

**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
Eli	Nicole & Noelle	Joshua	Nick	Carolyn
Charles	Gregory	Ricardo	Nancy	Karen
Peter	Kay	Lydia	Mary	Mikey
Patrick	Maksim	Richard	Kathy	Dolores
John	Zina	Faith	Heather	George
David	Susan	Melissa	Stephanie	Anna
Trudy	Elena			

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


**Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:**

Alexander

**April Birthdays:**

Kh. Marion Mitchell (04/01)	Dmitry Vikulin (04/01)	Elizabeth Stone (04/02)
Victor Kozar (04/02)	Savanah Shanks (04/02)	Inanna Starsky (04/03)
Ana Skubey (04/05)	Elena Vikulin (04/07)	Nate Kulikowski (04/10)
Kim Hinkle (04/10)	Cristina Stefanescu (4/12)	Sbdn. Joseph McKenzie (4/15)
Yelena Skubey (4/16)	Gregg Crowe (04/18)	George Graban (04/21)
Sarah Taylor (04/24)	Diane Cholcher (04/26)	Bartholomew McDougal
(04/28)Hadley Doyle (04/29)		

**Memorial Bricks for the St. Mark Memorial Garden** can be ordered at [www.thatsmybrick.com/stmarkorthodox](http://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 57<sup>th</sup> 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](http://Bradentonorthodox.org)  
[www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch](http://www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch)  
Parish E-mail: [stmarkocarector@gmail.com](mailto: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**

12 Sunday	11:30 AM	Paschal Vespers w/Gospel Procession
13 Monday	9:30 AM	Paschal Liturgy w/Gospel Procession
18 Saturday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
19 Sunday	11:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Antipascha/Thomas Sunday)

**Sunday, April 12 2026**

**Holy Pascha-The Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

**St. Mark** is a Parish of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), Diocese of the South, under the oversight 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:*

**Paschal Troparion**

Christ is risen from the dead  
Trampling down death by death  
And upon those in the tombs  
Bestowing life.

**Hypakoe      Tone 8**

Before the dawn, Mary and the women  
came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.  
They heard the angelic voice: Why do you seek among the dead as a Man  
the One who is everlasting light?  
Behold the clothes in the grave. Go and proclaim to the world:  
The Lord is risen! He has slain death,//  
as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man!

**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**

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,  
Thou didst destroy the power of death!  
In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God,  
Proclaiming Rejoice to the Myrrh-bearing women//  
Granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

**Prokeimenon      Tone 8**

*This is the day which the Lord has made!/Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*  
(Ps. 117:24)  
*V. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.*  
(Ps. 117:1)

**Acts 1:1-8 (Epistle)**

**The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you**

**shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**



**John 1:1-17 (Gospel)**

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

**Theotokion (Instead of “It is Truly Meet”)**

The angel cried to the Lady full of grace:  
Rejoice, rejoice, O pure Virgin!  
Again I say: Rejoice! Thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
With Himself He has raised all the dead!  
Rejoice, rejoice, O ye people!  
Shine! Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem!  
The glory of the Lord has shone on thee!  
Exult now, exult and be glad, O Zion!  
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection,//  
the Resurrection of thy Son!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Parish website is [www.bradentonorthodox.org](http://www.bradentonorthodox.org). See also [www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch](http://www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch).
- **COFFEE HOUR** is provided each Sunday after Liturgy. Please donate funds necessary for the purchase of Coffee Hour supplies; a donation box is located on the side table in the Narthex. Speak with Cathy Johns, Marsha Blazso, or Kim Hinkle to help.
- **Quarterly Charity (April-June): Panagia Vlahernon Orthodox Monastery (near Ocala)**, providing prayer and spiritual direction for all of Florida and the world. You can give by designated check or marked envelope.
- **Debt Reduction Program** – we hope to completely eliminate our mortgage debt in the next four years (see our progress on the “thermometer” in the Narthex). Consider how God is leading you to contribute to reducing our debt! 
- **Brokerage Account at Fidelity** –Contact Michael Kulisz or Bob Matzkevich, or Evan Miller (Parish Treasurer), for additional information, or with questions regarding the donation of securities. 
- **INTRO TO ORTHODOXY CLASS** will resume meeting at 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 25, following our hiatus for Holy Week and Pascha. Anyone is welcome to attend the class discussing in detail the doctrines and practices of the Orthodox Church.
- **Grave Blessings** this year will take place on Sunday, May 3, beginning at 2:00 PM at Mansion Memorial Cemetery in Ellenton/Palmetto, continuing at Manasota Cemetery (53<sup>rd</sup> Ave. E & 15<sup>th</sup> St. E, Bradenton), The Palms (Fruitville & Honore, Sarasota), and Sarasota National Cemetery (SR 72), in that order. For blessings at other locations, please contact Fr. Jonathan.
- **Special Pascha Food Blessings:**
  - 1) At the conclusion of Liturgy this morning, a loaf of Bread (Gk., *Artos*) is blessed commemorating Christ Jesus as both the Lamb of Passover (*Pascha*) and the Bread of Life. The Artos is covered with an Icon of the Resurrection.
  - 2) Following the Dismissal of the Paschal Liturgy and veneration of the Cross, Pascha Food Baskets are blessed in the Narthex. As we break the Fast with Holy Communion, the Feast continues in thanksgiving to God for all His gifts to us in the Resurrection of Christ. [Pascha Food Baskets WILL NOT be blessed after the Paschal Vespers later this morning.]

## The Meaning of the Word *Pascha*:

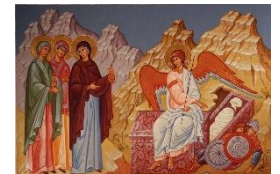
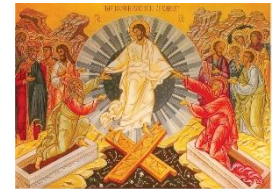
*Pascha* is the ancient Christian name for the Feast of our Lord’s Resurrection. *Pascha* literally means “Passover” because it is the Hebrew word for Passover – *Pesach* – rendered in Greek, and now English, letters. Every year in the Spring the Church celebrates *Pascha* because Christ was crucified and resurrected at the time of the Jewish feast of Passover. [*Easter* is a much later name for Pascha, never used in the history of the Orthodox Church.]

### THE PASCHAL GREETING

English:	Christ is risen!	R: Indeed He is risen!
Arabic:	El Messieh qahm!	R: Hakken qahm!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	R: Alithos anesti!
Romanian:	Hristo a inviat!	R: Adevarat a inviat!
Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	R: Voistinu voskrese!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	R: En verdad ha resucitado!

## Two Icons of the Resurrection of Christ:

1. **The Harrowing of Hades:** Christ smashes the gates of hades (the realm of the dead) raising the dead beginning with Adam and Eve. Faithful departed from the Old Covenant are on one side, and faithful departed from the New on the other.
2. **The Angel at the Empty Tomb:** the Myrrh-bearing Women come to the tomb of Christ and are greeted by the angel: He is not here; He is risen! The guards lay as dead men out of fear of the power of the resurrection.



## Bright Week, the week after Pascha:

Following the Feast of Pascha, the entire week is considered One Day, the first day of the New Creation in Christ. The “Sun of Righteousness” has risen with healing in His wings (Mal. 3:20). During Bright Week the doors remain open, and the Liturgies served are the same as on Pascha itself.