

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, April 17th, 2016

Schedule of Services

April 17th Sunday tone 5 St. Mary of Egypt 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School 6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Seraphim Cathedral
April 18th Monday 6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession 2:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession
April 19th Tuesday 6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession 7:00 p.m. Vespers 8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 201 “Creed 3”
April 20th Wednesday 6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession 6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal
April 21st Thursday 6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession 3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession
April 22nd Friday 6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession 7:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal
April 23rd Lazarus Saturday 7:30 a.m. Matins 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession
April 24th Palm Sunday; Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

As we begin with eagerness, O ye faithful, the sixth week of the holy Fast, let us sing a hymn in preparation for the Feast of Palms, to the Lord who cometh with glory to Jerusalem in the power of the Godhead, that he may slay death. So with reverence let us prepare the branches of the virtues, as emblems of victory; and let us cry Hosanna! to the Creator of all. *Triodion, Vespers of the 5th Sunday*

Announcements for April 17

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 his 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).

The Special Offering this week will be for Interfaith Ministries here in Denton as part of our Lenten almsgiving.

Many Thanks to all those who worked on the yard and the tomb yesterday to make it look beautiful: Shane, Gina, Miguel, Ian, Becki, Lisa, Matushka, Rebecca, Katya, Thea, Zoe; to Mike for connect the power for the central AC upstairs.

Classes This Week

Tuesday 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 201 "Creed III"

Friday 9:00 p.m. Readings in St. Maximus

Friday this week marks the end of the forty-day fast.

Pan-Orthodox Vespers will be served tonight at St. Seraphim Orthodox Church in Dallas at 6:00 with Bishop Alexander.

Eucharistic Fasting for the Presanctified Liturgies should begin no later than noon on Wednesday and one on Friday.

Episcopal Installation: Bishop Alexander will be formally installed as the ruling bishop of the Diocese of the South Saturday, June 11, at St. Seraphim Cathedral, Dallas. Look for details to come.

Confessions: The Great Fast is time for repentance and Confession. One week remains until Holy Week. Please make every effort to make your confessions before then.

The Fast: Sixth Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), oil. If fasting fully according to the norm, 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 cut back on (or cut out) all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ.

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 \$1629.70 in tithes and offerings; in April, we have given \$3354.35; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$43, special offering for St. Arsenius \$12.25, Building Fund \$163, Renovation \$1. Attendance: Sat Vigil 35 Sun Liturgy 98.

Please Pray: for those preparing for holy illumination and Adam and Jenilee Skelton, our catechumens Estephania Dean and Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Wells family, the Dean family, for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest field here in Denton and North Texas. Remember always to pray for your priest. Please pray for John Roberts and his wife Edith, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Pray for those whom you have not seen at church for some time.

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

In Scripture hearts capable of receiving the heavenly gifts of holy knowledge are called cisterns (cf. 2 Chr. 26:10). They have been hewn out by the firm principle of the commandments; they have been cleared, as if of earth, of self-indulgence in the passions and of natural attachment to sensible things; and they have been filled with that spiritual knowledge which purges the passions and gives life and sustenance to the virtues. 2.59

The Lord hews out cisterns in the desert, that is to say, in the world and in human nature. He excavates the hearts of those who are worthy, clears them of their material sordidness and arrogance, said makes them deep and wide in order to receive the divine rains of wisdom and knowledge. He does this so that they may water Christ's flocks, those who need moral Instruction because of die immaturity of their souls. 2.60

Scripture refers to the higher form of the spiritual contemplation of nature as 'hill-country' (Deut. 11:11). Its cultivators are those who have rejected the images derived from sensible objects, and have advanced to a perception of the noetic essences of these objects through the acquisition of the virtues. 2.61

So long as the intellect continuously remembers God, it seeks the Lord through contemplation, not superficially but in the fear of the Lord, that is, by practicing the commandments. For he who seeks Him through contemplation without practicing the commandments does not find Him: he has not sought Him in the fear of the Lord and so the Lord does not guide him to success. The Lord guides to success all who combine the practice of the virtues with spiritual

knowledge: He teaches them the qualities of the commandments and reveals to them the true inner essences of created beings. 2.62

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, April 17

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit / thou didst pour forth Christ's sacred teachings, / thou didst expound with Divine authority / the self-emptying of God the Word / and wast radiant in thy confession of the True Faith: / O, Glorious Father Maximus / pray to Christ our God / to grant us His great mercy.

Mary of Egypt, Troparion tone 8

In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; / for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ, / and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, / but to attend to the soul since it is immortal. / Wherefore, O righteous Mary, thy spirit rejoiceth with the Angels.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

Let us the faithful praise with fitting hymns / that lover of the Holy Trinity, great Maximus, / who clearly taught the divinely-given Faith: / that we should give glory unto Christ our God, / Who, but one person, hath in very truth / two natures, wills, and energies. / Let us cry to him: // Rejoice, divine herald of the Faith.

Mary of Egypt, Kontakion, tone 3

Once thou wast defiled with every impurity, / but today through repentance thou hast become the Bride of Christ. / Desiring the life of the angels, / thou hast cast down the demons with the weapon of the Cross: / therefore, O glorious Mary, thou was made a bride of the Kingdom.