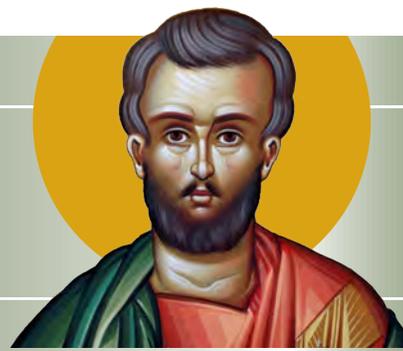


# THE Message



SAINT  
MARK

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AUG–SEPT 2015



Schedule of Services for  
Dormition Feast PAGE 3



New Senior Game Days  
are a Huge Hit!



New Choir Robes Arrive  
In Time for New Year



## SAINT MARK GREEK WEEK & SAINT STEPHEN'S SUMMER CAMP SEASON 2015



Once again, during the first week of summer vacation the Saint Mark community held its annual summer camp program. The 2015 session proved to be another

huge success! With close to 160 campers and staff, the Church grounds absolutely came alive, as the property was filled with joy and excitement. The excitement did not end there because soon afterwards a bus of over 40 GOYANs and staff headed to Saint Stephen's Camp at the Diakonia Retreat Center in South Carolina. There they spent an unforgettable week making new friends and reconnecting with God.

[More Summer Camp Coverage on the Back Page](#)

## DELRAY CARING KITCHEN SERVICE PROJECT



On Friday, July 10 Philoptochos and the community of Saint Mark joined together to give the Caring Kitchen in Delray Beach a much needed facelift. Over a dozen of our young adults volunteered with several other Saint Mark faithful to paint the exterior of the building as part of the Chapter Challenge for the 2016 National Philoptochos Convention. Heartfelt thanks to our supervisor Gus Jones, our power washer Keeko Ely, and all the volunteers who painted and provided refreshments.

*The Message* is an in-print outreach to the Orthodox Christian community of Boca Raton and the greater South Florida region. This publication aims to inform, edify, and serve as a witness to its readers of the Truth of Jesus Christ as confirmed in the Holy Gospel.

*The Message* is a ministry of:



## **Saint Mark** Greek Orthodox Church

2100 NW 51st Street  
Boca Raton, FL 33431

### **Clergy:**

Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis, Pastor  
Rev. Fr. Steven Klund, Assistant  
Rev. Fr. Alexander Leondis,  
Protopresbyter  
Rev. Dn. John Christakis, MD

### **Office Staff:**

Dawn Riger, Parish Administrator

### **Church Maintenance:**

Yosban Pazbalino & Tim Caldwell

### **Office Volunteers:**

Kalle Andromidas, Lynn Athan,  
Niki Core, Joann Haros, Marlene  
Buettner, Pres. Mary Leondis,  
Debbie Fread, Kay Poly,

**Parish Council:** Girard Mitchell

**Philoptochos:** Pam Parent

**Choir:** Virginia Barnes

**Chanters:** Ramona Bean,  
George Demopoulos, Art Poly

**Ushers:** Tim Sharp

**Acolytes:** Brian Giusti & Tom Bean

**Church School:** Helen Lang

### **Youth Ministry:**

Angela & Girard Mitchell, Erin &  
Rick Kontos, Costa & Lynn Athan,  
Dominique Cultrera, Claudia  
Dovas, Irina Giakouminakis, &  
Nicole Pelekanos

**Seniors:** Diane Paterakis

### **Syrtaki:**

Mark Christakis & Jenny Saiger

**Greek School:** Anna Kaiser

**Bookstore:** Yvette Koutsoupis,  
Barbara Tasiounes, Stella Pores

**Welcome:** Elaine Zographus

**Candles:** Peter Zivanovich

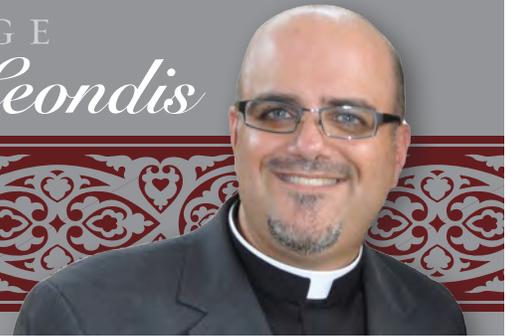
**Readers:** Vivian Jenetopoulos

**Photography:** Ted Vagelos  
& Irina Giakouminakis

**The Message:** Fr. Steven Klund

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

# Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis



My dear faithful,

The summer is coming to a close, and with it the beginning of a new ecclesiastical year. Once more, the Church ministries will be up and running with full event calendars, and the sleepy summer months will give way to the hustle and bustle of the “season.”

