

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	Heather	Nicholas	George	Frances
David	Elena	Michael	Elizabeth	

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

"He who defines all things and is limited by none is contained in a small, makeshift manger. He who holds the universe and grasps it in the hollow of His hand, is wrapped in narrow swaddling bands and fastened to ordinary clothes. He who possesses the riches of inexhaustible treasures submits Himself voluntarily to such great poverty that He does not even have a place at the inn; and so He enters into a cave at the time of His birth, who was brought forth by God timelessly and impassibly and without beginning. And – how great the wonder! – not only does He who shares the nature of the Father on high put on our fallen human nature through His birth, nor is He subject merely to the utter poverty of being born in a wretched cave, but right from the start, while still in the womb, He accepts the final condemnation of our nature. He who is by nature Lord of all is now ranked with the servants and enrolled with them (Luke 2:1-6), clearly making humble service to others no less honorable than the exercise of lordship, or rather, showing the servants as having greater honor than the earthly ruler at that time, provided of course they understood and obeyed the magnificence of grace. For the man who then seemed to rule the world (i.e., Caesar Augustus) was not counted with the King of Heaven, though all his subjects were, nor was this earthly ruler reckoned then as one of them, but the heavenly Lord was." (St. Gregory Palamas, *Homily On the Saving Nativity of Christ*)

St. Mark Orthodox Church

1517 57th Street E
Bradenton, FL 34208

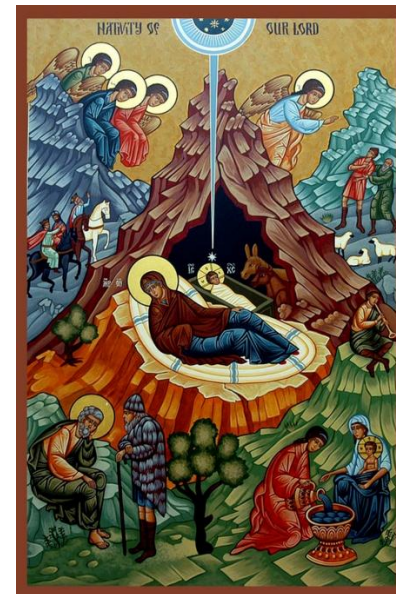
"The Messenger"

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



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Flesh
Christmas Day (December 25)
CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

The First Antiphon (Ps. 110)

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; / I will make all
Thy wonders known.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, / great are the works of
the Lord. *(Refrain)*

They are sought out / according to His will. *(Refrain)*

Full of honor and majesty is His work, / and His righteousness endures
forever. *(Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, / now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Refrain)*

The Second Antiphon (Ps. 111)

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, / who greatly delights in His
commandments.

*Refrain: O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee:
Alleluia!*

His descendants will be mighty in the land, / the generation of the upright
will be blessed. *(Refrain)*

Glory and wealth are in His house / and His righteousness endures forever.
(Refrain)

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; / the Lord is merciful,
compassionate, and righteous. *(Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, / now and ever,
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Then:

“Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God... “

The Third Antiphon (Ps. 109)

Reader: The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand.”

Troparion (Tone 4)

**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!**

Reader: “Until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool!”

Troparion of the Feast

Reader: The Lord will send Thee the scepter of power from Zion: “Rule in
the midst of Thine enemies!”

Troparion of the Feast

Reader: With Thee is dominion on the day of Thy power, in the radiance of
holiness.

Troparion of the Feast

Entrance Verse:

Priest: Out of the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The
Lord has sworn, and will not change His mind: “Thou art a priest
forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

Then, all sing:

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were taught by a star to adore Thee,
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and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.//
O Lord, glory to Thee!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion (Tone 3)

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.

Instead of the Trisagion (“*Holy God...*”):

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Prokeimenon Tone 8

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; / let it praise Thy Name, O Most High! (*Ps. 65:3*)

V. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise! (Ps. 65:1)

Galatians 4:4-7 (Epistle)

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (*Tone 1*)

V. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (*Ps. 18:1*)

V. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. (*Ps. 18:2*)

Matthew 2:1-12 (Gospel)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him,

“In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’” Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Theotokion (*instead of “It is Truly Meet”*):

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery:
heaven—the cave;
the cherubic throne—the Virgin;
the manger—the place where Christ lay;
the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

Communion Hymn:

The Lord has sent redemption to His people. (*Ps. 110:8a*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Immediately following the Divine Liturgy as we venerate the Cross, we pray the Post-Communion Prayers. Please maintain quiet until the prayers are completed.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now
and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

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