


St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, April 2nd, 2017



Schedule of Services

April 2nd Sunday, Tone 8 St. Mary of Egypt

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Pan Orthodox Vespers. St. Seraphim, Dallas

April 5th Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

April 6th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

April 7th Friday *Last Day of 40 Days*

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

April 1st Lazarus Saturday

8:00 Divine Liturgy

9:45 Parish Cleaning

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

April 2nd Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins – Holy Week Begins

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

35. He who keeps a serpent in his breast and he who keeps an evil thought in his heart will both be killed, the one by being bitten in the body by venomous fangs and the other by injecting a lethal poison into his soul. Let us, then, speedily slay the 'offspring of vipers' (Matt. 3:7), and let us not bring forth evil thoughts from our heart, lest we suffer bitter pangs.

36. A pure soul can truly be called a 'chosen vessel' (Acts 9:15), 'an enclosed garden', 'a sealed fountain' (Song of Solomon 4:12), and 'a throne of perceptiveness' (Prov. 12:23. LXX). But a soul polluted with filthy impurities stinks like a sewer.

37. I have heard from elders experienced in the practice of the virtues that evil thoughts are engendered in the soul by showy clothes, the belly's repletion and bad company.

Announcements for April 2

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 also invite you to go first through the food line.

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).

Temple Oil offered for the blessed repose of William Frederick;
Temple Wine offered for the health and salvation of the Brown family.

The Special Offering this week will be for seminarian Daniel Greeson.

Confession: Besides the scheduled times, confession is available by appointment throughout Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Please try to make any routine confessions before Pascha this week.

Fr. Justin will be at the monastery this evening until Wednesday afternoon. You may reach him by cell phone with any emergencies.

Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem, or Palm Sunday, one of the twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated next Saturday evening at Vigil and Sunday morning. Palm fronds and pussy willows will be bound together on Saturday, blessed at Vigil, and carried on Sunday at Liturgy by all.

Cleaning: we shall begin doing some cleaning and yard work this Lazarus Saturday after the Liturgy to get ready for Pascha. The balance will be done Holy Friday morning.

Grave Watch: A sign up sheet for the grave watch is posted. Please take only one time to start. If slots are filled and you'd like to come, sign up, come, and share a slot.

Holy Week and Bright Week are times to make being in church an overriding priority. Do take full advantage of the services offered.

Lenten Almsgiving: Please remember our alms box and our food pantry in your almsgiving. We are also collecting goods and cash for Loreto House, a local ministry to pregnant women.

Classes This Week.

Wednesday: St. Dorotheos of Gaza; we will read and discuss a bit of this basic spiritual work during the meal following the Presanctified Liturgy.

Commemorations: Please try to submit your Sunday commemorations Saturday night (or earlier) whenever you can.

Fasting for Presanctified Liturgy: If you desire to commune at a Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts this week, the Eucharistic fast begins at noon both days.

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.

The Front Door should not be used during the Sunday Liturgy as we are using the narthex as part of the nave.

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 \$1628 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given about \$7328; we also gave \$3436 electronically for a total of \$10,764 or so; our monthly budget is \$11,250. Special Offering Prison Ministry \$18; Candles \$84; Building Fund \$1000. Attendance: Liturgy 108, Vigil 33. Wed Great Canon, 39; Thursday & Friday Presanctified Liturgies 28, 21.

Please Pray: for Cassian and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for our catechumens Maximus (Frank), Catherine, Dymna (Joy), Emilia (Charity), Gobnata/Abigail (Patience), and Gabriel Wells, Magdalena (Meghann), Joshua (Caleb), Tatiana (True), Malachi (Noble), Seraphima (Pearl), Paisia (Primrose), and Gideon (Valor) Jones, and Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Dean family; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Albina Gashushina, and for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, and for Eugene and Rachel.

Gospel Readings on Pascha: We desire to read the Paschal Gospel, John 1:1-17, at the Paschal Liturgy in as many languages as we can with reasonable competence. If you think you may like to read, start practicing. We usually read verses 1-5, and 14 except for English and Greek, but practice them all: we will probably read 1-5 and 11-14.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.3 When passions dominate the intellect, they separate it from God, binding it to material things and preoccupying it with them. But when love of God dominates the intellect, it frees it from its bonds, persuading it to rise above not only sensible things but even this transitory life.

2.4 The effect of observing the commandments is to free from passion our conceptual images of things. The effect of spiritual reading and contemplation is to detach the intellect from form and matter. It is this which gives rise to undistracted prayer.

Troparia and Kontakia for April 2nd



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to Thee.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

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 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

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.