Every week, we the faithful come to the Church to be forgiven of sins and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. We are also able to experience the “Liturgy after the Liturgy” each Sunday in the Fellowship Hour – offering us an opportunity to grow closer to each other. The Fall will also bring us the chance to grow closer to our Lord through our: Adult Education, Bible Study, Discussion Groups, Youth programs, education, Outreach, Evangelism and philanthropic work.

If this new year, God forbid, brings any of us times of illness or need, the Church is there for us. Even in times of loss, the Church does not abandon the faithful. She prays by their side at every step and preserves their memories after their transition from this world.

The beginning of the new year gives us all an opportunity to recommit to the Church, and in doing so, renew our relationship with Christ. We do this by partaking in the sacramental life of the Church, being active in the ministries, and renewing our stewardship pledges. In thanksgiving for all that God has done (*and continues to do*) for us each and every year, what can we offer to Him in return?

What can I offer my beloved Saint Mark parish through my time, talents and treasure? We do this knowing that what we do for the Church – we do for Christ.

Consider being generous by increasing your stewardship commitment by 10 or 20% or moving to the next level of giving. I ask you please ... do not view your stewardship as an obligation or a tax ... but as a humble offering to Jesus Christ.

As a way to see Christ’s work expand. As a privilege to be part of God’s work directly. And as a response to God’s love with your love.

May we all be good stewards of which God has given us.

With love in the Lord,

Father Mark

## WEEKLY DONATION OPPORTUNITIES - A NEW WAY TO GIVE THANKS ON SUNDAYS!

Many parishioners have requested to make donations toward candles, Communion wine and flowers at various times in the year. If you would like to offer something on in honor of a loved one (or even as general thanksgiving), please contact the Church Office. We will be accepting offerings of \$25 for the following items per Liturgy:

ALTAR CANDLES

VIGIL LIGHT

COMMUNION WINE

MEMORIAL CANDLES

**HEAR THE WORD OF GOD & KEEP IT - FR. ALEXANDER LEONDIS**

The Feast of the Dormition, Kimisis, or the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos, is celebrated on the 15th day of August. The Feast commemorates the death, the “metastasis” or translation and glorification of Christ’s Mother. The feast proclaims that Mary has been “assumed” by God into the heavenly Kingdom in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

The tradition of the Church states that Mary died as all mortals die, because of her human body, which was indivisibly bound with the corruption of this world. Although the Theotokos was without personal sin from the time of the Annunciation, she needed to be saved by Christ, as all human persons are in need of salvation in Christ. After her death, however, she was raised by her son as the “Mother of Life” and she participates already in the eternal life of paradise, which is prepared for all who “hear the word of God and keep it” as Mary did.

The feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is a celebration of the fact that all people may participate in the blessedness of Christ and this has already been accomplished in Mary.

The feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee and the celebration that Mary’s fate is the destiny of all those who “magnify the Lord” as Mary did, whose “spirits rejoice in God the Savior” and whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the word of God like Mary.

In all the feasts of the Theotokos, the Orthodox Christian celebrates the events of his or her own life in Christ and in the Holy Spirit. What happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her life of humility, obedience and love. With Mary, all people will be “blessed,” will be more “honorable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim,” if they follow her example.

All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit and will become temples of the living God. All who live like Mary will share eternal life in God’s Kingdom.

We invite you to join us for the Supplications, Paraklesis Services, during the special season dedicated to the Theotokos who teaches us how to “hear the word of God and keep it.”

**DORMITION FAST SERVICES**



**SUNDAY - AUG 2**

- 8:45 am - Orthros
- 9:45 am - Liturgy

**MONDAY - AUG 3**

- 6:30 pm - Paraklesis

**WEDNESDAY - AUG 5**

- 6:30 pm - Vespers (Transfiguration)

**THURSDAY - AUG 6**

- 9:00 am - Liturgy (Transfiguration)

**FRIDAY - AUG 7**

- 6:30 pm - Paraklesis

**SUNDAY - AUG 9**

- 8:45 am - Orthros
- 9:45 am - Liturgy

**MONDAY - AUG 10**

- 6:30 pm - Paraklesis

**WEDNESDAY - AUG 12**

- 6:30 pm - Paraklesis

**FRIDAY - AUG 14**

- 6:30 pm - Vespers (Dormition, West Palm)

