

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Palm Sunday, April 12, 2009

Schedule of Services

**April 12<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday: Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

1:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

**April 13<sup>th</sup> Great and Holy Monday**

7:00 a.m. Hours with Gospel Reading

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:30 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

**April 14<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Hours with Gospel Reading

2:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:30 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

**April 15<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Hours with Gospel Reading

5:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:30 p.m. Matins

**April 16<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Thursday**

12:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil

7:00 p.m. Matins with Twelve Passion Gospels

**April 17<sup>th</sup> Great and Holy Friday**

7:30 a.m. Royal Hours

9:30 a.m. Decorate Church

3:00 p.m. Burial Vespers, Compline, Grave Watch

7:00 p.m. Matins with Lamentations, Grave Watch

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Great and Holy Saturday**

2:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil

11:30 p.m. Nocturnes

**April 19<sup>th</sup> Holy Pascha the Feast of Feasts**

12:01 a.m. Matins, Hours, Liturgy, Blessing of Pascha Baskets

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Paschal Picnic

Today the grace of the Spirit hath gathered us together, and we all take up Thy Cross and say: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest! *Vigil for Palm Sunday*

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission  
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

## Announcements for April 12<sup>th</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation and church school for the children. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door. Be aware that shortly after the sermon, the catechumens, i.e., those preparing for Baptism & Chrismation, will be dismissed, but you are invited to stay for the rest of the service.

**To All:** Please be aware that Holy Communion is open only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves for worthy participation in the Mystery through prayer, fasting, and a recent confession to a priest (within the last month or so). We should be modestly dressed and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not have missed Sunday Liturgy for three or more weeks in a row.

**Please Move Forward** during the Liturgy! **Please** try to be quiet afterwards while the Prayers of Thanksgiving are being read in the church, or better yet, stay for the prayers so you don't have to read them later at home.

**Church School** meets today after the Liturgy.

**The Special Freewill Offering** today will be for debt reduction.

**We welcome** Fr. Christopher Allen and his family who will be spending Holy Week and Pascha with us.

**Our Lenten Almsgiving** for Woman to Woman and Interfaith Ministries is wrapping up. If you haven't responded, try to offer something this week from what God has given you to help those less fortunate.

**No Classes this Week!**

**Grave Watch Sign-up:** You may begin signing up for the grave watch kept from after Vespers on Holy Friday until before Nocturnes on Holy Saturday. It is a time to read the Psalter or the Acts of the Apostles and to pray alone before the tomb of Christ in the church. Be sure to take advantage of this with your family.

**Parish Email List:** If you have an email account but are not on the St. Maximus email list, please let Fr. Justin or Dax Stokes know so we can put you on. It is an important means of communicating with the parish on short notice. Thank you.

**Confessions:** If have not made a Confession since the Fast began and wish to commune at Pascha or beyond, you must make a Confession. Confession will be available after the evening services this week and at other times by appointment.

### Fasting in Great & Holy Week

We continue to abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil during Holy Week. If we have not been fasting strictly, we should ask for God's grace to make a greater effort during this week of Christ's Passion, not only in fasting from food, but also in our prayer, almsgiving, spiritual reading, and avoiding sin and unnecessary distractions. We do well to live this week as much as possible in the Church, a sort of 'spiritual retreat', contemplating and celebrating all Christ has done for us, accompanying Christ through His Passion. We break the fast together next Sunday morning after the Paschal Divine Liturgy.

The *full guidelines* for fasting in Holy Week are as follows, for those who, by God's grace, have the strength to follow them:

Today, Palm Sunday, fish, wine, and oil are taken for the Feast. Holy Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, we eat one meal a day in the evening with the usual restriction: no meat, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), or oil.

We eat one meal on Holy Thursday, but use wine and oil.

On Great Friday, those with strength keep a total fast. Those unable to do so may eat some bread with water, tea, or fruit-juice after sunset, or no sooner than the veneration of the winding sheet at Vespers.

On Holy Saturday, we eat one meal after the Liturgy of St. Basil (before, say, 7:00 p.m.) Wine is permitted on this day, but not oil.

**Please Pray for our Catechumen:** Thom Anderson, **our inquirers** John Parsons and Adam & Melanie Betz. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Nick Gluschenko, and Gareth Tikhon Barnard who is working in Kansas. Please remember our Alaskan Seminarian Methodius Nicori and the nun Barbara as she labors to found a new monastery in our area.

**Tithes, Offerings & Attendance:** Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God, which also supports our efforts to proclaim the fullness of the Gospel of Christ in Denton through the establishment of a permanent Orthodox parish and new missions throughout Denton County and north Texas. Checks should be made out to St. Maximus Orthodox Church.

Last week, we gave \$1794.76 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$39; Bookstore \$19. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 17, Liturgy 61.

### From Saint Maximus

Whenever you are suffering intensely from an insult or disgrace, realize that this can be of great benefit to you, for disgrace is God's way of driving vainglory out of you.

*400 Chapters on Love, 1.30*

### Troparia and Kontakia for April 12<sup>th</sup>



#### Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem, Troparion tone 4

When we were buried with Thee in Baptism, O Christ God,/ we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection! / Now we praise Thee and sing: / Hosanna in the highest! // Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!

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#### Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem, Kontakion tone 6

Seated in Heaven upon Thy throne / and on earth upon a foal / O Christ our God, / Thou hast accepted the praise of the Angels / and the songs of the children who cried out to Thee: / “Blessed art Thou that comest to call back Adam.”

