelic voice: “Why do you seek among the dead as a  
Man  
the One Who is everlasting Light?  
Behold the clothes in the grave! Go and proclaim to the world:  
‘The Lord is risen! He has slain death,//  
as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man!’”

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

#### **Kontakion      Tone 8**

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,  
Thou didst destroy the power of death.  
In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God,  
proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the myrrhbearing women,//  
granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the  
fallen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

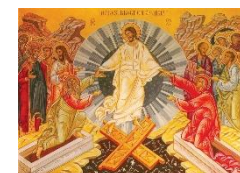
- Our Parish website is [www.bradentonorthodox.org](http://www.bradentonorthodox.org). See also [www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch](http://www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch).
- **A COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR SHEET** is located on the glass bookstore case in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring Coffee Hour in 2025. 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.** 
- **Quarterly Charity (April-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.
- **Debt Reduction Thermometer:** you'll see this gauge on the back wall of the Narthex. Please consider how you can help eliminate our current mortgage debt and facilitate our plans for growth into a fellowship hall. May God grant us success in this project!
- **Paschal Vespers and Egg Hunt** begins later this morning at 11:30 AM. **Pascha Food Baskets will be blessed following the Paschal (midnight) Liturgy, not after Paschal Vespers.**
- **A Baby Shower for Natalie Aluzzo** is planned for Saturday, May 17, at 10:00 AM at Belle and Michael DeNardo's home. Please RSVP to Belle at 475-439-1815 if you plan to attend. Natalie's baby registry is <https://my.baby.com/baby-aluzzo>.
- **Our patronal Feast Day of Saint Mark** occurs this coming Bright Friday, April 25. Despite the oversight on the monthly calendar, Divine Liturgy on Saint Mark Day will begin at 9:30 AM.
- **Grave Blessings** will begin next Sunday, April 27, at 2:00 PM at Mansion Memorial Park (Ellenton/Palmetto; 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. E), continuing at Manasota Cemetery (Bradenton), The Palms (Sarasota), and the Sarasota National Cemetery, in that order. Please speak with Fr. Jonathan for grave blessings at any other location(s).
- Thank you to the Myrrhbearers for dyeing the Pascha Eggs distributed at the end of Liturgy this morning!
- **Intro to Orthodoxy Class** will resume at 3:30 PM on Saturday, May 3. All inquirers and catechumens are welcome to attend.

## PASCHA

The term **Pascha** is the Hebrew word for Passover (*pesach*) rendered in Greek, and then English, letters. Passover was the ancient Jewish feast commemorating the deliverance of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt when the Lord *passed over* each household with lamb's blood on its doorposts thus sparing its firstborn within. Passover (Pascha) refers both to the feast and to the lamb which was sacrificed and eaten in the Israelite households (see Exodus, chapter 12).

Our Lord Jesus Christ was sacrificed on the Cross at the exact time the lambs were being slain in the Jerusalem temple at the feast of Passover (John 19:31-37). The night before Passover, our Lord said to His disciples: "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God" (Luke 22:15-16).

Christ's Pascha is the fulfillment of Passover, a new and holy Pascha in the Kingdom of God. Therefore the apostle says, "For indeed Christ, our Pascha (Passover), was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast..." (1 Cor. 5:7, 8).



The Orthodox have always referred to this Feast of feasts, the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, with the name **Pascha**. The Divine Liturgy at Pascha defines what the Church is: the baptized faithful gathered to receive the crucified and risen Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. As St. John Chrysostom says: "It is always Pascha," now that we gather for Divine Liturgy in Church, especially on the Day of Resurrection (every Lord's Day, or Sunday).

### Paschal Greetings (for 40 days from Pascha to Ascension):

Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!	(English)
Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!	(Greek)
Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!	(Slavonic)
Hristo a inviat!	Adeverat a inviat!	(Romanian)
El Messieh qam!	Hakken qam!	(Arabic)
Cristo ha ressuscitado!	En verdad ha ressuscitado!	(Spanish)