

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	Mikey
Patrick	Maksim	Richard	Kathy	Dolores
John	Charlotte	Alexandra	Zina	Michael
Faith	Heather	Nicholas	George	David
Trudy	Elena	Anna	Christopher	

Maria and her nb daughter

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

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Archpr. Stephen (Plumlee; ND) John (Stransky; ND) Jerry (Gerald Altmiller; ND)

February Birthdays:

Raquel Higgins (02/04)	Michael Kinsella (02/10)	Lois Evancho (02/12)
Travis Lantz (02/12)	Daniel Button (02/17)	Wanda Fussell (02/19)
Joe Ciampa (02/20)	Bill Kosar (02/23)	Alexys Coliane (02/24)
Logan Kulikowski (02/25)	Belle DeNardo (02/29)	

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

15 Sunday	11:30 AM	Church Picnic
17 Tuesday	6:30 PM	Men's Group
18 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers/Scripture Reading
19 Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
21 Saturday	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
22 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
	11:30 AM	Annual Meeting (re-scheduled)
	5:00 PM	Forgiveness Vespers (Lent begins)

Sunday, February 15, 2026 Tone 3

Meatfare Sunday

Sunday of the Last Judgement

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 3 (Resurrection)**

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

Troparion **Tone 4 (St. Mark)**

From your childhood the light of truth enlightened you, O Mark
And you loved the labor of Christ the Savior
Therefore you followed Peter with zeal
And served Paul well as a fellow laborer//
And you enlighten the world with your Holy Gospel.

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

Kontakion **Tone 2 (St. Mark)**

You did receive the grace of the Spirit from on high
Destroying the snares of the orators
You did hunt all the nations O Apostle
And led them to your Master//
O glorious Mark the preacher of the Gospel of God.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion **Tone 1 (Lenten Triodion)**

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble,
and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat;
the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,//
and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Instead of "Holy God...," we sing:

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

Prokeimenon **Tone 3 (Lenten Triodion)**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, / His understanding is beyond measure. (Ps. 146:5)

V. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! (Ps. 146:1)

Prokeimenon **Tone 3 (Baptism)**

The Lord is my Light and my Savior: Whom shall I fear? (Ps. 27:1)

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Epistle, Last Judgment)

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak

conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble. I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Romans 6:3-11 (Epistle, Baptism)

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 25:31-46 (Gospel, Last Judgment)

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 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.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Matthew 28:16-20 (Gospel, Baptism)

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."



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

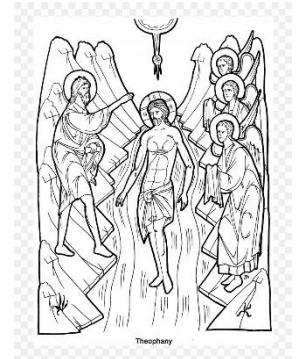
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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 2025. Speak with Cathy Johns for more information.
- Quarterly Charity (January - March): Orthodox Christians for Life, a national organization promoting 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. 
- A **baby shower for Belle DeNardo** is planned from 10 AM to 12:30 PM next Saturday, February 21, at the home of Natalie Aluzzo (15335 Searobin Dr., Lakewood Ranch 34202). Please RSVP to Natalie at 908-477-5711. Belle is registered at MyRegistry.com/giftlist/babydenardo.
- **MEN'S GROUP** will meet this coming Tuesday, February 17, at 6:30 PM. Men, if you're so inclined, bring a dish to share (no meat, please, as it is meatfare). All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Due to lack of a quorum of Voting Members, the **Saint Mark Annual Meeting** is re-scheduled to take place Sunday, February 22, following Divine Liturgy. Take time to review the reports (on a table in the Narthex) and plan to participate in the Meeting on the 22nd. We will adopt a budget for the coming year, elect three new

persons to Parish Council, and consider strategic plans for growth in the Parish.

- **Saint Mark Book Club** will begin the first week in March with *The 21* (see the sign-up on the shelf in the Narthex).

Today we welcome three children into the Body of Christ through Holy Baptism and Chrismation: Layla Ureña Reed (Paul and Elizabeth), Lydia Lanell Brooks (Jordan and Tharika), and Zadok George Button (Daniel and Arlie). Their Godparents/Sponsors are: Ulicer and Kayleigh Mora, John and Cathy Johns, and Carol Skinner and Jaron Schultz, respectively. God grant the newly baptized children God and their Godparents and parents many years!



The Lenten Season and Fasting

This second Sunday before Lent is known as *meatfare*, that is, *farewell to meat* (Lat., *carnival*). Thus after this day we are enjoined to abstain, according to our ability, from animal flesh (all meats, meat products, poultry, and fish) until the Feast of Pascha (April 12).

Next Sunday, the day before Lent, is known as *cheesefare*, that is, *farewell to cheese*. After next Sunday we are enjoined to abstain, according to our ability, from cheese, milk, eggs, and other dairy products until Pascha.

St. John Cassian writes: “The totality of abstinence (i.e., self-control), then, consists not only in the setting of times and the quality of food but, more than anything else, in the judgment of one’s conscience. For each person must calculate for himself the degree of restraint that his bodily struggle and combat require...Better is a reasonable and modest daily repast than harsh and lengthy fasts every now and again. Immoderate fasting is capable not only of destroying the steadfastness of the mind but also, due to bodily weariness, of emasculating the efficacy of prayer. Mere abstinence from food is not enough to maintain the integrity of mind and body unless other virtues are also present in the soul” (*The Institutes*, V.9, 10).

The our fasting from various foods and drinks, let us abstain from other objects of self-indulgence: social media, gossip, carnal entertainments, and possessiveness. Instead, let us promote prayer, works of mercy, quiet work, and contemplation of God.