

Announcements:

- Derek Cartwright and Michael Mustic (our Catechumens) will be received into the Orthodox Faith and the St. Mark family on Pentecost Sunday, June 16.
- Ben Lancaster will be received as a Catechumen on the same day.
- Directory change: The Orras e-mail should be - orr248aol.com

Financials: 06/02/19

Collection: \$2272 (YTD Ave. - \$2859)

Attendance: 56/10 (YTD Ave. - 767/8)

Prayers of Oblation are offered for the Health of:

Fr. John	Christopher	Ron
Fr. Elias	Mat. Marion	Sami
Irene	Fran	Connie
Jessie	Abigail	

Prayers of Oblation are offered in Memory of:

Gregory	Helen (ND)	Julia (ND)
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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, June 9, 2019 Tone 6
Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
St. Cyril Archbishop of Alexandria

Prokeimenon Tone 4

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.

St. Mark will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on July 14, immediately following Divine Liturgy. There will be no coffee hour that Sunday. Instead, Council has planned a lunch at the Riverhouse Waterfront Restaurant in Palmetto, just across the Green Bridge. Each parishioner is responsible for their own expenses.

Willard has extended the deadline for purchasing an ad in the 40th Anniversary Commemorative Book to Sunday, June 23. If you have not yet purchased an ad, please see Willard immediately after Liturgy or e-mail him at willardbrown2011@yahoo.com.

June Birthdays

Tina Van Dijk (6/1)	Henry Pouget (6/18)
Lara Ciampa (6/5)	Michael Valitzky (6/20)
Emilia Kolikowski (6/10)	Maxine Lurowist (6/22)
Michael Winter (6/12)	Derek Cartwright (6/23)
Siobhan Awad (6/13)	Christopher Chudik (6/27)
Marsha Blazso (6/17)	Larysa Khalifa (6/28)
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Many years to Ann and George Nartsissov who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, June 5.

Tone 6 Troparion (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.

Tone 4 Troparion (Ascension)

Thou hast ascended 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!

Tone 8 Troparion (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!

Tone 8 Kontakion (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.

Tone 6 Kontakion (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!"

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Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most pernicious of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova, who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In the year 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, Saint Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos, and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius [who later became Patriarch of Alexandria].

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, "God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius.

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

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