

### 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
Sbdn. James	Irene	Laurie	Barbara	Tanya
Nina	Nicole & Noelle	Eli	Joshua	Nick
Carol	Charles	Gregory	Ricardo	Nancy
Karen	Peter	Kay	Lydia	Mary
Mike	Patrick	Maksim	Richard	Kathy
Dolores	John	Jerry	Charlotte	Alexandra
Zina	Faith	Heather	Nicholas	George
David	Cheryl	Frances	Elena	

Maria and her n.b. daughter

Expecting mothers and unborn children: Arlie, Alexys, Tharika, Emma, Elizabeth, Moriah, Kayleigh, Savannah, and Augusta

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

#### December Birthdays:

Sam Montes (12/01)	Dan Telychks (12/02)	Barb McKenzie (12/03)
Barb McCollum (12/10)	William Chapman (12/11)	Joshua Higgins (12/14)
Ivan Ciampa (12/15)	Michael DeNardo (12/15)	Michael Kulisz (12/15)
Melanie Mirnyi (12/16)	Bob Matzkevich (12/17)	Kim/Karen Moroz (12/17)
Iuliana Vikulin (12/20)	Bryan Ewers, Jr. (12/22)	Daniel Cholcher (12/24)
Michael Pisansky (12/24)	Ambrose Stransky (12/27)	Nicholas Hinkle (12/27)

**Memorial Bricks for the St. Mark Memorial Garden** can be ordered at [www.thatismybrick.com/stmarkorthodox](http://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 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

This week Fr. Jonathan will be out-of-town, returning next Sunday; therefore, no weekday services will take place this week.

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

**Sunday, December 28, 2025 Tone 4**

**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

**Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph, the Betrothed, David the King, James the Brother of Our Lord**

**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.

*Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:*

**Troparion**      **Tone 4**      *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen,//  
granting the world great mercy!”

**Troparion**      **Tone 4**      *(Feast)*

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God,  
has shone to the world the light of wisdom!  
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,  
were taught by a star to adore Thee,  
the Sun of Righteousness,  
and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

**Troparion**      **Tone 2**      *(Righteous Ones)*

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph,  
to David, the ancestor of God;  
thou hast seen a Virgin great with child;  
and thou didst give glory with the shepherds;  
thou didst worship with the Magi,  
and didst receive the news from the Angel.//  
Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

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

**Kontakion**      **Tone 3**      *(Righteous Ones)*

Today godly David is filled with joy;  
Joseph and James offer praise.  
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.  
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth,//  
and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

**Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen**

**Kontakion**      **Tone 3**      *(Feast)*

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,  
and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!  
Angels with shepherds glorify Him!  
The Wise Men journey with the star,//  
since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

**Prokeimenon**      **Tone 4**      *(Resurrection)*

*O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.  
(Ps. 103:26)*

*V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great! (Ps. 103:1)*

**Prokeimenon**      **Tone 4**      *(Righteous Ones)*

*God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (Ps. 67:35a)*



*Galatians 1:11-19 (Epistle, Sunday After Christmas)*

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.

*Matthew 2:13-23 (Gospel, Sunday After)*

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: “A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

## 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 (Oct.-Dec.): Solve Maternity House (in Bradenton)**, providing necessary services for at-risk mothers before, during, and after giving birth. 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. 
- **This coming week** no services will be served at Saint Mark's as Fr. Jonathan will be out-of-town, returning next Sunday, January 4.
- **FEAST OF THEOPHANY**: January 6 is the Feast of Theophany, that is, God the Holy Trinity's appearance at the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River. Tuesday, January 6, in addition to the other services for the Feast, we will gather at 4:00 PM at Jiggs Landing (SE Bradenton) to bless the Braden River, followed by a picnic there in the pavilion. We await with anticipation the celebration of this great Feast.
- **House Blessings** will commence on Wednesday, January 7, immediately following the Feast of Theophany and blessing the water. A sign-up sheet for blessings will be out in the Narthex of the Church. Please sign up to have your home blessed.
- **Pledge Letters and Cards** are in the Narthex on the shelf at the back in marked envelopes per family or household. If your name is not on an envelope, please take a blank envelope containing a Pledge Letter and Cards. Pledge Cards need to be returned to Church by Sunday, January 4.