**SATURDAY - AUG 15**

- 9:00 am - Orthros
- 10:00 am - Liturgy

**MINISTRIES REGISTRATION | AUG 23 - SEPT 13**

The new ecclesiastical year is just around the corner, which means that soon all of our ministries will be in full force once again. We anticipate another loaded calendar with tons of exciting events. To prepare for it, we are holding registration for all of our ministries in the Fellowship Hall after Liturgy during the four Sundays leading up to our kick-off weekend September 13. In the hall you will find tables set up with banners, information, and registration forms for the various ministries as well as a table where you will be able to renew your stewardship pledges for the upcoming year.

2015-2016 will be an incredible year filled with spiritual growth, service, fellowship and lots of fun. We invite you to join us, and experience all that the Saint Mark family has to offer!

**BIBLE STUDY - TUES @ 7PM & SYNAXIS - THURS @ 11AM**



This September Saint Mark will resume its Bible Study, and Orthodox Discussion group “Synaxis.” This Fall, we will pick up where we left off last year covering Saint Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians in Bible Study every Tuesday at 7:00 pm (after vespers at 6:30 pm). Also, every Thursday at 11:00 am (after Paraklesis at 10:00 am) we will be gathering for our Synaxis discussions. This year the group will reading a book from Mother Alexandra on “The Holy Angels.” Copies of the book are available in the Church Bookstore.



**SAINT ANASTASIA PARAKLESIS SERVICES - THIS FALL**

Beginning this Fall the Saint Mark family will be offering a new ministry to encourage and pray for those battling addictions and mental health disorders. Saint Anastasia is the patron saint for all those suffering from such afflictions, and we will be holding special monthly paraklesis services to her, asking for her intercessions. If you have any loved ones you know (Orthodox or not) who would benefit from these monthly prayers please email either Fr. Mark (frmarko@saintmarkboca.net) or Fr. Steven (frsteven@saintmarkboca.net) to add them to our monthly prayer list.

**SENIORS OF SAINT MARK - POT LUCK DINNER SEPT 19**

The Seniors of Saint Mark have used the summer, not as chance to relax, but to plan for a great year of events! The first event of the Fall will be a Pot Luck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall on September 19 at 4:30 pm. Membership dues are only \$10 per year. If you have any questions about membership please contact Olga Malides, for all other information please talk to the Seniors’ Board President Diane Paterakis.



**BEGINS AGAIN THIS SEPTEMBER**

We are starting up our second year of Mommy + Me. We are looking forward to another amazing year full of worship, sing-a-longs, crafts, story-time, and games! If you have children 0-4 years old, and are interested in joining us please contact the Church office at (561)994-4822 or office@saintmarkboca.net



**FOR EVERYTHING SAINT MARK**



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### SAINT STEPHEN'S CAMP 2015 - "CHALLENGE ACCEPTED"

For the second straight year, our Saint Mark GOYA made its way to the Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, SC to participate in the Metropolis of Atlanta's Saint Stephen's Camp program. This year's theme was "Challenge Accepted" and focused each day's activities on learning about the Ten Commandments. The days were packed full of amazing events like swimming and canoeing at the lake front, arts and crafts, sports, and even a wilderness ROPES challenge course! The nights were even more lively than the daily schedule as each evening featured a special event. From icebreakers and sing-a-longs, to skits and campfires, every evening activity brought the campers closer together. The most memorable of these were definitely "Junkyard Wars," where the campers had to build and race a go-kart made out of toilet seats, cardboard boxes and other "trash."

In addition to the energetic and fast-paced activities, this week also provided the campers a chance to reconnect with God. Every morning began with an Orthros service, and a chance for personal prayer in "Alone time with God." After breakfast, the campers went to "Orthodox Life" where they were able to learn about the Ten Commandments, and how to "accept the challenge" of embracing them in their everyday lives. Every evening we ended with another prayer service, and a "Hangtime" session which gave the campers an opportunity to reflect on the day's lessons with their cabin-mates and counselors.

In just six short days at camp, the campers (*and staff*) had a ton of fun, but also grew tremendously in their faith. This program is quite literally a life-changing experience for all who attend, and this year was no exception. We look to continue "accepting the challenge" of living Christ-centered lives now back in Boca, and carrying on the Saint Stephen's Camp spirit until next June!