

To Our Guests and Visitors about Receiving Holy Communion:

1. In Orthodox churches, Holy Communion is given to and received only by members of the Orthodox Church (the baptized and chrismated who strive to live in repentance, faith, and godliness).
2. One must properly prepare to receive Communion, and there are negative consequences for improper reception. Also, the Priest administering Communion is responsible for the well-being of those receiving Holy Communion (see 1 Cor. 4:1-2; 11:27-32; Heb. 13:17).
3. *If you are non-Orthodox*, please speak with Fr. Jonathan after Liturgy without approaching the Chalice. *If you are Orthodox*, please introduce yourself to Fr. Jonathan, if possible, prior to the Liturgy, otherwise, at the Chalice.

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered for the Health of:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|----------|
| Archprst. Stephen | Archprst. Elias | Mat. Marion | Irene | Laurie |
| Rose | Barbara | Tanya | Diane | Kevin |
| Nicole&Noelle | Athanasios | Mary Patricia | Frances | Vladimir |
| Paisley | Willard | Sunnie | Eli | Adam |
| Elise | Kim | Laura | Danny | |

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:

January Birthdays

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Heike Cordero (1/8) | Abigail Insley (1/16) | Robert Serko (1/25) |
| Galina Tschurain (1/28) | Angela Orras (1/29) | Chris Traycoff (1/31) |

TO SPONSOR COFFEE HOUR, please sign up on the calendar book on the glass case. Keep it simple – donuts, coffee cake, bagels, etc. IF NO ONE SIGNS UP, THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE HOUR.

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.

If you are unable to attend services, but wish to continue your Stewardship contributions, send them to PO Box 1315, Bradenton FL, 34206.

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 varying accordingly. If you have any questions about the ordering process, see Fr. Jonathan.

St. Mark Orthodox Church

1517 57th Street E
Bradenton, FL 34208

"The Messenger"

V. Rev. Fr. Jonathan Cholcher
Rector

V. Rev. Fr. Stephen Plumlee
Attached

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Roth
Attached

Sub-Deacon James Abraham

Nadya Golubov
Choir Director
Michael Winters
Assistant Director

Parish Phone: (941)-749-7662
Parish E-mail: stmarkocarector@gmail.com
Fr. Jonathan's Cell: (941)-807-5393
Office Hours: W, Th, F 10:00 AM – Noon

This week at St. Mark

| | | | |
|--|----------|---------|--|
| 5 | Thursday | 6:00 PM | Vespertal Liturgy of Theophany followed by blessing of water |
| 6 | Friday | 9:30 AM | Divine Liturgy (Theophany) Blessing of the Lake following Divine Liturgy |
| 6 | Friday | 4:00 PM | Blessing of the water at Bradenton Reservoir |
| 7 | Saturday | 5:00 PM | Great Vespers |
| 8 | Sunday | 9:30 AM | Divine Liturgy |
| Adult Bible Study Sunday following Divine Liturgy. | | | |

Sunday, January 1, 2023

29th Sunday After Pentecost Tone 4

Circumcision of Our Lord

Sunday Before Theophany

St. Basil, Archbishop of Caesarea, in Cappadocia

Prokeimenon Tone 6 (Sunday Before and Circumcision)

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)

Prokeimenon Tone 1 (St. Basil)

My mouth shall speak wisdom, / the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. (Ps. 48:3)

2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Epistle, Sunday Before)

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Colossians 2:8-12 (Epistle, Circumcision)

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Mark 1:1-8 (Gospel, Sunday Before)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.'" John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Luke 2:20-21,40-52 (Gospel, Circumcision)

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. When they had

finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fr. Jonathan is publishing weekly meditations on the St. Mark website (stmarkorthodox.org). Please take some time to read them.
- Please keep in mind that Liturgy is not officially over until the reading of the Post-Communion prayers. It is important that we stay respectful during the reading of these prayers by maintaining silence.
- Faith and Life classes will be studying St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Classes are held Wednesdays following Daily Vespers.
- Introduction to Orthodoxy class on Saturdays will not meet Christmas and New Year's weekends; the class will resume on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 3:30 PM.
- January's charity is Sts. Mary and Martha Monastery in South Carolina.
- Parish Council has adopted a **Parish policy regarding the posting of informational materials** either in the St. Mark Church building (e.g. on a bulletin board on the welcome desk of the Church) or on St. Mark Church social media platforms such as Facebook or our Parish website. All such materials or postings must be pre-approved by the Parish Council or Fr. Jonathan prior to posting.
- As per the request of the Holy Synod, St. Mark will be contributing \$100.00 per month for two years to the clergy of Alaska to help support them as the average salary is only \$7,000.00. If you wish to contribute additional funds, feel free to do so. In the memo section of the check, just note "Diocese of Alaska" or use an envelope and mark the envelope "Diocese of Alaska".
- Thursday Evening at 6:00 PM, we will hold the Vespertine Liturgy of St. Basil with the blessing of water in Church
- Friday is the Feast of Theophany. Following Divine Liturgy we will bless water as well at the lake behind the Church. At 4:00 PM, we will bless the water at the Bradenton reserve.

Troparion Tone 4 (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion Tone 1 (Circumcision)

Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Thy divine Spirit,
O Jesus, Thou didst will to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, ^Thy
Mother.
Therefore Thou wast circumcised as an eight-day-old Child.
Glory to Thy most gracious counsel;
glory to Thy ^dispensation;//
glory to Thy condescension, O only Lover of man!

Troparion Tone 1 (St. Basil)

Thy proclamation has gone out into all the earth,
which was divinely taught by hearing thy voice.
Thou didst expound the nature of creatures
and didst ennoble the manners of men.
O venerable Father of royal priesthood,//
entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Kontakion Tone 4 (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master,//
He has risen on the third day!

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

Kontakion Tone 4 (St. Basil)

Thou wast revealed as the sure foundation of the Church,
granting all mankind a lordship which cannot be taken away,//
sealing it with thy precepts, O venerable Basil, revealer of heaven.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion Tone 3 (Circumcision)

The Lord of all accepts to be circumcised,
thus, as He is good, He excises the sins of mortal men.
Today He grants the world salvation,
while light-bearing Basil, high priest of our Creator,//
rejoices in heaven as a divine initiate of Christ.

Troparion **Tone 4** **(St. Mark)**

From your childhood the light of truth enlightened you, O Mark
And you loved the labor of Christ the Savior
Therefore you followed Peter with zeal
And served Paul as a fellow laborer//
And you enlighten the world with your Holy Gospel

Kontakion **Tone 2** **(St. Mark)**

You did receive the grace of the Spirit from on high
Destroying the snares of the orators
You did hunt all the nations O Apostle
And led them to your Master//
O glorious Mark the preacher of the Gospel of God

Theotokion **Tone 6**

Steadfast Protectress of Christians
Constant Advocate before the Creator
Do not despise the cries of us sinners
But in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith
Hasten to hear our petitions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos//
For you always protect those who honor you!