

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Palm Sunday, April 9th, 2017



Schedule of Holy Week Services

April 9th Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins – Holy Week Begins

April 10th Great & Holy Monday

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

April 11th Great & Holy Tuesday

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

April 12th Great & Holy Wednesday

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
7:00 p.m. Matins of the Mystical Supper

April 13th Great & Holy Thursday

12:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy
6:30 p.m. Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels

April 14th Great & Holy Friday

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours
10:00 a.m. Church Cleaning and Decoration
3:00 p.m. Burial Vespers & Compline
7:00 p.m. Matins with the Lamentations & Procession

April 15th Great & Holy Saturday

10:00 a.m. Baptisms
12:00 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy
11:30 p.m. Nocturnes, Procession

April 16th 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

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

38. Desire for material wealth must not lodge in the souls of those pursuing the spiritual way. For a monk with many possessions is an over-laden ship, driven by the storm of cares and sinking in the deep waters of distress. Love of riches begets many passions, and has aptly been called 'the root of all evil' (1 Tim. 6:10).

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

Announcements for April 9

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 also invite you to go first through the food line.

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).

Temple Oil offered for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn Rodgers and the repose of William Frederick.

The Special Offering this week will be for Paschal flowers.

Confession is available this week by appointment. Don't wait.

Fasting in Great & Holy Week

We continue to abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil and marital relations 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.

Grave Watch: A sign up sheet for the grave watch is posted. Please take only one time to start. If slots are filled and you'd like to come, sign up, come, and share a slot.

Palm Fronds are held by the faithful during services in celebration of today's feast and may be taken home afterwards to be kept in one's icon corner. Old palm fronds should be laid outside in a place they will not be disturbed to decay or burned.

Holy Week and Bright Week are times to make being in church an overriding priority. Do take full advantage of the services offered.

No Classes This Week. The services are our classes.

Decoration of the Church will take place this Friday at 10:00 a.m. following the Royal Hours. We'll do some last-minute cleaning inside and out as well. Please help if you can.

Commemorations: Please try to submit your Sunday commemorations Saturday night (or earlier) whenever you can.

Fasting for Presanctified Liturgy: If you desire to commune at any of the Presanctified Liturgies this week, the Eucharistic fast begins at 10:00 a.m. both days.

Many Thanks to all who labored yesterday to clean and beautify, and to Elizabeth Davis for donating the paschal lamb for the picnic.

The Front Door should not be used during the Sunday Liturgy as we are using the narthex as part of the nave.

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 \$1090.21 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$11,250. Special Offering for seminarian \$56; Candles \$99.50; Building Fund \$5. Attendance: Liturgy 97, Vigil 38. Wednesday & Friday Presanctified Liturgies 51, 31.

Please Pray: for Cassian and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for our catechumens Maximus (Frank), Catherine, Dymna (Joy), Emilia (Charity), Gobnata/Abigail (Patience), and Gabriel Wells, Magdalena (Meghann), Joshua (Caleb), Tatiana (True), Malachi (Noble), Seraphima (Pearl), Paisia (Primrose), and Gideon (Valor) Jones, and Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Dean family; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Albina Gashushina, and for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, and for Eugene and Rachel.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.5 Unless various successive spiritual contemplations also occupy the intellect, the practice of virtues by itself cannot free it so entirely from passions that it is able to pray undistractedly. Practice of the virtues frees the intellect only from dissipation and hatred; spiritual contemplation releases it also from forgetfulness and ignorance. In this way the intellect can pray as it should.

2.6 Two states of pure prayer are exalted above all others. One is to be found in those who have not advanced beyond the practice of the virtues, the other in those leading the contemplative life. The first is engendered in the soul by fear of God and a firm hope in Him, the second by an intense longing for God and by total purification. The sign of the first is that the intellect, abandoning all conceptual images of the world, concentrates itself and prays without distraction or disturbance as if God Himself were present, as indeed He is. The sign of the second is that at the very onset of prayer the intellect is so ravished by the divine and infinite light that it is aware neither of itself nor of any other created thing, but only of Him who through love has activated such radiance in it. It is then that, being made aware of God's qualities, it receives clear and distinct reflections of Him.

Troparia and Kontakia for Palm Sunday, April 9

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."