

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
William	Karen	Peter	Bill	Kay
Lydia	Mary	Mike	Patrick	Maksim
Richard	Kathy	Dolores	John	Jerry
Charlotte	Alexandra	Zina	Faith	Madison
Heather	Nicholas	George		

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

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:


Deanna (ND; Philip Grayton's sister)

August Birthdays:

Cara Kulikowski (8/2)	Michael Coliane (8/7)	Diane Koory (8/13)
Matthew Grayton (8/14)	Margaret Michael (8/16)	Robert Koory (8/22)
Trudy Telychka (8/31)		

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.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.

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

5	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Vespers/Litya (Transfiguration)
6	Wednesday	8:15 AM	Matins
		9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy w/Blessing of Fruit (Feast of Transfiguration)
		6:00 PM	Vespers/Scripture Reading
7	Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
9	Saturday	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
		5:00 PM	Great Vespers
10	Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

Sunday, August 3, 2025 Tone 7

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Ven. Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus Ascetics of the Dalmatian Monastery

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 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)

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Epistle)

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Matthew 14:14-22 (Gospel)

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

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 (Saint 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 4 (Venerable Ones)

O God of our Fathers,

always act with kindness towards us;

take not Thy mercy from us,

but guide our lives in peace//

through the prayers of Venerable Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus!

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 2 (Venerable Ones)

Through asceticism you shone like lights in the world,

and by your faith you overthrew heresies.

We praise you with hymns, Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus,//

as servants of Christ, who are praying for us all.

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 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-September): Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM)**, provides spiritual care, enabling people in prison to find hope and purpose in their lives. 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** – Saint Mark Church has established a brokerage account at Fidelity services. Contact Michael Kulisz (Church Treasurer) or Bob Matzkevich (Parish Council Warden/President) for additional information, or with questions regarding the donation of securities. 
- **Feast of Transfiguration – Wednesday, August 6:** Great Vespers w/Litvia will be served on the eve of the Feast this coming Tuesday at 6:00 PM; Matins and Divine Liturgy for the Feast will be served on the morning at 8:15 AM and 9:30 AM respectively. As is customary, fruit will be blessed at the conclusion of the Liturgy. The Feast of our Lord's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, revealing His divine glory, occurs 40 days before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (Sept. 14) as our Lord's transfiguration took place about 40 days before His crucifixion.
- **Back-to-School Backpacks:** on Tuesday at 11:30 AM we will be filling 24 backpacks with supplies for students, and on Wednesday morning following Divine Liturgy the backpacks will be delivered to Manatee Elementary School (on E. Manatee Ave. in Bradenton). Please come to help on Tuesday if you are able. Thank you to all who provided the supplies for the backpacks!
- **Men's Group Monastery Visit:** our Saint Mark Men's Group is planning a visit to the Panagia Vlahernon Orthodox Monastery just outside of Ocala, FL. So far 17 men have signed-up to visit as a group. Arrangements are being made to visit within the next couple of months. If you have not signed-up and would like to go, speak with Fr. Jonathan.

The Dormition Fast (August 1-14)

We are currently in the fourth and final fasting season of the Church year, known as the Dormition Fast. This two week-long season beginning on August 1 concludes with the Feast of the Dormition (lit., *falling-asleep*) of the Mother of God on August 15. Concerning food and drink, the fasting rules of this season are basically the same as those throughout the season of Lent: general abstinence from meats, dairy, and alcoholic drinks. Exceptions to this rule are for pregnant and nursing mothers, infants and small children, and persons with medical conditions requiring certain foods for nutrition.

Exhorting us to keep this fast, St. Leo the Great of Rome reminds us that just as the natural year has seasons, even more so does the Church observe seasons of fasting. The entire Church keeps the Fast to participate in the more elementary spiritual principles of our re-creation from God: faith in Christ, self-control, love, and every virtue (see *Sermon 88 On the Fast of the Seventh Month*).

Specifically in this fast during the summer months, St. Gregory Palamas explains the Orthodox practice of fasting (with prayer) to be the true means of healing “from infirmities that attack us as a result of sin...[A]nyone who falls ill should not resort to spells and sorcerers but to God, to the intercession of His saints, and to the petitions, entreaties, and prayers on our behalf of those who have consecrated and dedicated their whole life to Him” (*Homily 31 at the Litany on the First of August*).

The Dormition Fast begins on August 1 because it became customary in the city of Constantinople (eastern capital of the later Roman Empire) to carry the True Cross in procession with prayers throughout the city beginning on August 1, continuing daily until August 14. This is the Orthodox remedy for disease and infirmities – the Cross of Christ! In the great Church of Holy Wisdom (*Hagia Sophia*), water was also blessed and distributed to the faithful (i.e., *holy water*). This observance among the Orthodox in Russia coincides with the conversion of Rus which occurred on August 1 in the year 988 (the mass baptism of St. Vladimir's people in the Dnieper River near the city of Kiev).

Preceding the Feast of the Dormition, the Fast also serves as a solemn preparation for the passing nature of our own lives in this world. Fasting helps us keep alert and vigilant toward this end in expectation of the incorruptible life to come in the Kingdom of God. We learn to detach ourselves from temporary worldly food, drink, and necessities, and we strive to rely more and more on the eternal sustenance of prayer, the Word of God, worship in the Church, and the love of the saints. Such a life the Virgin Mary Theotokos lived until her falling-asleep and subsequent bodily assumption into heaven.