

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, April 24th, 2016

Schedule of Services

April 24th Palm Sunday; Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins
April 25th Great & Holy Monday 4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins
April 26th Great & Holy Tuesday 4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins
April 27th Great & Holy Wednesday 4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins
April 28th Great & Holy Thursday 12:00 p.m. Vespereal Liturgy 6:30 p.m. Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels
April 29th Great & Holy Friday 8:00 a.m. Royal Hours 10:00 a.m. Church Cleaning and Decoration 3:00 p.m. Burial Vespers & Compline 6:30 p.m. Matins with the Lamentations & Procession
April 30th Great & Holy Saturday 10:00 a.m. Baptisms 12:00 p.m. Vespereal Divine Liturgy 11:30 p.m. Nocturnes, Procession
May 1st Pascha Sunday; The Feast of Feasts 00:15 a.m. Matins, Hours, Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Baskets 3:00 p.m. Agape Vespers, Paschal Picnic

Rejoice, and be glad, O city of Zion; exult and be exceeding joyful, O Church of God. For behold, thy King hath come in righteousness, seated upon a foal, and the children sing His praises: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed art Thou who showest great compassion: have mercy on us."
Triodion, Vespers of Palm Sunday

Announcements for April 24

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, 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. We invite you to go first through the food line and join the priest at his table.

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).

The Special Offering this week will be for Paschal flowers.

No Classes this Week

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Nathan Eaton.

Many Thanks to Rdr. Vasilius for mowing the yard, to others who have helped in the yard, to Anna Stokes for decorating the festal icon, to the Davises for the lamb for our feast.

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 (3:00 p.m.).

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. The Eucharistic fast for the Paschal Liturgy begins after this meal or by about 8:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Fasting for the Presanctified Liturgies should begin no later than 10:00 a.m. Monday through Wednesday.

Grave Watch: The sign-up sheet is out for the Grave Watch of Holy Friday and Saturday. Please do not sign up for more than one time until Wednesday and everyone who desires a time has had a reasonable chance to sign for one. If there is no time available but you still want to do it, you may share time with someone already signed up.

Palm Fronds and pussy willows are yours to take home, but please remember that they have been blessed. Many people keep them in their icon corner during the upcoming year. Old palm fronds should either be burned or put in a secure place outside where they may peacefully decay without being trodden upon.

Church Decoration: We will clean and decorate the church and tomb on Holy Friday at 10 after the Royal Hours. Many hands will make light work. Please do not bring food for this (except for young children) as this is a strict fast day (see *Confessor's Tongue*).

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and 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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during service). There are also boxes for alms (those in need) and our building fund.

Last week, we gave \$3280.45 in tithes and offerings; in April, we have given \$6634.80; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$66, special offering for Interfaith Ministries \$282.90, Building Fund \$3.04, Renovation \$7. Attendance: Sat Vigil 38 Sun Liturgy 88.

Please Pray: for those preparing for holy illumination and Adam and Jenilee Skelton and Estephania Dean, our catechumen Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Wells family, the Dean family, for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest field here in Denton and North Texas. Remember always to pray for your priest. Please pray for John Roberts and his wife Edith, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Pray for those whom you have not seen at church for some time.

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

Sublime knowledge about God stands in the soul like a tower, fortified with the practice of the commandments. That is the

meaning of the text, 'Uzriah built towers in Jerusalem' (2 Chr. 26:9). A man builds towers in Jerusalem when he is blessed with success in his search for the Lord through contemplation accompanied by the requisite fear, that is, by observing the commandments; for he then establishes the principles of divine knowledge in the undivided and tranquil state of his soul. 2.63

Without faith, hope and love (cf. 1 Cor. 13:13) nothing sinful is totally abolished, nor is anything good fully attained. Faith urges the beleaguered intellect to press on towards God and encourages it by equipping it with a full range of spiritual weapons. Hope is the intellect's surest pledge of divine help and promises the destruction of hostile powers. Love makes it difficult or, rather, makes it utterly impossible for the intellect to estrange itself from the tender care of God; and when the intellect is under attack, love impels it to concentrate its whole natural power into longing for the divine. 2.68

Faith encourages the beleaguered intellect and strengthens it with the hope of assistance. Hope brings before its eyes this help promised by faith and drives off the enemy's attack. Love kills the enemy's provocations within the devout intellect, utterly obliterating them with deep longing for the divine. 2.69

Troparia and Kontakia for Palm Sunday, April 24

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."