

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010

Schedule of Services

March 28th Palm Sunday *Fish, Wine, Oil*

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:30 p.m. Vespers; Holy Week Begins

6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

March 29th Great & Holy Monday

1:15 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

March 30th Great and Holy Tuesday

1:15 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

8:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

March 31st Great & Holy Wednesday

1:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:00 p.m. Matins of Holy Thursday

April 1st Great & Holy Thursday

12:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Matins of Holy Friday w/12 Passion Gospels

April 2nd Great & Holy Friday

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours

10:00 a.m. Decorate Church

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

7:00 p.m. Matins of Holy Saturday w/Lamentations

April 3rd Great & Holy Saturday

12:30 p.m. Catechizing

1:00 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy

11:30 p.m. Nocturnes

April 4th Holy Pascha, Feast of Feasts

12:00 a.m. Matins, Hours, Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Baskets

3:00 p.m. Agape Vespers, Paschal Picnic

Passing from one divine Feast to another, from palms and branches let us now make haste, ye faithful, to the solemn and saving celebration of Christ's Passion. Let us behold Him undergo voluntary suffering for our sake, and let us sing to Him with thankfulness a fitting hymn: Fountain of tender mercy and haven of salvation, O Lord, glory to Thee! *Vespers of Palm Sunday*

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

Announcements for March 28th

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 be quiet** in the Narthex afterwards while the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion are being read in the church.

The Special Offering today will be for St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, McKinney.

Church Decorating will be held Holy Friday after the Royal Hours at 10:00.

Confession: If have not made a Confession since the Fast began and wish to commune at Pascha or beyond, you must make a Confession (this includes children past the age of seven). Confession will be generally available after the evening services this week.

Care Bundles: We are collecting items to assemble into "care bundles" for the homeless. Our goal is to assemble 200 bags. A list of needed items is posted in the coffee hour room. Items may be placed in the black bin under the bookstore table.

No Classes this Week Except the Services Themselves

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.

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 \$1243.75 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$4240.94; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$44; Bookstore \$103.98; Building fund \$0; special gifts \$250. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 19, Liturgy 54. Expansion fund: \$75, (expansion total \$400), minimum goal \$2500.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: for those who will be catechized next Saturday in preparation for Holy Illumination at Pentecost: Adam & Melanie Betz, Ashley Davis, and Mary Moses; for our **catechumens** Thom Anderson, Javier Largazspada, and Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, for our **inquirers** John Parsons, Jason O'Brien, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston who has suffered a stroke and is recovering at home, and Adam Betz's health.

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 after 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.

From Saint Maximus

The love of God induces the one who possesses it to despise every passing pleasure and every trouble and sorrow. All the saints, who have suffered so much with joy for Christ, should convince you of this.

Keep yourself away from self-love, the other of vices, which is the irrational love of the body. For from it surely arise the first three passionate and capital thoughts, gluttony, greed, and vainglory, which have their starting point in the seemingly necessary demands of the body and from which the whole catalogue of vices comes about. Therefore, as was said, one must necessarily keep away from and do battle with this self-love with full determination, for when this is overcome, then are all its offspring likewise brought into line.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.58-59

Troparia and Kontakia for March 28th



Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem, Troparion tone 1

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, / Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God! / Like the children with the palms of victory, / we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: / hosanna in the highest! / Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!

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!

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.”