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	Sbdcn. 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	Stephanie	Michael	Elena
Faith	Heather	Nicholas	George	David
Trudy	Susan	Ernie		

Alexys and her new born 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) Larry (McAdams)

March Birthdays:

Zacharias Pieri (03/01)	Paul Reed (03/01)	Petronia Mimyl (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

08 Sunday	11:30 AM	Townhall Forum (on building)
10 Tuesday	6:30 PM	Men's Group (at Church)
11 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy
13 Friday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy
14 Saturday	9:30 AM	Memorial Liturgy
	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Vigil of the Cross
15 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Ven. Of Cross)

Sunday, March 8, 2026 Tone 6
St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica

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.

Prokeimenon Tone 5
Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever. (Ps. 11:7)
V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps. 11:1a)
Prokeimenon Tone 1 *(St. Gregory Palamas)*
My mouth shall speak wisdom; / the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. (Ps. 48:3)

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 (Epistle)

And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Hebrews 7:26-8:2 (Epistle, Saint)

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Mark 2:1-12 (Gospel)

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

John 10:9-16 (Gospel, Saint)

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

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

THIS MORNING following Divine Liturgy we will conduct the second Townhall Forum concerning plans for growth in our Parish. We will consider attendance, stewardship and giving, and various building options to best accommodate the persons coming to our Church for worship and spiritual nourishment. Please stay to hear and give your feedback concerning ongoing developments for life together at Saint Mark Church.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:

Troparion Tone 6 *(Resurrection)*
The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//
glory to Thee.

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.

Troparion Tone 8 *(St. Gregory Palamas)*
O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation,
O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians,
O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace,//
always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

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.

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

Kontakion Tone 8 *(St. Gregory Palamas)*
Holy and divine instrument of wisdom,
joyful trumpet of theology,
together we sing thy praises, O God-inspired Gregory.
Since thou now standest before the Original Mind, guide our minds to Him,
O Father,// so that we may sing to thee: "Rejoice, preacher of grace!"

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

(over)

Kontakion Tone 4 *(Lenten Triodion)*
Now is the time for action!
Judgment is at the doors!
So let us rise and fast,
offering alms with tears of compunction and crying:
"Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea;
but forgive us, O Master of all,//
so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!"

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 grave.. Please give by check or marked envelope.
- **Debt Reduction Thermometer** – on the back wall of the Narthex, tracking our progress in eliminating our building mortgage debt.
  Brokerage Account at Fidelity –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.
- **Saint Mark's MEN'S GROUP** meets this Tuesday at 6:30 PM at Church. All men are invited and welcome for food, fellowship, and discussion. Men, bring a Lenten dish to share if you're able.
- A new **BOOK CLUB** began meeting this past Tuesday at the Barnes & Noble Café by the Mall at UTC in Sarasota. The Book Club will meet at the same location at 6:30 PM every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome to participate.
- This morning in Divine Liturgy we welcome the ***Starsky family*** into the Church through Holy Baptism and Chrismation: ***Victor and Augusta, Inanna, and Emmanuel***. Their Sponsors are Sam and Stephany Montes. The Starksys have a residence in NYC but travel as Victor is an opera singer performing throughout the country and world. He sings with the Sarasota Opera regularly, so Saint Mark's has become their Church home. God grant the Starksys and their Sponsors many years!