

Concerning Holy Communion:

- 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.
- 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	Mike
Patrick	Maksim	Richard	Kathy	Dolores
John	Trudy	Stephanie	Christopher	Michael
Faith	Heather	Nicholas	George	David
Susan	Elena	Melissa	Ernie	

Alexys and nb daughter

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

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

John (Stransky) Jerry (Gerald Altmiller)

March Birthdays:

Zacharias Pieri (03/01)	Paul Reed (03/01)	Petronia Mirnyi (03/01)
Michael Blazso (03/06)	David Stone (03/07)	Layla Reed (03/08)
Willard Brown (03/09)	Andrei Vikulin (03/23)	Carol Skinner (03/28)
Michael Fussell (3/28)	Susanne Brown (3/29)	Jordan Brooks (03/31)

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: 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

1 Sunday	5:00 PM	Vespers/Procession w/Icons (Lenten supper to follow)
3 Tuesday	6:30 PM	Book Club (at Barnes & Noble Café, UTC [Sarasota])
4 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy (w/potluck supper & Townhall Forum)
6 Friday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy
7 Saturday	9:30 AM	Memorial Liturgy
	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers

**Sunday, March 1, 2026 Tone 5
Sunday of Orthodoxy/Restoration of Icons
First Sunday of Great Lent**

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 5 (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion Tone 2 (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.
Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy.
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:
“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,//
by coming to save the world.”

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

Kontakion Tone 8 (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be
described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine
beauty.//
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Prokeimenon Tone 4 (Song of the Fathers)

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is
Thy Name forever! (Song of the three Holy Children, v. 3)
V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)*

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Epistle)

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel

and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 1:43-51 (Gospel)

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”



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 (Jan.-March): Orthodox Christians for Life (OCL)**, a national organization promoting the sacredness of life from conception to the 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. 
- **Baby Sprinkle for Emma Bortins** – on Saturday, March 21, beginning at 11:30 AM, at the home of Arlie Button, 16919 Trite Bend St., Wimauma 33598; please RSVP to Arlie at 231-286-8564.
- **BOOK CLUB** meets this Tuesday, March 3, at 6:30 PM at the Barnes & Noble Café in University Town Center (UTC) by the Mall in Sarasota. Copies of our first book, *The 21*, by Martin Mosebach, are available for \$15 in the Narthex of the Church. The Book Club will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.
- **Annual Meeting News:** last week at our annual parish meeting, we adopted a budget for this year of 2026, importantly including a \$5,000 line item for Choir directing and supplies. Three persons were elected to the Parish Council: Joshua Aluzzo, Warren Caterson, and Zacharias Pieri. Sbdn. James Abraham was elected to be our Lay Delegate for the upcoming Diocesan Assembly in July at St. Augustine, FL. The new iconography for our Church will be installed the last week in March. We thank all who serve and have served in our parish, on the Council and the several volunteers who maintain our property, and all who contribute to the growth of Saint Mark Church! 
- **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS** – this evening at 5:00 PM at Saint Mark's, including a procession with the holy Icons (please bring yours from home); a Lenten supper will follow the service. This year we host our brothers and sisters from Holy Spirit Orthodox Church in Venice.

Saint Mark Townhall Forums: Planning for Growth



**Wed., March 4 (& potluck, after the
Presanctified Liturgy)**
Sun., March 8 (after Divine Liturgy)

- We will discuss the various Building Options presented to the Parish at the Annual Meeting.
- We will also discuss the trend in Growing Numbers of People especially as this relates to Stewardship, Giving, and Opportunity for Ministry in the Parish.
- **Come learn and participate in your Church!**

TODAY at the end of Divine Liturgy, we declare the Synodikon of Orthodoxy, a statement of the Orthodox Faith first made on the first Sunday of Lent (March 11) in the year 843 celebrating the final triumph over the heresy of Iconoclasm. Iconoclasm was a century-long movement to destroy and rid the Church of all icons. Thus we commemorate the holy Fathers who overcame this heresy confessing the unchanging Orthodox Faith in word and images (icons). As we witness with various non-Orthodox today who mock the Icons claiming them to be idolatrous, the heresy of Iconoclasm is still one of many ancient heresies believed and practiced outside of the Orthodox Church.

The DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL is served on the Sundays of Lent. The prayers of St. Basil's Liturgy are somewhat longer than those in the usual Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, fully expressing God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. The Liturgy of St. Basil (called *the Great*; d. 379) was the usual Sunday Orthodox Liturgy throughout the year until about the 11th century, at which time the somewhat shorter Liturgy of St. John became normal practice. Other than the 5 Sundays of Lent, the Liturgy of St. Basil is served 5 other times during the year: on the eves of Christmas and Theophany, on January 1, and on Holy Thursday and Saturday evenings.