


St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday, April 23rd, 2017



Schedule of Services

April 23rd Sunday, Tone 1 Antipascha, Thomas Sunday
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

April 26th Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Vespers

April 29th Saturday
5:00 p.m. Vespers

April 30th Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers, Gr. Martyr George
9:00 a.m. Matins, Typica

May 3rd Wednesday
7:00 p.m. Vespers

May 5th Friday
6:00 Matins, Confession
5:00 Vespers, Confession
7:30 Concert of ChoRuss Ensemble

May 6th Saturday
9:30 *Slavonic Divine Liturgy*
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 7th Sunday of the Paralytic, St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

40. When you have taken up your dwelling with a spiritual father and find that he helps you, let no. one separate you from his love and from living with him. Do not judge him in any respect, do not revile him even though he censures or strikes you, do not listen to someone who slanders him to you, do not side with anyone who criticizes him, lest the Lord should be angered with you and blot you out of the book of the living (cf. Exod. 32:33).

42. Do not judge the actions of your spiritual father, but obey his commands. For the demons are in the habit of showing you his defects, so that your ears may be deaf to what he tells you. They aim either to drive you from the arena as a feeble and cowardly fighter, or simply to terrify you with thoughts that undermine your faith, and so to make you sluggish about every form of virtue.

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

Announcements for April 23rd

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 health and salvation of William and Carolyn Rodgers and the blessed repose of William Frederick.

The Special Offering this week will be for Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry; next week for the new mission beginning in Azle.

Next Sunday a great rarity not to be missed will be in the offering at St. Maximus: in Fr. Justin's absence and for lack of a priest to fill in, we will offer reader services: Vespers Saturday evening at 5 and Matins with First Hour and Typica Sunday morning at 9. This is a good weekend to visit another parish, but if you do not do that, please come together to worship and pray together despite the absence of a priest. This is only the second or third time this has happened in the parish's history and that long ago. Don't miss it!

Many Thanks to everyone for helping make this an excellent Great Fast and Pascha, and glory to God!

Fr. Justin will be on a pilgrimage to Mt. Athos with a fellow priest and a layman April 24 through May 4. Please call Fr. Gerasim or Fr. John Anderson in case of emergency.

Antipascha: The Sunday after Easter is the Sunday of St. Thomas, also known as Second Sunday or Antipascha ("opposite" Pascha, i.e., at the other end of Bright Week). Historically, this day in the early Church was the day that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world. "Antipascha" does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek. The Orthodox Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection starting on this Sunday, the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of Bright Week.

No Classes This Week.

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

The Front Door should not be used during the Sunday Liturgy as we are using the narthex as part of the nave. It is fine, however, to use it for all other services.

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, May 27. It and the "Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee" that precedes it are replaced with the Paschal Troparion "Christ is risen" thrice.

During the 50 days of Pascha, ending with the Feast of Pentecost on June 4th, 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 (May 25), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!"

Through the Leavetaking of Pascha (May 24), we use the Paschal Troparion before and after meals and when setting out on a trip.

Men's Meeting: The men will meet the second Saturday of May (13th) for food and fellowship in the morning.

Poetry and Port: Fr. Justin will offer another evening of the poetry of T.S. Eliot accompanied with port one Sunday evening in May to consider the work "Four Quartets".

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.

No figures for last week's giving yet. Attendance: Paschal Vigil & Liturgy 144. Agape Vespers 80. Bright Week Liturgies Mon 7, Tue 11, Thurs 11, Fri 50. Building fund balance: \$86,033

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.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.7 Whatever a man loves he inevitably clings to, and in order not to lose it he rejects everything that keeps him from it. So he who loves God cultivates pure prayer, driving out every passion that keeps him from it.

2.8 He who drives out self-love, the mother of the passions, will with God's help easily rid himself of the rest, such as anger, irritation, rancor and so on. But he who is dominated by self-love is overpowered by the other passions, even against his will. Self-love is the passion of attachment to the body.

2.9 Men love one another, commendably or reprehensibly, for the following five reasons; either for the sake of God, as the virtuous man loves everyone and as the man not yet virtuous loves the virtuous; or by nature, as parents love their children and children their parents; or because of self-esteem, as he who is praised loves the man who praises him; or because of avarice, as with one who loves a rich man for what he can get out of him; or because of self-indulgence, as with the man who serves his belly and his genitals. The first of these is commendable, the second is of an intermediate kind, the rest are dominated by passion.

2.10 If there are some men you hate and some you neither love nor hate, and others you love strongly and others again you love but moderately, recognize from this inequality that you are far from perfect love. For perfect love presupposes that you love all men equally.

Troparia and Kontakia for April 23rd

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!