

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. 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	Cheryl	George	David
Carolyn	Anna	Elena	Trudy	Sheryl

Maria and her nb daughter, Tharika and her nb daughter, Arlie and her nb son
Expecting mothers and unborn children: Alexys, Elizabeth, Belle, Moriah, Kayleigh,
Savannah, and Augusta

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Archpr. Stephen (Plumlee; ND) John (Stransky; ND)

February Birthdays:

Michael Kinsella (10)	Lois Evancho (12)	Travis Lantz (12)
Daniel Button (17)	Wanda Fussell (19)	Joseph Ciampa (20)
Bill Kosar (23)	Alexys Coliane (24)	Logan Kulikowski (25)
Belle DeNardo (29)		

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

Sub-Deacon James Abraham
Sub-Deacon Joseph McKenzie

Parish Phone: (941)-749-7662

Parish Website: Bradentonorthodox.org

www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch

Parish E-mail: stmarkocrector@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

01 Sunday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers w/Litia (Meeting of the Lord in the Temple)
02 Monday	8:15 AM	Matins
	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy w/blessing of Candles
07 Saturday	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
08 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
	11:30 AM	Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 1, 2026 Tone 1
First Sunday of the Lenten Triodion:
Publican and Pharisee;
Pre-feast of the Meeting of the 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:

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!//
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

Tone 1 Troparion (Forefeast)

The celestial choir of heavenly Angels
bends down to the earth
and sees the First-born of all creation being carried into the Temple as
a Babe
by a Mother who has not known man,
and in amazement they sing along with us!//
a hymn of the Forefeast.

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

Tone 4 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!
Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!
Let us cry to our Savior:
“Have mercy on us!//
O only merciful One!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion (Forefeast)

The Word unseen with the Father,
now is seen in the flesh, ineffably born of the Virgin,
and is given into the arms of the priest and Elder!//
Let us worship Him, our True God.

Prokeimenon

Tone 1

(Resurrection)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on
Thee! (Ps. 32:22)

V. *Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!* (Ps.
32:1)

2 Timothy 3:10-15 (Epistle)

[My son,] But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of
life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions,
afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra
– what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord
delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus
will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse
and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in
the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing
from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you
have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise
for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Luke 18:10-14 (Gospel)

[The Lord spoke this parable:] “Two men went up to the temple to
pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee
stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am
not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this
tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’
And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise
his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to
me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified
rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be
humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”



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

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 2026. Speak with Cathy Johns for more information.
- **Quarterly Charity (January-March): Orthodox Christians for Life (OCL)**, a national Orthodox organization committed to the sacredness of life from conception to grave. 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.
- **SAINT MARK ANNUAL MEETING** – next Sunday, February 8, following Divine Liturgy. We will gather to consider the year in review, and our parish plans going into the future. Three positions on the Parish Council are up for election, as well as adopting the 2026 budget. All are welcome to attend and participate; qualified members may vote.
- **Intro to Orthodoxy** class meets at 3:00 PM each Saturday before Great Vespers. This is a class for instruction in the doctrines and practices of the Orthodox Church, ideal for inquirers and catechumens in the Orthodox Faith, also for anyone seeking to deepen their knowledge of God and the Christian Church.
- **MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE** – this Feast is tomorrow, Monday, February 2, 40 days after the birth of Christ (Christmas). Great Vespers w/Litia for the Feast will be served at 5:00 PM this evening, Feb. 1; Matins and Divine Liturgy w/blessing of candles will be served tomorrow, Feb. 2, at 8:15 and 9:30 AM respectively.
- This coming week (Feb. 3rd-6th), Fr. Jonathan will be traveling to Kernersville, NC (close to Winston-Salem) for the annual Pastoral Conference of the Diocese of the South.
- **House Blessings** – if you still desire a House Blessing, please contact Fr. Jonathan to arrange for that once he returns from his travels, sometime after February 7.



THE 2026 LENTEN SEASON

Today we begin the Lenten season in the Orthodox Church, 10 weeks before Pascha, the Feast of our Lord's Resurrection from the dead. This year Pascha is on Sunday, April 12, the first Sunday after the first full moon (Jewish Passover) after the first day of Spring (April 2, on the Julian [Old] Calendar). The Old English word *Lent* means "springtime."

Following is the schedule of the Orthodox Lenten season:

1. Pre-Lent (3 weeks)

- Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (*fast-free* week)
- Sunday of the Prodigal Son
- Sunday of the Last Judgment (*meatfare* – farewell to meat)
- Forgiveness Sunday/Expulsion of Adam from Paradise (*cheesefare* – farewell to cheese & dairy)

2. Great Lent (40 days)

- 1st week (begins on Monday, Feb. 23)
- Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete/Presanctified Liturgy
- 1st Sunday: Orthodoxy/Restoration of Icons (2nd week)
- Memorial Saturday
- 2nd Sunday: St. Gregory Palamas (3rd week)
- Memorial Saturday
- 3rd Sunday: Veneration of the Cross (4th week)
- Memorial Saturday
- 4th Sunday: St. John of the Ladder (5th week)
- Thursday of the Great Canon/Life of St. Mary of Egypt
- Saturday of the Akathist (to the Theotokos)
- 5th Sunday: St. Mary of Egypt
- Last day of Lent (Friday, April 3)

3. Holy Week (April 4-11)

- Raising of Lazarus (Lazarus Saturday)
- Entrance into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
- Teaching in the Temple (Monday-Wednesday)
- Institution of Lord's Supper/Arrest in Gethsemane (Thurs.)
- Crucifixion and Burial (Friday)
- Sabbath in the Tomb/Descent into Hades (Saturday)

4. HOLY PASCHA (Feast of feasts; April 12)

- Midnight Office/Matins/Divine Liturgy (blessing of baskets)
- Paschal Vespers (and egg hunt)