

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday April 7th, 2013

Schedule of Services for the Fourth Week

April 7th Third Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Cross

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. John's, Euless*

April 8th Monday of the Fourth Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

April 9th Tuesday of the Fourth Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

April 10th Wednesday of the Fourth Week

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:30 p.m. Community Meal, Spiritual Reading, Discussion

April 11th Thursday of the Fourth Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

6:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Baptismal Service

April 12th Friday of the Fourth Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

April 13th Saturday of the Fourth Week

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

April 14th Fourth Sunday of Lent: St. John of the Ladder

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

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Demetrios, Fort Worth*

From the Triodion

Rejoice! life-giving Cross, unconquerable trophy of the true faith, door to Paradise, succor of the faithful, rampart set about the Church. Through thee the curse is utterly destroyed, the power of death is swallowed up, and we are raised from earth to heaven: invincible weapon, adversary of demons, glory of martyrs, true ornament of holy monks, haven of salvation bestowing on the world great mercy. *Vespers of the Third Sunday of the Fast*

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

Announcements for April 7th

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.

Temple Wine is offered for the health and salvation of Charles David Rodgers.

The Myrrhbearers, our burial ministry group, will meet today after Liturgy.

The Pan-Orthodox Vespers tonight will be at St. John the Baptist in Euless, in their new church, 6:00 p.m. Address: 303 Cullum Drive, Euless, TX 76040.

Presanctified Liturgies this week are at 6:00 on Wednesday and at 5:00 on Friday. 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.

Mission Council will meet next Sunday after Liturgy.

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 7:30 p.m.: Community Meal after the Presanctified Liturgy, Patristic Reading, Discussion

Thursday 6:00 p.m.: Basics of Orthodoxy for those preparing for Baptism: The Baptismal Service.

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, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga.

Driver Training: Olga Fincher has her learner's permit but needs an experienced driver to ride with her while she practices for the driving test. Please call her at (940) 484-4169.

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 \$2527.75 in March we gave \$10,052.95; our monthly budget is \$9187 (\$2297 per week. We made it! To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$86, Renovation (Soda) \$3, Building Fund \$351, St. Basil's, Weatherford \$94. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 28, Liturgy 83. In March average attendance at Sunday Divine Liturgy: 91, at Vigil 35. In 2012, the figures were 77.5 and 33.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of \$66,509.18 has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

The Fast: Fourth 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. Please see your priest if you have problems or questions.

O Lord who hast helped gentle David in the combat and enabled him to overcome the Philistine, come to the aid of Thine Orthodox people, and, by the weapon of the Cross, cast down our enemies. In Thy compassion show us thy mercy as of old, and make them know in truth that Thou art God, and that we who put our trust in Thee shall conquer. At the constant intercessions of Thy most pure Mother, grant us Thy great mercy. *Triodion*

From Saint Maximus

He who loves Me, says the Lord, will keep My commandments (cf. John 14:15, 23); and 'this is My commandment, that you love one another' (John 15:12). Thus he who does not love his neighbor fails to keep the commandment, and so cannot love the Lord.

Blessed is he who can love all men equally.

Blessed is he who is not attached to anything transitory or corruptible.

Blessed is the intellect that transcends all sensible objects and ceaselessly delights in divine beauty.

If you make provision for the desires of the flesh (cf. Rom. 13:14) and bear a grudge against your neighbor on account of something transitory, you worship the creature instead of the Creator.

If you keep your body free from disease and sensual pleasure it will help you to serve what is more noble.

He who forsakes all worldly desires sets himself above all worldly distress.

400 Chapters on Love, First Century 16-22

Troparia and Kontakia for April 7th

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.
/ From the womb of hell hath He delivered us, // and hath granted the world great mercy.

Sunday of the Cross, Troparion, tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross / preserve Thine estate.

Kontakion of the Third Sunday of Lent, tone 7

The fiery sword no longer guardeth the gate of Eden, / for in a strange and glorious way / the wood of the Cross hath quenched its flames. / The sting of death and the victory of hell are now destroyed, / for Thou art come, O my Savior, / crying unto those in hell: / "Return again to Paradise."