

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, April 26, 2009

Schedule of Services

April 26th Antipascha; Thomas Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

April 27th Monday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: "I Believe"

April 28th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Church History Class

April 29th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

April 30th Thursday Apostle James son of Zebedee

7:00 a.m. Hours, Divine Liturgy

May 1st Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

May 2nd Saturday

9:00 a.m. Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 3rd Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Thomas the Twin, who alone was bold, and who by his unbelieving belief hath brought us benefactions, doth by his believing unbelief dispel gloomy ignorance from all the ends of the earth. And he doth clearly plait a crown for himself by saying: thou art Lord. O our supremely exalted God, the God of our fathers, blessed are Thou.

Not in vain did Thomas doubt Thine arising, nor did he keep it hidden for himself, but free of doubt, he hastened to show it forth unto all the nations, O Christ. Wherefore, convinced through his unbelief, he taught all to say: Thou art Lord. *Matins Canon, Ode 7*

Announcements for April 26th

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).

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 our choir director, Dax Stokes, to show our appreciation for all his hard work.

A New Coffee Hour Rotation has been made. Please see when you are scheduled. If you need to change your week, please swap with someone. Coffee Hour is a ministry. It need not be elaborate. It need not be expensive (if we prepare simple foods ourselves rather than purchase store-prepared foods).

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 7.

During the 50 days from Pascha to the Feast of Pentecost on June 7th, we do not kneel or make prostrations at home or in church in keeping with the joyful, festal character of the season. We begin to kneel and do prostrations again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost.

For 40 days until the Feast of Ascension (May 28), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!"

During the same period, we replace "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal..." with the paschal troparion said thrice.

Through the Leavetaking of Pascha (May 27), we use the Paschal Troparion before and after meals and when setting out on a trip.

Classes this Week:

Monday, 7:00 p.m., Basics of Orthodoxy Creed 2: "I Believe"

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Church History

Wednesday class will resume in two weeks at 5:30.

Please Pray for our Catechumen: Thom Anderson, **our inquirers** John Parsons and Adam & Melanie Betz. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, Elder Zacharias, for Nick Gluschenko undergoing open-heart surgery tomorrow, and Gareth Tikhon Barnard who is working in Kansas. Please remember Met. Jonah in your prayers, our Alaskan Seminarian Methodius Nicori, and for the nun Barbara as she labors to found a new monastery in our area. Give thanks that Lois Lyda's father James Anderson is miraculously cancer-free!

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 and placed in the basket on the candle table, where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for the building fund.

Last week, we gave \$1059.10 in tithes and offerings; in April we have given \$4831.56; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$155; Bookstore \$68.90. May God bless your faithful giving!
Attendance: Paschal Vigil 70+; Paschal Vespers 102+.

From Saint Maximus

As the light of the sun attracts the healthy eye, so does the knowledge of God draw the pure mind to itself naturally through love.

The mind is pure when it is removed from ignorance and illumined by divine light.

The soul is pure when it has been freed from the passions and rejoices unceasingly in divine love.

A blameworthy passion is a movement of the soul contrary to nature.

400 Chapters on Love, 1.32-35

On Thomas Sunday, or Antipascha

The eighth day after Pascha as the ending of the celebration of Bright Week was a special celebration since ancient times, as if it replaced the very same Day of Pascha and was called *Antipascha* and means *instead of Pascha*. From this day the cycle of Sundays and weeks of the entire year begins. On this day the commemoration of the resurrection of Christ is updated for the

first time. This Sunday of the Antipascha was called the New Sunday, i.e. the first *day of renewal* or simply *renewal*. The more proper name is the real day, the eighth day after Pascha, that on this eighth day the Lord Himself willed the renewal of the joy of His resurrection with a new appearance to the Holy Apostles.

St. Gregory the Theologian says in his Homily on this Sunday, "With the ancient and good purpose, it is to honor the day of renewal as established law, or better to say, to honor the new benefactions with the day of renewal. But was not the day of renewal also the first Resurrection Day, followed by the blessed and radiant night? Why you give this name to the present day? That was the day of salvation, but this day is the commemoration of salvation. That day differentiates the burial and the resurrection in itself, but this day is purely of the new birth. It is the first day among those following it and eighth among those coming before it".

Commemorating this day of "renewal" the Holy Church inspires in us the necessity for our beneficial spiritual renewal. "The real renewal", the same Holy Father teaches, "we now celebrate, is the going from death to life. And so we put off ourselves the old man and renewed ourselves; that we too might walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4)". "The old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17). "Let us bridle all lusts from which death was born, let us become accustomed to the feeling of obedience, let us begin to hate any evil food from prohibited fruit and let us remember the former only and henceforth first be wary of the same. Christian be made new from the old and in this way celebrate the renewal of the soul". "Change yourself with a good change, and in this case do not think highly of yourself, but say with David: "This is a change being wrought by the right hand of the Most High" (Ps. 76:11), from whom is everything successful in people. God the Word wants that you not stand in the place alone, but that you ever move, moving smoothly, be completely newly created and if you sin turn yourself away from the sin, and if you are successful, you will have strained the powers even more". *Bulgakov Handbook, Fr. Eugene Tarris trans.*

Troparia and Kontakia for April 26th



Thomas Sunday, Troparion, tone 7

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! / Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy disciples, O Christ God. / Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, / by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all.

Thomas Sunday, Kontakion, tone 8

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, / when Thou, O Christ God, didst come to Thine Apostles through closed doors. // He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God!