

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Palm Sunday, April 21st, 2019

April 21st Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

April 22nd Great & Holy Monday

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

April 23rd Great & Holy Tuesday

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

April 24th Great & Holy Wednesday

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:00 p.m. Matins of the Mystical Supper

April 25th Great & Holy Thursday

12:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels

April 26th Great & Holy Friday

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours

10:00 a.m. Church Cleaning and Decoration

3:00 p.m. Burial Vespers & Compline

7:00 p.m. Matins with the Lamentations & Procession

April 27th Great & Holy Saturday

12:00 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy

11:30 p.m. Nocturnes, Procession

April 28th Pascha Sunday; The Feast of Feasts

00:01 a.m. Matins, Hours, Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Baskets

3:00 p.m. Agape Vespers, Paschal Picnic

St. Diodochus: 100 Chapters on Spiritual Knowledge & Discrimination

34. The natural love of the soul is one thing, and the love which comes to it from the Holy Spirit is another. The activity of the first depends on the assent of our will to our desire. For this reason it is easily taken over and perverted by evil spirits when we do not keep firmly to our chosen course. But the love which comes from the Holy Spirit so inflames the soul that all its parts cleave ineffably and with utter simplicity to the delight of its love and longing for the divine. The intellect then becomes pregnant through the energy of the Holy Spirit and overflows with a spring of love and joy.

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

Announcements for April 21"

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 line at Coffee Hour.

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 is for the Orthodox Medical Center in Uganda, per our bishop's request.

Palm Fronds are held by the faithful during services in celebration of today's feast and may be taken home afterwards to be kept in one's icon corner. Old palm fronds should be laid outside to decay in a place they will not be disturbed or burned.

Fasting in Great & Holy Week

We continue to abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil and marital relations 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 (3:00 p.m.).

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.

No Classes this Week: the services are our classes.

Many Years to the newly-illuminated servants of God Joanna Lange, Seraphim Kidd, Finnian Williams, and the Heitzenrater family: John, Christina, Dymphna, Marina, Ksenia, Paisios, Sophia, Elizabeth, Thomas, Herman, Nina, Nicholas, and their sponsors: Subdeacon Antony Stokes, Patrick Neal, Charles (Paul) Johnson, Charles (Herman) Warneke, Matushka Michelle, Diaconissia Maria, Isabella Stone, Kersten Davis.

Holy Week begins tonight with the Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday moved to Sunday night by anticipation. This is a week in which to focus on our Savior presented to us in the Church's services, who as true king goes to his death to defeat the mortal enemies of His people and bring them freedom and life. Paschal joy comes through the sorrow of Holy Week. Plan now if you have not already to keep the week as clear as you can.

Confessions: If you still need to make a Confession before Pascha, see Fr. Justin to arrange it before Holy Thursday.

Eucharistic Fasting for the Liturgies of the Presanctified Gifts should begin this week at 10:00 a.m.

Building Fund Watch

"Establish Thou this holy house, even unto the consummation of the age."

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$208,100.

New goal: \$225,000 by Pascha, \$300,000 by end of year. We probably need to raise \$500,000 before we start building per the current plan. With *everyone* pulling together, we can do this with God's help.

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 and our building fund.

Last week, we gave \$3436.31 \$3943.35 in tithes and offerings; in April we have given \$7371.66; our monthly budget is \$15,112; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$91, Special Offering for the Seminarian Fund \$66.33, Building Fund \$15, Our Daily Bread \$15. Attendance last week: Vigil 97 (record); Sunday Liturgy 172, Presanctified Liturgies Wed 49, Friday 73.

Grave Watch Signup: The Grave Watch is held over the tomb from after Vespers on Holy Friday until Nocturnes Saturday evening featuring the reading of the Psalter and, after the Saturday Liturgy, the Acts of the Apostles. Please sign up for time on the

sheet on the bulletin board. Let's see if we can keep it going continuously.

Church Cleaning and Decoration for Pascha will be this Friday morning after the Royal Hours at 10:00. We need to make a thorough cleaning inside and out and to decorate.

Please Pray for our catechumens Katelyn (Marina) Davis, Chris Day, Esteban Lopez, Brian (Sabbas), Adrienne, and Hannah (Anna) Freas, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin, and Robert Peterson; for our inquirers the Dean family, Sumat, Makenna, Ashley, Luellen, David & Anita Charpie and their children, for Robert Osborne; for the nun Susannah. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher and Holly Bellan.

From Saint Maximus 200 Chapters on Knowledge

1.71 Pilate is a type of the natural law; the Jewish crowd is a type of the written law. He who has not risen through faith above the two laws cannot therefore receive the truth which is beyond nature and expression. On the contrary, he invariably crucifies the Logos, for he sees the Gospel either, like a Jew, as a stumbling-block or, like a Greek, as foolishness (cf. 1 Cor. 1:23).

Troparia and Kontakia for April 21"

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."

"It is not he who begins well who is perfect. It is he who ends well who is approved in God's sight." *St. Basil the Great*
