

**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	Mike
Patrick	Maksim	Richard	Kathy	Dolores
John	Zina	Anna	Melissa	Stephanie
Faith	Heather	George	David	Elena
Susan	Trudy			


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

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

**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**

26 Sunday	9:30 PM	Divine Liturgy (Myrrhbearing Women)
29 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers & Scripture Class
30 Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
02 Saturday	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers
03 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
	2:00 PM	Grave Blessings (beginning at Mansion Memorial Park)

**Sunday, April 26, 2026 Tone 2**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha**  
**Myrrhbearing Women**

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:*

**Tone 2 Troparion** (Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

**Tone 2 Troparion** (Pentecostarion)

The noble Joseph,  
when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the Tree,  
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,  
and placed it in a new tomb.  
But Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord,//  
granting the world great mercy.

**Tone 2 Troparion** (Pentecostarion)

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:  
“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;  
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!  
So proclaim: ‘The Lord is risen,//  
granting the world great mercy.’”

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

**Tone 2 Kontakion** (Pentecostarion)

Thou didst command the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.  
By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, the first mother.  
Thou didst command them to preach to Thine Apostles://  
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

**Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

**Tone 8 Kontakion** (Pascha)

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 Myrrhbearing Women,//  
granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

**Prokeimenon Tone 6** (Pentecostarion)

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)

*Acts 6:1-7 (Epistle)*



Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

*Mark 15:43-16:8 (Gospel)*

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

*Following the Dismissal of Liturgy we pray together as the Reader reads the Post-Communion Prayers. Please maintain a respectful quiet during the Prayers.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Parish website is [www.bradentonorthodox.org](http://www.bradentonorthodox.org). See also [www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch](https://www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch).
- **COFFEE HOUR is provided each Sunday following Liturgy.** Please consider donating to Coffee Hour in the box so designated in the Narthex. Speak with Cathy Johns, Marsha Blazso, or Kim Hinkle for more information.
- **Quarterly Charity (April-June): Panagia Vlahernon Orthodox Monastery (near Ocala),** providing spiritual care and direction for Florida and the world. You can give by designated check or marked envelope.
- **Debt Reduction Program** – our goal is to eliminate our current mortgage debt in 4 years; see the “thermometer in the Narthex tracking our progress. Consider how God is leading you to contribute to reducing our debt! 
- **Brokerage Account at Fidelity** –Contact Michael Kulisz, Bob Matzkevich, or Evan Miller (Parish Treasurer) for additional information, or with questions regarding the donation of securities. 
- **INTRO TO ORTHODOXY CLASS** resumed yesterday, April 25, at 3:00 PM (before Vespers) after a 3 week break for Holy Week and Pascha. If you are new to the Class, speak with Fr. Jonathan to obtain a copy of the catechism, *The Faith*, by Clark Carlton. All are welcome to attend.
- **GRAVE BLESSINGS** this year will take place on Sunday, May 3, starting at 2:00 PM at Mansion Memorial Park in Ellenton/Palmetto. Blessings will then follow in order at Manasota Cemetery (~2:45 PM; Bradenton) and The Palms (~3:30 PM; Sarasota), concluding about 4:00 PM at Sarasota National Cemetery. If you would like graves blessed at other locations, please speak with Fr. Jonathan to make arrangements.
- The term *Pentecostarion* refers to the collection of hymns and prayers said during the 7 week-long, 50-day season (Gk., *pentecosti*) from Pascha to the Feast of Pentecost. The Feast of Pentecost this year will be on May 31.
- Our **MEN’S GROUP** will meet at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, May 5, for a cookout with fellowship and discussion. All men are invited and welcome to attend and enjoy. Please speak with each other about what you’d like to bring to the cookout.

### The Sunday of the Myrrhbearers (by St. Gregory Palamas)

So now we have a thorough explanation of everything that concerns the myrrhbearers, and, as we have sought all along, agreement between the four evangelists on this subject. On the very day of the resurrection the apostles heard from the myrrhbearers, from Peter (Luke 24:34), and from Luke and Cleopas (Mark 16:12-13; cf. Luke 24:13-35), that the Lord was alive and had appeared to them, but they did not believe. That is why they were reproached by Him when He appeared to them later when they were gathered together (Mark 16:14).

However, once He had shown Himself in many ways and on many occasions to be alive, not only did they all believe, but they preached everywhere: “Their sound is gone out into all the earth, and their words to the end of the world” (Ps. 18:6; Rom. 10:18), “The Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following” (Mark 16:20). For signs were absolutely necessary until the word had been preached throughout the world.

But if there had to be great signs to prove and confirm that the teaching was true, there had also to be signs, though not great ones, to show whether those who had received the word really believed. What signs do I mean? The witness of their deeds. “Show me,” it says, ‘your faith by your works,’ and, “Who is faithful? By his good life let him show his works” (cf. Jam. 2:18; 3:13). How can we believe that someone has a truly divine, great, exalted, even heavenly understanding, such as godliness entails, if he clings to sordid actions and is engrossed in the earth and its concerns?

It is pointless for someone to say that he has faith in God if he does not have the works which go with faith. What benefit were their lamps to the foolish virgins who had no oil (Matt. 25:1-13), namely, deeds of love and compassion? What good did calling Abraham his father do to that rich man frying in the unquenchable flame for his pitilessness towards Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)? What use was his apparent obedience to the invitation to that man who had failed to acquire through good works a garment fitting for the divine wedding and the bridechamber of immortality? He was invited and approached because he clearly believed, and he sat down alongside those holy guests, but when he was convicted and put to shame for being clothed in depraved habits and deeds, he was mercilessly bound hand and foot, and cast into hellfire, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 22:11-14)

May no one called by Christ have this experience, but may we all display a way of life which goes with our faith, that we may enter the bridechamber of unfading joy and spend eternity with the saints in the dwelling place of all those who rejoice. Amen.