

### 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
Karen	Peter	Bill	Kay	Lydia
Mary	Mike	Patrick	Maksim	Richard
Kathy	Dolores	John	Jerry	Charlotte
Alexandra	Zina	Faith	Madison	Heather
Nicholas	George	Mason	Carol	David
Lana	Moriah and n.b. daughter	Cassia and n.b. daughter		

Expecting mothers and unborn children: Arlie and Alexys

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

Deanna ND

### August Birthdays (please inform Fr. Jonathan if your birthday isn't listed):

Cara Kulikowski (8/2)	Patrice Taleff (8/5)	Peter Taleff (8/6)
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.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

24 Today	11:30 AM	Sunday School Meeting
27 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers/Scripture Reading
28 Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
29 Friday	9:30AM	Divine Liturgy (Beheading of St. John the Baptist)
30 Saturday	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
31 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, August 24, 2025 Tone 2**

**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Hiermartyr Eutychius, disciple of St. John the Theologian**

**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)*

**1 Corinthians 9:2-12 (Epistle)**




If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

**Matthew 18:23-35 (Gospel)**

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked

servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

**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-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. 
- Anyone interested in becoming a Reader, please see either Fr. Jonathan or Subdeacon James. We will be convening a Reader Training meeting in the next couple of weeks.
- Any male over the age of 8 who would like to become an Altar Server, please see either Fr. Jonathan or Subdeacon James.
- **Today following Liturgy – Sunday School organizational meeting;** anyone interested in helping or volunteering with the program, you are welcome to attend in the Office (south side-room). Classes for Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 7.
- **Beheading of St. John the Baptist** – this coming Friday, August 29; Divine Liturgy on the day will begin at 9:30 AM.

*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                      (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                      (St. Eutychius)**

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,  
thou didst become a successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine  
contemplation, O inspired one of God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even  
to the shedding of thy blood.//  
O Hieromartyr Eutychius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

**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.

**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 3                      (St. Eutychius)**

A successor of the Apostles and an excellent example to bishops,  
Eutychius, thou wast glorified as a martyr.  
Thou didst shine forth like the sun enlightening all,  
dispelling the dark night of godlessness.//

Therefore, we honor thee as truly a godly celebrant of the Mysteries of Christ.

**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!

“So let us too flee from the world, and take refuge in those schools of virtue dedicated to God, that we may escape from Herod’s pitiless soldiers armed with spears and swords (cf. Matt. 2:16; 14:10), who stir up the passions, by means of which he inflicts spiritual death, separating men from God. This is the death that comes upon us through the windows of our senses. It came about originally by means of these senses, and dragged down the human race, banishing our forebears from eternal life. Eve heard the evil one’s malicious counsel: she saw, succumbed, ate, died, enticed the man, and shared the taste and the fall with him (see Gen. 3:1-8). Incapable of withstanding a single trial, they immediately gave heed to a treacherous word, and were overcome by a beautiful sight, although they were not yet subject to the passions but dispassionate, wandering about in a place free from passions (i.e., in paradise). So do you think that we, who have been born and brought up in the world, can avoid being harmed, or suffering wounds and a change for the worse in our inner selves, when we are faced with the passions in their various guises, and with hearing and joining in prolonged and unseemly conversations? That would be absolutely impossible.

“For these reasons the Fathers imitated the Forerunner of grace (John the Baptist, who lived in the wilderness), bade farewell to the world, and fled the company of those devoted to it. Some inhabited the desert and attracted to it many of those born later. Others led ascetic lives within sacred enclosures and organized spiritual communities, and we associate ourselves with various ones of these in emulation of the Fathers, and live in these hallowed folds. We should not, however, merely dwell in them, but also live as the Fathers lived. Even these other paradises of God on earth are not without the tree of knowledge of good and evil, or the wicked guide. Instructed by the examples from former times, however, we can pay heed to the sole wise and good Counselor, and follow in the steps of these who were, and are now, obedient to Him, imitating their conversation, to use the apostle’s expression (cf. Heb. 13:7), as we have seen the outcome of their lives. There are also wild animals and cattle in the desert and in these hallowed sanctuaries (even in the Church), and we must greatly fear lest any of us should fail to imitate John’s way of life, as far as is possible, and be reckoned among the senseless beasts and become like them (cf. Ps. 48:13, 21).” (St. Gregory Palamas, *Homily on the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist*)