

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Palm Sunday, April 12th, A.D. 2020



April 12th Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

April 13th Great and Holy Monday

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

April 14th Great and Holy Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

April 16th Great and Holy Thursday

6:00 p.m. Vespers Liturgy of the Mystical Supper

April 17th Great and Holy Friday

3:00 p.m. Burial Vespers

April 17th Great and Holy Saturday

6:00 p.m. Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil

April 19th Pascha Sunday, Feast of Feasts

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

How To Conduct Oneself in Illness

9. If your illness last a very long time, do not lapse, as many foolish people do, into impatience, especially into grumbling and bad temper at the seriousness and length of the illness, at the doctor, at the medicine, at the bad weather, at those who are serving you, and so on. You will never relieve your illness, not to mention eliminate it, by impatience, grumbling, and bad temper, An impatient and especially a grumbling disposition of soul may, on the one hand, only aggravate the illness and prolong it or even make it incurable, and on the other hand, turn off others' sympathy for you, for who finds it pleasant to wait on a sick person when he is irritable and foul-tempered towards those serving him? On the contrary, be as patient as possible and pray thus: "O Lord, I have sinned much and am worthy of eternal torment, but in Thy boundless love, Thou dost not want me to suffer eternally but have subjected me to a temporal punishment, so that I may come to myself, repent and reform. How great is Thy mercy. Multiply my patience, grant me such grace that I may endure my illness in good spirits with love for Thee. It is better for me to wish that my illness may get worse, rather than that it cease, and I began again to sin and be subjected to eternal torments. Let my illness continue and get worse if it pleases Thee, only deliver me from eternal torments." From *How to Live a Holy Life*, Met. Gregory

Announcements for April 12

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 Elisabeth Terry, 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.

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. Wine is permitted on this day, but not oil.

Livestreaming: We are streaming the service live today.

Great and Holy Week this year calls us to focus our attention on our Lord's passion even though we cannot attend the services that help us do this. Try to watch or read at least one service a day. Watch the Matins of Holy Friday with the 12 Gospels Thursday night from St. Tikhon's, 5:00 p.m. CDT. The schedule and link for services streamed from St. Tikhon's are on our website and have been sent out on the parish email list.

Building Update: Soil testing will be done soon as the next step in our project. Four bores of 5 to 25 feet in depth will be made to assess the soil and inform design of foundation and parking lot. Some civil engineering for development of aspects of the site plan will follow.

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.

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.

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.

In March we gave \$19,320; our monthly budget is \$17,560; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). *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 Thomas Harper who is in South America, and

for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak. Thanks be to God for Elisabeth Terry's recovery!

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

1.26 The state of love may be recognized in the giving of money, and still more in the giving of spiritual counsel and in looking after people in their physical needs.

1.27 He who has genuinely renounced worldly things, and lovingly and sincerely serves his neighbor, is soon set free from every passion and made a partaker of God's love and knowledge.

1.28 He who has realized love for God in his heart is tireless, as Jeremiah says (cf. Jer. 17:16. LXX), in his pursuit of the Lord his God, and bears every hardship, reproach and insult nobly, never thinking the least evil of anyone.

1.29 When you are insulted by someone or humiliated, guard against angry thoughts, lest they arouse a feeling of irritation, and so cut you off from love and place you in the realm of hatred.

1.30 You should know that you have been greatly benefited when you have suffered deeply because of some insult or indignity; for by means of the indignity self-esteem has been driven out of you.

Troparia and Kontakia for April 12

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*
