

### 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	Eli	Joshua	Mark	Nick
Carolyn	Charles	Gregory	Ricardo	Nancy
Deanna	Karen	Peter	Bill	Kay
Lydia	Mary	Mike	Patrick	Maksim
Richard	Kathy	Dolores	John	Jerry
Charlotte	Alexandra	Zina	Faith	Madison
Heather	Nicholas	George	Natalie and newborn daughter	

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

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

Infant Grant

### July Birthdays:

Fr. Jonathan (7/5) Nick Orras (7/6) Abigail Michael (7/7) Ed Evancho (7/17)  
Elena Grayton (7/22)

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

### This week at St. Mark

2	Wednesday 6:00 PM	Vespers/Scripture Reading
3	Thursday 9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
5	Saturday 3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
6	Sunday 9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

### Sunday, June 29, 2025 Tone 2

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

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.

**Prokeimenon                      Tone 2                      (Resurrection)**

*The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)*

*V. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death. (Ps. 117:18)*

**Prokeimenon                      Tone 8                      (Apostles)**

*Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends of the universe. (Ps. 18:4)*

***Romans 5:1-10 (Epistle)***

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

***2 Corinthians 11:21-12:9 (Epistle, Apostles)***

To our shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold – I speak foolishly – I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? – I speak as a fool – I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness – besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?

If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

***Matthew 6:22-33 (Gospel)***

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’

or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

*Matthew 16:13-19 (Gospel, Apostles)*

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

*Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:*

**Troparion      Tone 2      (Resurrection)**

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

**Troparion      Tone 4      (Apostles)**

O first-enthroned of the Apostles,  
and teachers of the universe:  
entreat the Master of all  
to grant peace to the world,//  
and to our souls great mercy!

**Kontakion      Tone 2      (Resurrection)**

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,//  
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

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

**Kontakion      Tone 2      (Apostles)**

O Lord, Thou hast taken up to eternal rest




and to the enjoyment of Thy blessings  
the two divinely inspired preachers, the leaders of the Apostles,  
for Thou hast accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling  
sacrifice//  
for Thou alone knowest what lies in the hearts of men.

**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](http://www.bradentonorthodox.org). See also [www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch](https://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 (July-Sept.): Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM);** 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; consider how God is leading you to contribute to reducing our debt! 
- **Brokerage Account at Fidelity** –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. 
- **CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE** – this coming November 2025, being organized by the Myrrhbearers; see Arlie Button to participate.
- **SCRIPTURE READING** – every Wednesday evening following Vespers; currently we are reading the Wisdom of Sirach, the Epistle to the Romans, and the Gospel of St. Matthew. “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” A short discussion follows the readings.