

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	David	Mason	Carol
Lana	Leontina	Sherie	Moa-Anna	

Moriah and n.b. daughter Cassia and n.b. daughter
Expecting mothers and children: Arlie, Alexys, Tharika, Emma, Caitlin, Belle, and Maria

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Deanna ND

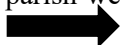
September Birthdays:

Will Bortins (9/3)	Jessie Insley (9/7)	Bryan P. Ewers (9/17)
Laurie Kohanik (9/20)	Emma Bortins (9/21)	Warren Caterson (9/23)
Larissa Ciampa (9/26)	George Cordero (9/27)	

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

Fr. Jonathan will be out-of-town this week, so our usual weekday services will not be served.

27 Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
28 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
	11:15 AM	Sunday School

Sunday, September 21, 2025 Tone 6
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross
Leavetaking of the Exaltation of the Cross

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 6 (Resurrection)
O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)
V. O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

Prokeimenon Tone 7 (Feast)
Extol the Lord our God: / worship at His footstool for He is holy! (Ps. 98:5)
Galatians 2:16-20 (Epistle, Sunday After the Exaltation)

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (Epistle)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel, Sunday After the Exaltation)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes In the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."



Matthew 22:35-46 (Gospel)

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

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The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, September 14, is commemorated not only on the day of the Feast, but also on the Sundays before and after the Feast as we have with the first Epistle and Gospel readings today. This practice reinforces the deep significance of the Cross and its power in our lives. The Cross marks our lives as Christians. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).

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. 
- Anyone interested in *becoming a Reader*, please see either Fr. Jonathan or Subdeacon James.
- Any male over the age of 8 who would like to *become an Altar server*, please see either Fr. Jonathan or Subdeacon James.
- **MYRRHBEARERS NEWS:** 1) Sarah Hogan will be hosting a "DiaperParty" for Arlie Button on **Sat., Oct. 4, at 10 AM**. Please RSVP to Sarah at 941-527-5737; her address is 3391 Hilltop Cir., Bradenton 34211 (Star Farms). 2) There will be a "Craft Fair / Bake Sale" meeting on **Sunday, Oct. 5**, right after prayers. If you are interested in including your craft, baked good, or just being a helper please talk to Arlie Button or come to the meeting.
- The **Intro to Orthodoxy Class** WILL NOT meet next Saturday, September 27, but resume the following Saturday, October 4, at the usual time of 3:00 PM.



Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:

Troparion Tone 6 (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, //
glory to Thee.

Troparion Tone 1 (Feast)

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross, //
preserve Thy habitation!

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

Kontakion Tone 6 (Resurrection)

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race. //
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion Tone 4 (Feast)

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,
grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God;
make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power,
granting them victories over their adversaries //
by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!