

Announcements

- 2019 Directories are complete. Special thanks to Mike and Marsha Blaszo for putting together this incredible directory.
- In order to offset the cost, we are asking for a small donation.
- Please do not try to turn the handles on the closet doors in the narthex. The do not turn. Also, the office and Sunday School door handles do not turn either.

Financials for 2019 1st qtr:

Collection: \$4,285 (ave.); 2018 1st qtr \$3,390 (ave.)

Attendance: 72/8 (ave.); 2018 1st qtr 79/12 (ave.)

Prayers of Oblation are offered for the Health of:

Fr. John	Christopher
Fr. Elias	Mat. Marion
Sami	Irene
Fran	Connie
Helen	

Prayers of Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Gregory
Rdr. John (Doug - ND)

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 bread (*Antidoron*), following Divine Liturgy, is shared by all who worship with us.

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

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, April 7, 2019 Tone 4
Rest of St. Tikhon
St. John of the Ladder (Climacus)

Prokeimenon Tone 4

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (Ps 103/104:24)

v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great! (Ps 103/104:1)

Hebrews 6:13-20 (Epistle)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Mark 9:17-31 (Gospel)

Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

Fr. Elias and Mat. Marion wish to extend their love and thanks to the St. Mark family for making their winter a most enjoyable time. Their prayers go out to everyone for a Blessed Pascha. They hope to see everyone in the fall.

Parish Council has approved three Lenten Projects ; new carpet runner in the center of the Church, a defibrillator, and outside LED lights along the walkway to the parking lot. These projects were delayed from last year due to the expense of adding an AC unit.

Lenten Services for April

Wednesday, April 10: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - 6:00 PM

Wednesday, April 17: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 20: Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Saturday, April 20: Great Vespers - 5:00 PM

Holy Week

Sunday, April 21: Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Sunday, April 21: Bridegroom Service - 6:00 PM

Monday, April 22: Bridegroom Service - 6:00 PM

Tuesday, April 23: Bridegroom Service - 6:00 PM

Wednesday, April 24: Holy Unction - 6:00 PM

Thursday, April 25: Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Thursday, April 25: 12 Passion Gospels - 6:30 PM

Friday, April 26: Burial Service - 2:00 PM

Friday, April 26: Lamentations - 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 27: Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Saturday, April 27: Rush Procession followed by Divine Liturgy -
10:30 PM

Sunday, April 28: Pascha Agape Service - 1:00 PM

St. John of the Ladder (Climacus)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt.10: 12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt.24:13).

Tone 4 Troparion (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!"

Tone 1 Troparion (for St John Climacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,
thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.
Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a ^crown! //
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 4 Kontakion (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!

Tone 4 Kontakion (for St John Climacus)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence,
to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, //
O our father and teacher John.

(Instead of “It is truly meet,” we sing the following)

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace:

the assembly of Angels and the race of men.

O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,

the glory of virgins,

from whom God was incarnate and became a Child:

our God before the ages.

He made thy body into a throne,

and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens.

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace.//

Glory to thee!

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. (Ps 111/112:6b-7a)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

St. Tikhon the Patriarch of Moscow, and Enlightener of North America

On September 14, 1898, Bishop Tikhon was made Bishop of the Aleutians and Alaska. As head of the Orthodox Church in America, Bishop Tikhon was a zealous laborer in the Lord’s vineyard.

He did much to promote the spread of Orthodoxy, and to improve his vast diocese. He reorganized the diocesan structure, and changed its name from “Diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska” to “Diocese of the Aleutians and North America” in 1900. Both clergy and laity loved their archpastor, and held him in such esteem that the Americans made Archbishop Tikhon an honorary citizen of the United States.

On May 22, 1901, he blessed the cornerstone for Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York, and was also involved in establishing other churches. On November 9, 1902, he consecrated the church of Saint Nicholas in Brooklyn for the Syrian Orthodox immigrants. Two weeks later, he consecrated Saint Nicholas Cathedral in NY.

In 1905, the American Mission was made an Archdiocese, and Saint Tikhon was elevated to the rank of Archbishop. He had two vicar bishops: Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) in Alaska, and Saint Raphael (Hawaweeny) in Brooklyn to assist him in administering his large, ethnically diverse diocese. In June of 1905, Saint Tikhon gave his blessing for the establishment of Saint Tikhon’s Monastery. On August 15, 1917, a local council was opened in Moscow, and Archbishop Tikhon was raised to the dignity of Metropolitan, and then elected as chairman of the council. The council had as its aim to restore the life of Russian Orthodox Church on strictly canonical principles, and its primary concern was the restoration of the Patriarchate. All council members would select three candidates, and then a lot would reveal the will of God. On November 5, following the Divine Liturgy and a Molieben in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, a monk removed one of the three ballots from the ballot box, which stood before the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God. Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev announced Metropolitan Tikhon as the newly elected Patriarch. In order to save thousands of lives and to improve the general position of the church, the Patriarch took measures to prevent clergy from making purely political statements. On September 25, 1919, when the civil war was at its height, he issued a message to the clergy urging them to stay away from political struggle. In 1924, Patriarch Tikhon began to feel unwell. He checked into a hospital, but would leave it on Sundays and Feast Days in order to conduct services. On Sunday, April 5, 1925, he served his last Liturgy, and died two days later. On March 25/April 7, 1925 the Patriarch received Metropolitan Peter and had a long talk with him. In the evening, the Patriarch slept a little, then he woke up and asked what time it was. When he was told it was 11:45 P.M., he made the Sign of the Cross twice and said, “Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.” He did not have time to cross himself a third time. On September 26/October 9, 1989, the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church glorified Patriarch Tikhon and numbered him among the saints. For nearly seventy years, Saint Tikhon’s relics were believed lost, but in February 1992, they were discovered in a concealed place in the Donskoy Monastery.