

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	Heather	Moa-Anna
Nicholas	George	David	Carol	Frances

Maria and her n.b. daughter
Expecting mothers and unborn children: Arlie, Alexys, Tharika, Emma, Belle, and Elizabeth

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

November Birthdays:

Sbdn James Abraham (11/06)	Moriah Hastings (11/14)	William Brown (11/16)
Arlie Button (11/19)	Beckett Button (11/21)	Helen Moroz (11/24)
Connie Insley (11/25)	Deborah Graban (11/26)	Abram Button (11/28)

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

18 Tuesday	6:00 PM	Parish Council Meeting
19 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers/Scripture Readings
20 Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
	6:00 PM	Vespers/Litya
21 Friday	8:15 AM	Matins (Entry of the Theotokos Into the Temple)
	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
22 Saturday	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
23 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
	11:30 AM	Craft and Bake Sale

Sunday, November 16, 2025 Tone 6
23rd Sunday after Pentecost, 8th Sunday of Luke
Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

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. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

Prokeimenon Tone 8 (St. Matthew)
Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends of the universe. (Ps. 18:4)

Ephesians 2:4-10 (Epistle)

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (Epistle, Apostle)

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Luke 10:25-37 (Gospel)

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who

is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Matthew 9:9-13 (Gospel, Apostle)

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

+ + +

Yesterday, Nov. 15, we began the Nativity Fast, the forty day-long fasting season preceding the Feast of our Lord's Birth (Nativity; Christmas) on December 25. During these forty days, Orthodox Christians are enjoined to abstain from meats and meat products; eggs, cheese, milk, and dairy products; alcoholic drinks; and olive oil – according to one's ability. Pregnant mothers, infants and young children, and persons with medical conditions requiring certain foods are exempt from the stricter fasting guidelines. *But we are all enjoined to fast to some degree, that is, to exercise self-control when eating and drinking, not only regarding the kinds of foods, but also controlling the amount of food we consume.* Thus we learn to regulate our desires and attachments, putting off the things just of this world and putting on the gifts of the kingdom of God: prayer, reading of Scripture and the Fathers, love of our neighbor in works of mercy, Confession, humility, simplicity, etc.

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 (October-December): Solve Maternity Home (in Bradenton)**, providing a safe and complete place for at-risk mothers before and after the birth of their child. 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. 
- The Myrrhbearers of St. Mark are doing a **T-shirt fundraiser** for debt reduction. The shirts are light blue and a dry wicking fabric. Available in Children sizes small, medium, and large for \$20. Adult shirts \$25.00. See Angie Orras (724-977-2981) with your order and payment.
- **2025 Church Calendars** are available in the Narthex; please take one per household.
- **CRAFT AND BAKE SALE** – next Sunday, November 23, following Liturgy here at Saint Mark's. Various items will be on display for purchase made by our very own crafters and bakers. Proceeds will go toward the debt reduction project in the parish.
- **Parish Council** will meet this coming Tuesday evening, November 18, at 6:00 PM here at Church.
- **The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple** will be celebrated this coming week with Great Vespers & Litia on Thursday evening, Nov. 20, at 6:00 PM; Matins and Divine Liturgy for the feast will be Friday morning, Nov. 21, at 8:15 AM and 9:30 AM respectively. The three year-old Virgin Mary entered the Jerusalem Temple to live in preparation of her becoming the Mother of God, thus becoming the icon of what it means to be a Christian.

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 3 (St. Matthew)

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew,
entreat the merciful God//
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

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.

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

Kontakion Tone 4 (St. Matthew)

Casting aside the bonds of the customs house for the yoke of justice,
thou wast revealed as an excellent merchant, rich in wisdom from on high.
Thou didst proclaim the word of truth
rousing the souls of the slothful//
by writing of the hour of Judgment.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Theotokion Tone 6

Steadfast Protectress of Christians
Constant Advocate before the Creator
Despise not 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!

FEED THE HUNGRY

The **Myrrhbearers** of Saint Mark Orthodox Church
have adopted **The Food Bank of Manatee**
as our **Advent Project** for this year

*Collections for this project will begin on Sunday
November 16,
ending on Sunday, December 14, 2025.*

You may continue donating past this date;
however, for the donations to be distributed to families
before Christmas we need to deliver to Food Bank
by December 15.

The Food Bank of Manatee feeds many hungry
babies, children, families and seniors in need. If you
would like to make donations to this most worthy
cause suggestions follow (see other side).

There will be containers in the Narthex of the Church
to place your donations. If you have questions please
ask George or Deb Graban, or Marsha Blazso.

Donation Suggestions:

Canned Vegetables	Boxed Rice	Oatmeal
Canned Fruits	Boxed Pasta	Powdered Milk
Canned Meats	Canned Soup	Applesauce
Mac N' Cheese	Baby Cereal	Baby Formula
Peanut Butter	100% Fruit Juices	Dried Beans
Healthy Cereals	Jelly	Breakfast Bars
Paper Products	Coffee	Tea
Personal Hygiene Products	Diapers	

- Gift Cards to Grocery Stores
- Cash
- Checks made to: The Food Bank of Manatee

“For I was hungry and you gave Me food I was thirsty
and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took
Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and
you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”

(Matthew 25:35-36)