

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, April 5th, A.D. 2020

April 5th Sunday tone 1 St. Mary of Egypt

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

April 8th Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

April 10th Friday

6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

April 12th Palm Sunday tone 2

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

How To Conduct Oneself in Illness

7. Do not spend your time of illness in idle conversations, nor in excessive care for your recovery, but try to use this time for the benefit of your soul: pray, read a spiritual book especially one in which the sufferings of the Lord are described, or nourish yourself with pious conversations. If you do not have the strength to engage in long prayers, then raise up your heart to God in short sighs of prayer. For example, “Lord, deprive me not of your mercy!” or, “Lord, grant that this illness will be for the cleansing of my sins” and so on. Besides this, make the sign of the cross on yourself and kiss the icons of the Savior, the Mother of God, and the saints often.

8. During your illness, never pray importunately for recovery; it is better to give yourself over to God’s will, because only the Lord God truly knows what is best for your salvation: health or illness, weak or robust health, uninterrupted or changeable health, a mild illness or a serious one, a short or prolonged one, or even on persisting until death. If health is ruinous for our souls, how can we pray immoderately to God for it? It would be better to remain ill and to endure the most severe illness until death itself. From *How to Live a Holy Life*, Met. Gregory

Announcements for April 5

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 candle 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).

Temple Wine offered for the health and salvation of Dymphna, of Robert Rehmet, and in Memory of Thomas Boguski; **Temple Oil** offered for the health and salvation of William and Richard, and Joy Dobbs.

Commemorations: Though you are not present to offer your usual commemorations, please know that the priest commemorates all of you at the Proskomide as a matter of course.

Livestreaming: We are streaming the service live today.

Presanctified Liturgies. God willing, will be celebrated Wednesday and Friday at 6:30. We plan to stream them live.

Special Help: If anyone needs assistance with shopping or any other needs due to current conditions, please let us know. We have people willing to help.

Basics of Orthodoxy will be held this week after Liturgy by livestream.

Holy Week: The schedule we have been blessed to have during Holy Week is indicated on the monthly calendar online in red.

Lenten Almsgiving: We are collecting money and goods to support Interfaith Ministries. The needed goods include diapers (esp sizes 3-6), toilet paper, paper towels, full-sized toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash/soap, toothpaste), laundry detergent pods, deodorant, new socks, single toothbrush packages, copy paper, file folders. We also have our own almsbox and our own food pantry, which accepts canned goods.

The Fast: Sixth Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), oil, and marital relations. 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 take two meals a day on Saturday and Sunday. 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 and our building fund.

Pastoral Care: If you have a health emergency, are hospitalized, or having surgery (or know someone who is) and desire visitation; please contact Fr. Justin at (940) 293-3032 for prayer and anointing.

Last week, we gave \$1480 in tithes and offerings; in March we have given \$12,072; our monthly budget is \$17,560; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$37.50. *Please note: we do not report funds given electronically until the end of the month.*

Please Pray for our catechumens Robert Peterson, Makenna Baldwin, Mark Robertson, Mark Jones, Elizabeth Dakak, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin, and for our inquirers the Dean family, Robert Osborne, Kristen Hatten, Rebekah Kruse, Robert Boguski, Branson, Drew (Andrew), Haydon Grosch, Andrew, and Carter. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher, for Elizabeth Terry, for Thomas Harper who is in South America, and for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$254,900. Goal: \$300,000 by June 1. We may 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 and provision.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

1.22 He who forsakes all worldly desires sets himself above all worldly distress.

1.23 He who loves God will certainly love his neighbor as well. Such a person cannot hoard money, but distributes it in a way befitting God, being generous to everyone in need.

1.24 He who gives alms in imitation of God does not discriminate between the wicked and the virtuous, the just and the unjust, when providing for men's bodily needs. He gives equally to all according to their need, even though he prefers the virtuous man to the bad man because of the probity of his intention.

1.25 God, who is by nature good and dispassionate, loves all men equally as His handiwork. But He glorifies the virtuous man because in his will he is united to God. At the same time, in His goodness He is merciful to the

sinner and by chastising him in this life brings him back to the path of virtue. Similarly, a man of good and dispassionate judgment also loves all men equally. He loves the virtuous man because of his nature and the probity of his intention; and he loves the sinner, too, because of his nature and because in his compassion he pities him for foolishly stumbling in darkness.

Troparia and Kontakia for April 5

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

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 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

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.

“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*
