

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday April 21st, 2013

Schedule of Services for the Fifth Week

April 21st Fifth Sunday of Lent: St. Mary of Egypt

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Seraphim, Dallas*

April 22nd Monday of the Sixth Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

April 23rd Tuesday of the Sixth Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

April 24th Wednesday of the Sixth Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal, Discussion

April 25th Thursday of the Sixth Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

April 26th Friday of the Sixth Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts; End of 40 Days

April 27th Lazarus Saturday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:00 Parish Cleaning

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

April 28th Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday

From the Triodion

Thou who art rich, O Christ, hast become poor: and Thou hast enriched mortal men with immortality and light. I have grown poor through the pleasures of this life: make me rich in virtues, granting me a place with the poor man Lazarus, and deliver me from the punishment of the rich man and the torment of Gehenna that awaits me. *Vespers of the Fifth Sunday*

Announcements for April 21st

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door.

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 (so as not to distract others) and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

The Special Offering will go for debt reduction. We currently owe the diocese \$54,025 on our property and building.

The Pan-Orthodox Vespers tonight will be at St. Seraphim Cathedral in Dallas, our mother parish, 6:00 p.m. Address: 4208 Wyclif, 75219. All are encouraged to attend.

Presanctified Liturgies this week are on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and Friday at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a lenten dish to share afterwards.

Lenten Almsgiving: We are collecting things for Woman to Woman, a ministry to unwed mothers to help them not abort their babies and for Interfaith Ministries, a local charity in Denton which assists people in need. Bins are placed with a list of items that each ministry needs.

Confessions During Lent: Everyone should prepare for Holy Communion at Pascha, and part of that preparation is making a good Confession. Abundant opportunities to make a Confession are available, and, if the scheduled times do not work for you, you may make an appointment. Please do not save your Confession for the last moment, but rather plan on making it by Palm Sunday.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday 8:00 p.m.: Community Meal after the Presanctified Liturgy, Patristic Reading, Discussion

Please Pray for our Catechumens: for Joel (John Cassian) and Mindy Brown and their children Daniel, Anya, and Elijah, Gary & Olivia Reynolds and their children Ariel, Analise, and Alexandria, Lauren Williams, and Adam Bramlett who are preparing for Holy Illumination, and for inquirers Rebecca and Rebecca. Please pray for the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice care, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga.

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 in 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 our building fund.

Last week we gave \$3176.6; in April, we have given \$4861.66; our monthly budget is \$9187 (\$2297 per week. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$43.50, Renovation (Soda) \$3, Building Fund \$120, Expansion \$13. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 36, Liturgy 73.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of \$66,522.18 has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

The Fast: Fifth Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), and oil. If fasting strictly, we take one meal a day M-F after 3 p.m. or after the Presanctified Liturgy. We join increased prayer and almsgiving to our fasting and avoid all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion at the evening Presanctified Liturgy keep a Eucharistic fast from noon (six hours before service). Please see your priest if you have any questions.

From Saint Maximus

God, who is by nature good and dispassionate, loves all men equally as His handiwork. But He glorifies the virtuous man because in his will he is united to God. At the same time, in His goodness He is merciful to the sinner and by chastising him in this life brings him back to the path of virtue. Similarly, a man of good and dispassionate judgment also loves all men equally. He loves the virtuous man because of his nature and the probity of his intention; and he loves the sinner, too, because of his nature and because in his compassion he pities him for foolishly stumbling in darkness.

The state of love may be recognized in the giving of money, and still more in the giving of spiritual counsel and in looking after people in their physical needs. *400 Chapters on Love, First Century 25-26*

Troparia and Kontakia for April 21st

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit / thou didst pour forth Christ's sacred teachings, / thou didst expound with Divine authority / the self-emptying of God the Word / and wast radiant in thy confession of the True Faith: / O, Glorious Father Maximus / pray to Christ our God / to grant us His great mercy.

Mary of Egypt, Troparion tone 8

In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; / for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ, / and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, / but to attend to the soul since it is immortal. / Wherefore, O righteous Mary, thy spirit rejoiceth with the Angels.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

St. Maximus, Kontakion, tone 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

Mary of Egypt, Kontakion, tone 3

Once thou wast defiled with every impurity, / but today through repentance thou hast become the Bride of Christ. / Desiring the life of the angels, / thou hast cast down the demons with the weapon of the Cross: / therefore, O glorious Mary, thou was made a bride of the Kingdom.