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
Eli	Nicole & Noelle	Joshua	Nick	Carolyn
Charles	Gregory	Ricardo	Nancy	Karen
Peter	Kay	Lydia	Mary	Mikey
Patrick	Maksim	Richard	Kathy	Dolores
John	Zina	Melissa	Stephanie	Elena
Heather	Nicholas	George	David	Trudy
Susan	Frances	Evan	Laura, Belle, Emma, and n.b. sons	

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

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:
Sheryl (Aluzzo)

May Birthdays:

Joseph Michael (05/02)	Emmanuel Starsky (05/09)	Lisa Kinsella (05/10)
Jaron Schultz (05/12)	Radica Koutselas (05/14)	Sarah Jackson (05/15)
Jason Gentile (05/18)	Brook Doyle (05/20)	Stacy Beckwith (05/20)
James Frey (05/20)	Lydia Jackson (05/26)	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

27 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers/Scripture Reading
28 Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
30 Saturday	9:30 AM	Memorial Liturgy
	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Vigil of Pentecost
31 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy & Vespers of Pentecost (kneeling prayers)

Sunday, May 24, 2026 Tone 6
6th Sunday of Pascha
Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Afterfeast of Ascension

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 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 *(Ascension)*
Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that Thou art the Son of God,//
the Redeemer of the world!

Troparion Tone 8 *(Fathers)*
Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,
Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.
Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith.//
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

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

Kontakion Tone 8 *(Fathers)*
The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,//
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion Tone 6 *(Ascension)*
When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,
and united earth to heaven,
Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love Thee,
but remaining with them and crying://
"I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

Prokeimenon Tone 4 *(Song of the Three Holy Children)*
Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever! (Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)
V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 (Epistle)

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

John 17:1-13 (Gospel)

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

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.
- **A COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP LIST** is located on the serving table in the Narthex. Please consider helping with Coffee Hour in 2025. Speak with Cathy Johns, Marsha Blazso, or Kim Hinkle for more information.
- **Quarterly Charity (April-June): Panagia Vlahernon Orthodox Monastery (near Ocala)**, providing prayer and spiritual guidance for our State and world. Please give generously by designated 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 another Parish Council member for additional information, or with questions regarding the donation of securities.

- Like most other things, the price of **Memorial Bricks** for Saint Mark's Memorial Garden have recently increased due to increases in the costs of both raw brick materials and shipping. The increases are not huge, but noticeable. Memorial Bricks can be ordered by using the website on the back of the bulletin.
- **CHURCH CLEANING** – the Myrrhbearers are organizing a schedule for routine Church Cleaning: sweeping and vacuuming, restrooms, and food in refrigerators. This is a need beyond cleaning up after Coffee Hour on Sundays. If you care to help with this, contact Natalie Aluzzo, Vera Yevsukov, Fr. Jonathan, or any of the Myrrhbearers.
- **Next weekend, May 30-31,** we celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost, 50 days after Pascha. Saturday, May 30, we will serve a Memorial Liturgy for All the Departed at 9:30 AM, and then Vigil for the Feast at 5:00 PM. Sunday, May 31, Divine Liturgy for the Feast will be followed immediately by Pentecost Vespers with the Kneeling Prayers. The 2nd Day of Pentecost is the Day of the Holy Spirit with Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM on Monday, June 1.
- ***When entering the Church for worship, please move into the Main Part (Nave) of the Church where the chairs are, before filling up the Entry Way (Narthex). Also, please be willing to shift over in the chairs to make room for others in the Nave of the Church.***

From the Synodal Letter of the First Ecumenical Council
(at Nicea, 325 A.D.)

To the Church of Alexandria, by the grace of God, holy and great; and to our well-beloved brethren, the orthodox clergy and laity throughout Egypt, and Pentapolis, and Lybia, and every nation under heaven, the holy and great synod, the bishops assembled at Nicea, wish health in the Lord.

Forasmuch as the great and holy synod, which was assembled at Nicea through the grace of Christ and our most religious Sovereign Constantine, who brought us together from our several provinces and cities, has considered matters which concern the faith of the Church, it seemed to us to be necessary that certain things should communicated from us to you in writing, so that you might have the means of knowing what has been questioned and investigated, and also what has been decreed and confirmed.

One Faith

First of all, in the presence of our most religious Sovereign Constantine, investigation was made of matters concerning the impiety and transgression of Arius (a priest in Alexandria, Egypt) and his adherents; and it was unanimously decreed that he and his impious opinion should be anathematized (officially condemned and anti-Christian), together with the blasphemous words and speculations in which he indulged, blaspheming the Son of God, and saying that he is from things that are not, and that before He was begotten He was not, and that there was a time when he was not, and that the Son of God is by His free will capable of vice and virtue; saying also that He is a creature… [Thus the Synod put forth the Creed for the whole Church.]

One Church

But when the grace of God had delivered Egypt from that heresy and blasphemy, and from the persons who have dared to make disturbance and division among a people heretofore at peace, there remained the matter of the insolence of Meletius (bishop of Lycopolis in Upper Egypt) and those who have been ordained by him…The Synod, then, being disposed to deal gently with Meletius (for in strict justice he deserved no leniency), decreed that he should remain in his own city, but have no authority either to ordain, or to administer affairs, or to make appointments; and that he should not appear in the country or in any other city for this purpose, but he should enjoy the bare title of his rank; but that those who have been placed by him (28 bishops in 'his church'), after they have been confirmed by a more sacred laying on of hands, shall on these conditions be admitted to communion: that they shall both have their rank and the right to officiate, but that they shall be altogether the inferiors of all those who are enrolled in any church or parish, and have been appointed by our most honorable colleague Alexander (bishop of Alexandria)…

One Pascha

We further proclaim to you the good news of the agreement concerning the holy Pascha, that this particular also has through your prayers been rightly settled; so that all our brethren in the East who formerly followed the custom of the Jews (celebrating Pascha on the fixed date of Passover, the 14th of Nisan) are henceforth to celebrate the said most sacred feast of Pascha at the same time with the Romans and yourselves and all those who have observed Pascha from the beginning (on a Sunday after the Jewish Passover).