

**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 | Archprst. John  |         |
| Archprst. Joseph  | Irene           | Laurie      | Rose            | Barbara |
| Tanya             | Eugenia         | Kevin       | Nicole & Noelle | Frances |
| Vladimir          | Paisley         | Eli         | Adam            | Elise   |
| Laura             | Robert          | Joshua      | Darla           | Mark    |
| Gary              | Constance       | Nick        | Miriam&Son      | Nina    |
| Tanya             | Suzanne         | Nadezhda    | Charles         |         |

**Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:**

Odette (ND)

**May Birthdays:**

|                       |                            |                         |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aubreigh Roth (5/2)   | Joseph Michael (5/2)       | Radica Koutselas (5/14) |
| Jason Gentile (5/18)  | Fr. Stephen Plumlee (5/25) | Edward Roth (5/25)      |
| Ian Stefanescu (5/31) |                            |                         |

**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](http://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.**

**St. Mark Orthodox Church**  
1517 57<sup>th</sup> 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

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Office Hours: W, Th, F 10:00 AM – Noon

**This week at St. Mark**

|              |         |  |
|--------------|---------|--|
| 23 Tuesday   | 6:30 PM | Men's Group Meeting (at Church)        |
| 24 Wednesday | 9:30 AM | Divine Liturgy (Leavetaking of Pascha) |
| 24 Wednesday | 6:00 PM | Great Vespers/Litya                    |
| 25 Thursday  | 8:15 AM | Matins                                 |
| 25 Thursday  | 9:30 AM | Divine Liturgy (Ascension)             |
| 27 Saturday  | 3:30 PM | Intro to Orthodoxy                     |
| 27 Saturday  | 5:00 PM | Great Vespers                          |
| 28 Sunday    | 9:30 AM | Divine Liturgy                         |

**Sunday, May 21, 2023 Tone 5**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha**

**Sunday of the Blind Man**  
**Emperor Constantine and his mother Helen**

**Prokeimenon Tone 8 (Pentecostarion)**

*Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)*

*V. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)*

**Acts 16:16-34 (Epistle)**

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

**John 9:1-38 (Gospel)**

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is

translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

## 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.
- May's Charity – CareNet
- 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.
- As of June 1, 2023, we will discontinue donations via PayPal as there is a service charge that decreases the donation. We are looking for an alternative method of payment.
- Three Lenten Projects have been approved. Two (Litya Tray and Theophany Holy Water font) have donors. The third is sealing and striping the parking lot. The lowest bid for this project was just under \$7,000.00. If you wish to contribute, write "Lenten Project" in the "memo" line of your check or for cash donations simply write "Lenten Project" on the envelope.
- Anyone wishing to volunteer to be a money counter, please see any member of Parish Council to sign up.
- Vacation Church School is scheduled for Pentecost week, June 6-9, for the children of our Parish. If you would like to help, speak with Fr. Jonathan. The theme will be "Gifts of the Spirit". If you plan to send your child(ren), please contact Fr. Jonathan.
- The Men's Group will meet Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 PM at the church.
- Parish Council would like to thank Michael and Marsha Blazso for the new bell and stand in the Narthex.
- Parish Council has decided to add approx. 10-15 more chairs to the Nave of the Church. If you would like to sponsor a chair (about \$140.00), see Fr. Jonathan, Sbdcn. James, or any Council member.

English: Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Russian: Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!

Greek: Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!

Romanian: Hristos a inviat! Adeverat a inviat!

Arabic: El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!

Spanish: Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!

### **Troparion      Tone 4      (*Resurrection*)**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

### **Troparion      Tone 8      (*Sts. Constantine and Helen*)**

Thy servant Constantine, O Lord and only Lover of man,  
beheld the figure of the Cross in the heavens.  
Like Paul, not having received his call from men,  
but as an apostle among rulers set by Thy hand over the royal city,//  
he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

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

### **Kontakion      Tone 3      (*Sts. Constantine and Helen*)**

Today Constantine and his mother Helen reveal the precious Cross,  
the weapon of Orthodox Christians against their enemies,//  
for it is manifest for us as a great and fearful sign in struggle.

**Now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen**

### **Kontakion      Tone 4      (*Pentecostarion*)**

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,  
and call to Thee in repentance://  
"Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness."

*(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)*

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,  
thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
With Himself He has raised all the dead."

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on thee.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,

in the Resurrection of thy Son!

**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!