

Financials: 2/16/2020

Collection: \$

2020: Budget Collection - \$2,653

Ave. Weekly Collection -

Attendance: 70/10 (YTD Ave. 71/10)

St. Mark Orthodox Church

1517 Morgan Johnson Rd.

Bradenton, FL 34208

"The Messenger"

V. Rev. Fr. Stephen Plumlee
Coordinating Priest

Sub-deacon James Abraham
Parish Administrator

Nadya Golubov
Choir Director
Michael Winters
Assistant Director

Parish Phone: (941)749-7662

Parish E-mail: stmarkocarector@gmail.com

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, and through participation in the Sacraments to come into close union with God

Sunday, February 23, 2020 Tone 3
36th Sunday After Pentecost
Meatfare Sunday
Sunday of the Last Judgement

Prayers of Oblation are offered for the Health of:

Fr. John	Christopher	Fr. Stephen	Fr. Elias
Mat. Marion	Irene	Fran	Connie
Jessie	Abigail	Ron	William
Laurie	Joe	Carol	Nancy
Kathy	Charles	Mary	Trevor
Barbara	David	Tanya	Carol
James	Andrew		

Prayers of Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Gregory	James	Wanda	Steve
Winnie	Minnie	Milos	Igor

Don't forget the picnic immediately following Divine Liturgy today.

Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through fasting and confession. In keeping with ancient Traditions and the injunction of St. Paul, the blessed (*Antidoron*), following Divine Liturgy, is shared by all who worship with us.

Prokeimenon Tone 3

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure. (Ps 146/147:5)

v: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! (Ps 146/147:1)

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Epistle)

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Matthew 25:31-46 (Gospel)

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the

least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

February Birthdays

Irene Zarnoski 2/12

Joseph Ciampa 2/20

Paul Mueller 2/26

Lois Evancho 2/12

Ann Nartsissov 2/21

Chloe Beardsley 2/28

Elizabeth Ries 2/20

Sunnie Beardsley 2/23

Fr. Stephen and Fr. Elias have begun blessing homes. If you did not sign up to have your home blessed or you have not been contacted, please inform Fr. Stephen, Fr. Elias, or Sbdcn. James.

Tone 3 Troparion (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.

Tone 1 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

When Thou, O God, shalt come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble,
and the river of fire shall flow before Thy judgment seat;
the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,//
and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O Righteous Judge!

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As Great Lent approaches, the Church sets aside this Sunday as the Sunday of the Final Judgment. In the Gospel lesson, Christ clearly lays out the events of Judgement Day. He will separate the sheep from the goats with the sheep on His right and the goats on His left. To the sheep, He says, "Come you blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." He then proceeds to explain why they were chosen, "for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; a stranger and you took Me in; naked and you clothed Me; sick and you visited Me; in prison and you came to Me." And the response of those was to question when did they do all those things. Christ replies, "I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Those on His left meet a much different fate as they are told, "Depart from Me you cursed into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." He tells them that they did not give the same care to the least of their brethren.

Today, these simple acts of kindness seemed lost in today's society. We seem to look around us and see homelessness but turn and look the other way, choosing to let the powers that be handle the problem. Panhandlers are judged not as people needing food, but as someone "looking for a quick buck who doesn't want to work and only uses my money to buy drugs and alcohol." We want to categorize and prioritize the needs of others. Nowhere does Christ say which hungry we feed; which thirsty we give drink. We cannot categorize who we should visit. Does not the murderer deserve as much as a less violent criminal? Are they too not worthy of salvation? He does not differentiate the degrees of hunger, thirst, nakedness, sickness, or crime. If our Lord does not, then who are we to do that? We must treat everyone for what they are, children of our Lord, in need of mercy.

The following is from the thoughts of Fr. Joshua Pappas of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids, Mi.

"So the essential question is not, "Am I a good person?", but rather, "Have I repented?" And since Orthodoxy speaks of a *life of repentance* – rather than a moment of repentance – I should ask myself: "Is my life an ongoing act of reconversion? Have I changed the whole orientation of my thoughts not just once or twice but continually, so as to live not for myself but for God and for those around me?"

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