

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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**Bulletin for Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Schedule of Services for Holy Week**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

noon Basics of Orthodoxy: Mechanics of Prayer 2

6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

**April 14<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Monday**

3:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

**April 15<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Tuesday**

3:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

**April 16<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Wednesday**

3:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

6:30 p.m. Mystical Supper Matins

**April 17<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Thursday**

noon Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

6:30 p.m. Matins w/Twelve Passion Gospels

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Friday**

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours

10:00 a.m. Church Decoration & Cleaning

3:00 p.m. Burial Vespers

6:30 p.m. Matins w/Lamentations

**April 19<sup>th</sup> Great & Holy Saturday**

1:00 p.m. Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

11:30 p.m. Nocturnes

**April 20<sup>th</sup> Pascha Sunday**

Midnight Procession, Matins, Hours, Divine Liturgy, Blessing

3:00 p.m. Paschal Vespers, Picnic

Passing from one divine Feast to another, from palms and branches let us now make haste, ye faithful, to the solemn and saving celebration of Christ's Passion. Let us behold Him undergo voluntary suffering for our sake, and let us sing to Him with thankfulness a fitting hymn: Fountain of tender mercy and haven of salvation, O Lord, glory to Thee! *Vespers of Palm Sunday Evening*

## Announcements for April 13

**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 the 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). 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 if we are communing), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

**The Special Offering** this week will be for the IOCC.

**Temple wine** given for the health and salvation of Carolyn and William. **Temple Oil** for the health and salvation of Emily Graeme.

### 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.

**Many Years** to the newly-illuminated Irenaeus Sean Chaney!

**Paschal Preparations:** As you will recollect, some special preparations must be made to keep the feast: the Paschal Gospel (John 1:1-14) cries for readers in a language other than English on Pascha morning, the church requires decoration and cleaning on Holy Friday, plastic eggs need to be filled with candy for an egg hunt, eggs need to be boiled and dyed, lamb awaits cooking. Could any of this be you?

**Church cleaning** and decoration will take place Holy Friday at 10:00.

**Sign Up for Grave Watch:** A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board for the Grave Watch on Holy Friday and Saturday. Please sign up for only one slot now; if empty spots remain on Holy Thursday, you may take a second spot if you wish.

**Sign Up for Food:** Sign-up sheets are posted for bringing food to Pascha morning and to the picnic. Please let us know what you are bringing to share for the feast. This will help us to be sure all needs are covered. (This way we may get a few vegetables.)

**The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts** will be celebrated this week Monday through Wednesday at 3:00 (start fasting by 9:00).

**No Classes this Week** after today.

**Please Pray:** for catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, and Virginia Warwas, for inquirer Rick Hollembeak, the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia and James Lydon, and for the newly-departed Irina.

**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 \$1746.48 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week). Candles \$41; Building Fund box \$841; soda \$1; Special Offering for IOCC \$49.50. Attendance: Saturday Vigil 41, Sunday Liturgy 82.

### From Saint Maximus

It is not food that is evil but gluttony, not the begetting of children but unchastity, not material things but avarice, not esteem but self-

esteem. This being so, it is only the misuse of things that is evil, and such misuse occurs when the intellect fails to cultivate its natural powers.

Among the demons, says the blessed Dionysios, evil takes the form of mindless anger, desire uncontrolled by the intellect, and impetuous imagination. But mindlessness, lack of intellectual control and impetuosity in intelligent beings are privations of intelligence, intellect and circumspection. But a privation is posterior to the possession of something. There was a time, then, when the demons possessed intelligence, intellect and devout circumspection. This being the case, not even the demons are evil by nature, but they have become evil through the misuse of their natural powers.

Some of the passions produce licentiousness, some hatred, while others produce both dissipation and hatred.

Overeating and gluttony cause licentiousness. Avarice and self-esteem cause one to hate one's neighbor. Self-love, the mother of vices, is the cause of all these things.

Self-love is an impassioned, mindless love for one's body. Its opposite is love and self-control. A man dominated by self-love is dominated by all the passions.

*400 Chapters on Love, 3.4-8*

### **Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, April 13**

#### **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."