

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. Dimitrie | Archpr. Elias | Mat. Marion | Sbdn. Joseph | Sbdn. James |
| Irene | Laurie | Barbara | Tanya | Nina |
| Nicole & Noelle | Eli | Joshua | Nick | Carolyn |
| Charles | Gregory | Ricardo | Nancy | Karen |
| Peter | Kay | Lydia | Mary | Mikey |
| Patrick | Maksim | Richard | Kathy | Dolores |
| John | Jerry | Charlotte | Alexandra | Zina |
| Faith | Heather | Melissa | George | David |
| Susan | Michael | Elena | Stephanie | Trudy |

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

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Archpr. Stephen (Plumlee; ND) John (Stransky; ND) Jerry (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 (Clyde) McKenzie

Parish Phone: (941)-749-7662
Parish Website: Bradentonorthodox.org
www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch
Parish E-mail: stmarkorector@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

| | | |
|--------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 22 Sunday | 5:00 PM | Forgiveness Vespers (Lent begins) |
| 23 Monday | 6:00 PM | Compline & Great Canon Part 1 |
| 24 Tuesday | 6:00 PM | Compline & Great Canon Part 2 |
| 25 Wednesday | 9:30 AM | Presanctified Liturgy |
| | 6:00 PM | Compline & Great Canon Part 3 |
| 26 Thursday | 6:00 PM | Compline & Great Canon Part 4 |
| 27 Friday | 6:00 PM | Presanctified Liturgy |
| 28 Saturday | 9:30 AM | Divine Liturgy/blessing of koliva |
| | 3:00 PM | Intro to Orthodoxy |
| | 5:00 PM | Great Vespers |

Sunday, February 22, 2026 Tone 4
Cheesefare Sunday
Expulsion of Adam from Paradise
Forgiveness Sunday

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 (Saint 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 (Saint 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 6 (Lenten Triodion*)

O Master, Teacher of wisdom,
Bestower of virtue,
Who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the poor,
strengthen and enlighten my heart!
O Word of the Father,
let me not restrain my mouth from crying to Thee:
“Have mercy on me, a transgressor,//
O merciful Lord!”

* *Triodion* refers to the service book containing all the hymns and verses for the services during the season of Lent. The word *triodion* means “three-oded,” because many of the longer prayers called *canons* are composed of 3 parts, known as *odes*, rather than the usual 9 outside of Lent.

Prokeimenon

Tone 8 (Lenten Triodion)

*Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)
V. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)*

Romans 13:11-14:4 (Epistle)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Matthew 6:14-21 (Gospel)

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



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 (OCL)**, a national organization dedicated 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. 
- **BOOK CLUB NEWS:** our new Book Club will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month beginning in March, so the first meeting will be on March 3. The Club will meet at 6:30 PM at the Barnes & Noble Café next to the UTC mall in Sarasota. Our inaugural book is: *The 21 A Journey into the Land of Coptic Martyrs*, by Martin Mosebach. Copies are available for \$15 in the Narthex of the Church.
- **Forgiveness Vespers** – this evening at 5:00 PM, to begin the 40 days of Great Lent. The service of Vespers will conclude with the Rite of Mutual Forgiveness in which all present ask and receive forgiveness from each other. God grant us a profitable and peaceful season of repentance, faith, and love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord!
- **A Daily Prayer Rule for Lent w/readings** is included in the bulletin for your use and edification. Every Lent we read through the books of Genesis (salvation history), Isaiah (prophecy of the coming Christ), and Proverbs (wisdom).
- **Baby Sprinkle for Emma Bortins** – on Saturday, March 21, at 11:30 AM at the home of Arlie Button, 16919 Trite Bend St., Wimauma 33598; please RSVP to Arlie at 231-286-8564.
- **TODAY** following Liturgy we will convene our **Annual Meeting**, rescheduled from Feb. 8 due to a lack of a quorum. Please stay to consider the vital work of the Church last year and into the coming one.

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers

March 1 at 5:00 PM



Including a procession with Icons and Declaration of the Faith (Synodikon)
+ a Lenten supper will follow +
"This the Faith of the Orthodox."

THIS FIRST WEEK OF LENT:

1. **The Rite of Mutual Forgiveness** (at Vespers) – our forgiveness from God is necessarily connected to our forgiveness of one another.
2. **The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete** – this profound meditation on repentance and faith is prayed in four parts during the service of Compline the first 4 days of Lent.
3. **Presanctified Liturgy** – the Body and Blood of Christ sanctified at the previous Sunday's Liturgy are kept on the Altar and received on the weekdays of Lent as daily Bread (manna) for our journey through the wilderness of life.
4. **Blessing of Koliva** (on Saturday) – boiled wheat is eaten in remembrance of abstaining from other foods tainted with dedication to the false gods of this world.
5. **Divine Liturgy of St. Basil** (Sundays in Lent) – these prayers expound fully God's plan of salvation.