

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
Laurie	Barbara	Tanya	Nina	Irene
Nicole & Noelle	Joshua	Nick	Carolyn	Charles
Gregory	Ricardo	Nancy	Karen	Peter
Kay	Lydia	Mary	Mike	Patrick
Maksim	Richard	Kathy	Dolores	John
Jerry	Charlotte	Alexandra	Zina	Faith
Heather	Nicholas	George	David	Eli
Susan	Melissa	Stephanie	Victor	Jaden

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:

Archpr. John (Ealy)	Jerry (Gerald Altmiller)	Larry (McAdams)
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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

17 Tuesday	6:30 PM	Book Club (at B & N, UTC)
18 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy
19 Thursday	6:00 PM	Parish Council
20 Friday	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy
21 Saturday	9:30 AM	Memorial Liturgy
	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
22 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, March 15, 2026 Tone 7
Veneration of the Precious Cross**

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 7 (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.

To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.

For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,

and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,

to proclaim that Thou art risen,//

granting the world great mercy.

Troparion Tone 1 (Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people,

and bless Thine inheritance!

Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians

over their adversaries;

and by virtue of Thy Cross,//

preserve Thy habitation!

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

Kontakion Tone 7 (Cross)

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;

it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross.

The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;

for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell://

“Enter again into Paradise!”

Instead of the Trisagion (“Holy God...”):

**Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master,
and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.**

(This is also sung thrice at the end of Liturgy with prostrations.)

Prokeimenon Tone 6 (Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but

was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”;

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

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 Third Sunday of Lent on which we Venerate the Holy Cross marks the mid-point of the season of Lent. The Cross of Christ is not only the destination of the Christian Faith – the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord – but it is the milepost on the Path to Salvation. Christians measure the success of our progress in the things of God by the standard of the Cross: putting to death the sinful deeds of the body, that is, dying to sin and death, and rising to newness of life in the righteousness of Christ. The Cross of Christ is also our banner of victory in the good fight of faith over the world, the devil, and all evil. “God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Gal. 6:14).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Parish website is www.bradentonorthodox.org. See also www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch.
- **COFFEE HOUR** takes place each Sunday after Divine Liturgy. Please speak with Cathy Johns for more information. Following Pascha, due to the number of people present, we are going to simplify Coffee Hour by providing Bagels, Donuts, and Coffee, and asking for donations to cover these expenses. Thank you to all who have sponsored Coffee Hour in the past.
- **Quarterly Charity (Jan.-March): Orthodox Christians for Life (OCL)**, a national Orthodox 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. 
- **Baby Sprinkle for Emma Bortins** – next 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 17, at 6:30 PM at the Barnes & Noble Café by the Mall at UTC in Sarasota. The Club is currently reading *The 21*, by Martin Mosebach, about the 21 Coptic Orthodox Martyrs who suffered for the Faith in Lybia in 2015. Copies of the book are available in the shelving unit in the Church Narthex. The Book Club will meet at the same location every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.
- **Church Cleaning Day**, Saturday, March 28, beginning about 10:30 AM following Matins that morning; in addition to cleaning the inside of the Church prior to Holy Week and Pascha, the Men will be mulching and landscaping the grounds. All who are available to help are deeply appreciated!
- **Palm Sunday Soup Luncheon** – each Palm Sunday, this year April 5, we serve a Soup Luncheon following Liturgy. Please consider providing a soup or Lenten dessert to share for the luncheon; a sign-up sheet for this will be out in the Narthex next Sunday.