

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	Mat. Mary
Sbdn. Joseph	Irene	Laurie	Barbara	Tanya
Nicole & Noelle	Eli	Joshua	Mark	Nick
Nina	Charles	Gregory	Ricardo	Nancy
Deanna	Karen	Peter	Bill	Kay
Lydia	Mary	Mike	Patrick	Maksim
Richard	Kathy	Dolores	John	Jerry
Charlotte	Alexandra	Zina	Grant	Faith
Madison	Heather	Nicholas	George	Cathy

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

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Gervasios Viktor

May Birthdays:

Joseph Michael (5/2) Radica Koutselas (5/14) Jason Gentile (5/18)
Fr. Stephen Plumlee (5/25) Ian Stefanescu (5/31)

TO SPONSOR COFFEE HOUR, please sign up on the calendar book on the glass case.
COFFEE HOUR.

Memorial Bricks for the St. Mark Memorial Garden can be ordered at 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.

Financial Donations can now be made via PayPal by clicking the link on our parish webpage, or by scanning this QR code. ➡

You may also mail donations to: P.O. Box 1315,
Bradenton, FL 34206.



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
Usual Weekly Office Hours:
Wed. 11 AM-1 PM & Fri. 9:00 AM to Noon

This week at St. Mark

28	Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers/Litya (Ascension)
29	Thursday	8:00 AM	Divine Liturgy (Ascension)
		[note the time]	
31	Saturday	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
		5:00 PM	Great Vespers
1	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

Sunday, May 25, 2025 Tone 5
6th Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the Blind Man

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.

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)

V. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)

Acts 16:16-34 (Epistle)

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them in his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

John 9:1-38 (Gospel)

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his

parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not

know where He is from.” The man answered and said to them, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

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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.

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

Kontakion Tone 4(Pentecostarion)





I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,
and call to Thee in repentance://
“Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion Tone 8(Pascha)

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. 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 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** – on the back wall of the Narthex, tracking our progress in eliminating our building mortgage debt; this is a project we hope to complete within the next four years, freeing us to pursue other efforts for the growth of our parish, such as constructing a fellowship hall. Consider how God is leading you to contribute to reducing our debt! 
- **Brokerage Account at Fidelity** – Saint Mark Church has established a brokerage account at Fidelity services. Parishioners wishing to donate Securities to the Church can now make direct contributions in accordance with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules. Contact Michael Kulisz (Church Treasurer) or Bob Matzkevich (Parish Council Warden/President) for additional information, or with questions regarding the donation of securities. 
- **Help Wanted:** an **Assistant** is needed for our own Fr. Stephen Plumlee who has moved into assisted living at Aravilla in Sarasota. The assistant will be with Fr. Stephen Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM with flexibility. Duties include transportation to Church during the week and on weekends (when he feels up to it), and to a Tuesday meeting at Noon (if available); helping with activities, outings, and cultural events; and providing stimulating conversation. Pay will be \$20-25/hour based on experience. Call Jill Grinnell at 941-716-6893 to apply. The need is immediate. 
- This coming Thursday, May 29, is the **FEAST OF OUR LORD'S ASCENSION** into heaven, the 40th day after Pascha. Note that *Liturgy for the Feast will begin at 8:00 AM* (not the usual 9:30 AM), as Fr. Jonathan is traveling to see his mother later that morning. *Great Vespers with the Litia for the Feast* will be served this Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM.

PARENTS IN EDUCATION MEETING
SUNDAY, JUNE 22
(following Divine Liturgy in the Nave)

All are invited to participate, especially the Parents of our Church with young children. We will be discussing plans and resources for a joint effort in the education of our children in an Orthodox and Classical way.

To obtain a copy of *Orthodox Christian Guidelines for the Education of Children* prior to the meeting, speak with Fr. Jonathan. This coil-bound book (\$8 each) includes: "The Instructor," by Clement of Alexandria; the "Address to Young Men on the Right Use of Greek Literature," by St. Basil the Great; and the "Address on Vainglory and the Right Way to Bring Up Children," by St. John Chrysostom.

**Craft Fair &
Bake Sale**

(at Saint Mark's, this coming November)

All Crafters & Bakers, join the fun:

- **Sewing**
- **Woodworking**
- **Pottery**
- **Painting**
- **Et al.**

The Fair is being organized by the Myrrhbearers with the majority of proceeds going to Debt Reduction.

Contact Arlie Button to get involved.