

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	Carol
Charles	Gregory	Ricardo	Nancy	Karen
Peter	Kay	Lydia	Mary	Mike
Patrick	Maksim	Richard	Kathy	Dolores
John	Zina	Frances	Melissa	Stephanie
Faith	Heather	Nicholas	George	David
Susan	Elena	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:

May Birthdays:

Joseph Michael (05/02)	Emmanuel Starsky (05/09)	Lisa Kinsella (05/10)
Jaron Schultz (05/12)	Radica Koutselas (05/14)	Jason Gentile (05/18)
Brook Doyle (05/20)	Stacy Beckwith (05/20)	Olga McDougal (05/30)
Ian Stefanescu (05/31)		

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

3 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Sunday of the Paralytic)
	2:00 PM	Grave Blessings
5 Tuesday	6:30 PM	Men’s Group Meeting/Cookout
6 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers/Scripture Class
7 Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
9 Saturday	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Great Vespers

Sunday, May 3, 2026 Tone 3
4th Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the Paralytic

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 3 (Resurrection)**

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

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

Kontakion **Tone 3 (Pentecostarion)**

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord,

as Thou didst raise up the Paralytic of old,

so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts;

so that being saved I may sing to Thee://

“Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion **Tone 8 (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 1 (Pentecostarion)**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee! (Ps. 32:22)

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

Acts 9:32-42 (Epistle)

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had

washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.



John 5:1-15 (Gospel)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.” Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.” He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’” Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’”, But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.” The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

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.
- **COFFEE HOUR** is provided each Sunday after Liturgy: coffee, drinks, bagels, donuts, etc. A donation box is located on the serving table to help defray costs. Speak with Cathy Johns, Kim Hinkle, or Marsha Blazso to help with Coffee Hour clean-up.
- **Quarterly Charity (April-June): Orthodox Monastery of Panagia Vlahernon (near Ocala)**, providing prayer and spiritual guidance for all in this State and beyond. Please give by designating your check or 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 Evan Miller (Church Treasurer) or a Parish Council member for additional information, or with questions regarding the donation of securities. 
- **GRAVE BLESSINGS** will begin today at 2:00 PM at Mansion Memorial Park in Ellenton/Palmetto and proceed to Manasota Cemetery (Bradenton), The Palms (Sarasota), and Sarasota National Cemetery, in that order. Speak with Fr. Jonathan for Grave Blessings at any other location.
- **Men's Group Cookout** – this coming Tuesday at 6:30 PM at the Church; meat for the grill will be provided, but please bring a side dish or dessert to share. All men are invited for fellowship and discussion.
- The wooden front doors to the Church were sanded and stained prior to Pascha. Thanks especially to Nick Orras, George Graban, and all who did a beautiful job refinishing the entry to our Temple!
- **Resumption of Usual Weekday Services:** now that Lent and Pascha are completed, we have resumed serving *Wednesday Vespers & Scripture Class* beginning at 6:00 PM, and *Thursday Divine Liturgy* at 9:30 AM.

The Sacred Mysteries of Christ

The Life in Christ, by Nicholas Cabasilas, Bk. 1, chap. 6:

In the sacred Mysteries, then, we depict Christ's burial and proclaim His death. By them we are begotten and formed and wondrously united to the Savior, for they are the means by which, as Paul says, "in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

Baptism confers being and, in short, existence according to Christ. It receives us when we are dead and corrupted and first leads us into life. The anointing with chrism (chrismation) perfects him who has received new birth by infusing into him the energy that befits such a life. The Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) preserves and continues this life and health, since the Bread of life enables us to preserve that which has been acquired and to continue in life. It is therefore by this Bread that we live and by the chrism that we are moved, once we have received being from the baptismal water.

In this way we live in God. We remove our life from this visible world to that world which is not seen by exchanging, not the place, but the very life itself and its mode. It was not we ourselves who were moved towards God, nor did we ascend to Him; but it was He who came and descended to us. It was not we who sought, but we were the object of His seeking. The sheep did not seek for the shepherd, nor did the lost coin search for the master of the house; He it was who came to the earth and retrieved His own image, and He came to the place where the sheep was straying and lifted it up and stopped it from straying. He did not remove us from here, but He made us heavenly while yet remaining on earth and imparted to us the heavenly life without leading us up to heaven, but by bending heaven to us and bringing it down. As the prophet says, "He bowed the heavens also, and came down" (Ps. 18:10).

Accordingly, through these sacred Mysteries as through windows the Sun of Righteousness enters this dark world. He puts to death the life which accords with this world, but raises up that which is above the world. The Light of the world overcomes this world, which He affirms when He says, "I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33), and introduces the abiding and immortal life into a mortal body which is subject to change.