

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Palm Sunday April 28th, 2013

Schedule of Services for the Fifth Week

April 28th Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday

April 29th Great & Holy Monday

7:45 a.m. Third & Sixth Hours with Gospel of St. Mark
3:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday

April 30th Great & Holy Tuesday

3:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday

May 1st Great & Holy Wednesday

3:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
6:30 p.m. Matins of the Mystical Supper of Holy Thursday

May 2nd Great & Holy Thursday

12:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil
6:30 p.m. Matins of Holy Friday with Twelve Passion Gospels

May 3rd Great & Holy Friday

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours
10:00 a.m. Decoration of Church
3:00 p.m. Burial Vespers
6:30 p.m. Matins of Holy Saturday with Lamentations

May 4th Great & Holy Saturday

10:00 a.m. Baptisms
12:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil
11:30 p.m. Nocturnes, Matins, Hours, Paschal Liturgy

May 5th Holy Pascha—The Feast of Feasts

Midnight Procession, Matins, Hours, Liturgy
3:00 p.m. Agape Vespers, Paschal Picnic, Egg Hunt

From the Triodion

Announcements for Palm Sunday

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 Pascha flowers.

Palm fronds: Please take a palm frond when you enter and hold it throughout the service. Take them home with you afterwards. You may keep them in your icon corner until next year. To dispose of past ones, either burn them, put them in a secure place to decompose, or bring them to church.

Many Thanks to those who came for the workday yesterday! It was one of our best ever. Much was accomplished.

Presanctified Liturgies this week are Monday through Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. The Eucharistic fast begins no later than 9:30 a.m.

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 Holy Week: Everyone desiring Holy Communion this week should have made a confession in the last four weeks during the Fast. If you have not made your Confession, or need another, please see Fr. Justin.

No Classes this Week: The services are our classes this week.

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 \$2752.90; in April, we have given \$9614.56; 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 \$57, Building Fund \$491.25, Debt Reduction \$15. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 32, Liturgy 78.

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

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of \$66,522.18 has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost.

Construction Update: The patio should be completed this week and the air conditioning will be operational.

From Saint Maximus

He who has genuinely renounced worldly things, and lovingly and sincerely serves his neighbor, is soon set free from every passion and made a partaker of God's love and knowledge.

He who has realized love for God in his heart is tireless, as Jeremiah says (cf. Jer. 17:16. LXX), in his pursuit of the Lord his God, and bears every hardship, reproach and insult nobly, never thinking the least evil of anyone.

When you are insulted by someone or humiliated, guard against angry thoughts, lest they arouse a feeling of irritation, and so cut you off from love and place you in the realm of hatred.

You should know that you have been greatly benefited when you have suffered deeply because of some insult or indignity; for by means of the indignity self-esteem has been driven out of you.

400 Chapters on Love, First Century 27-30

Troparia and Kontakia for Palm Sunday, April 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."