

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Thomas Sunday May 12th, 2013
Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!



Schedule of Services

May 12th Thomas Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Church School

May 13th Monday

7:30 a.m. Matins

May 15th Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:30 p.m. Community Meal

6:00 p.m. Men's Class: How to Live a Holy Life

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

May 16th Thursday

8:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Grave Visitation

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Divine Liturgy

May 17th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

Camping Trip: Friday evening to Saturday

May 18th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 19th Sunday of the Myrrhbearers

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Church School

From the Pentecostarion

Not in vain did Thomas doubt Thine arising, nor did he keep it hidden for himself, but free of doubt, he hastened to show it forth unto all the nations, O Christ. Wherefore, convinced through his unbelief, he taught all to say: Thou art Lord. O our supremely exalted God, the God of our Fathers, blessed art Thou. *Matins for Thomas Sunday*

Announcements for May 12

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.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.: Men's Class: How to Live a Holy Life part two. The following week, we shall begin a study of the Book of Hebrews, so start reading Hebrews now.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Basics of Orthodoxy resumes, looking at the Divine Liturgy.

Grave Visitation: This practice is traditional on *Radonitsa* ("Day of Rejoicing"), the Tuesday after Bright Week. In it, the faithful visit the graves of the departed to announce the glad tidings of Christ's resurrection to them. We had planned to inaugurate this practice with the singing of a Trisagion service over each grave this year, but due to a conflict in schedule, we'll do this Thursday after Liturgy.

The Memorial Day Picnic is coming, Monday, May 27. We'll sing a Molieben to St. Maximus for the Parish at noon and then picnic through the afternoon. Please bring a picnic food and a drink. If anyone would like to organize games or other activities for children or youth, please let me know.

Please Pray: for inquirers Rebecca and Rebecca, 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 \$1861.43; 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 \$106, Building Fund \$52, Soda (renovation) \$30. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Paschal Vigil 107+, Paschal Vespers 95.

Construction Update: The patio is done. We have received money back from our first electrician who did not do all he was paid to do. We now lack only handrails for the wheelchair ramp and the gas meter.

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 23. Instead we say or sing the Paschal Troparion, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death..." three times.

During the 50 days from Pascha to the Feast of Pentecost on June 23rd, we do not kneel or make prostrations in church in keeping with the joyful, festal character of the season. We begin to kneel and do prostrations again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost.

For 40 days until the Feast of Ascension (June 13), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!"

Through the Leavetaking of Pascha (June 12), we use the Paschal Troparion before and after meals and when setting out on a trip.

From St. Silouan of Athos (+1938)

Orthodox Epistemology: How We Know

Pride is the root of unbelief. The proud man would acquire knowledge of things through his mind and his studying, but it is not given to him to learn to know God, in that the Lord reveals Himself only to the lowly in heart. To the lowly in heart does the Lord discover his works, which are beyond the understanding of our minds but are unfolded through the Holy Spirit. With the mere mind we can only come to know the things of this earth, and then only in part, while God and all that is of heaven are known through the Holy Spirit.

We may study as much as we will but we shall still not come to know the Lord unless we live according to His commandments, for the Lord is not made known through learning but by the Holy Spirit. Many philosophers and scholars have arrived at a belief in the existence of God but they have not come to know God. And we monks apply ourselves day and night to the study of the Lord's command but not all of us by a long way have come to know the

Lord, although we believe in Him. To believe God exists is one thing, to know God another.

On Love for Enemies

He who has the Holy Spirit in him, to however slight a degree, sorrows day and night for all mankind. His heart is filled with pity for all God's creatures, more especially for those who do not know God, or who resist Him and therefore are bound for the fire of torment. For them, more than for himself, he prays day and night, that all may repent and know the Lord.

If we wish to preserve grace, we must pray for our enemies. If you do not feel pity for the sinner destined to suffer the pains of hellfire, it means that the grace of the Holy Spirit is not in you...

From Saint Maximus

Just as the light of the sun attracts a healthy eye, so through love knowledge of God naturally draws to itself the pure intellect.

A pure intellect is one divorced from ignorance and illumined by divine light.

A pure soul is one freed from passions and constantly delighted by divine love.

A culpable passion is an impulse of the soul that is contrary to nature.

Dispassion is a peaceful condition of the soul in which the soul is not easily moved to evil.

400 Chapters on Love, First Century 32-36

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, May 12

Thomas Sunday, Troparion, tone 7

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! / Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy disciples, O Christ God. / Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, / by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all.

Glory... Now and ever...

Thomas Sunday, Kontakion, tone 8

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, / when Thou, O Christ God, didst come to Thine Apostles through closed doors. / He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God!