

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

**Bulletin for Thomas Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**

**April 26<sup>th</sup> Thomas Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

3:00 p.m. Vespers

**April 27<sup>th</sup> Monday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

5:00 p.m. Vespers

**April 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Radonitsa**

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for the Departed

**April 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

**April 30<sup>th</sup> Thursday Apostle James, Son of Zebedee**

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**May 1<sup>st</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

5:00 p.m. Vespers

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday St. Athanasius of Alexandria**

7:00 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

*How To Conduct Oneself in Illness*

10. When you feel that the illness is ebbing and you are beginning to get well, they pray to the Lord God that, after the return of your health, He will be pleased to keep you from every sin and will give you a firm memory of those sensations and thoughts that you had during your illness, for very many sick people, after the return of their health, forget the sensations that they had during their illness. Pray to the Lord God that it would be better for Him to keep you ill or even to let you die, rather than for you to return to a sinful life after your recovery.

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

## Announcements for April 26

**Public Services:** We are not blessed to offer public services at present. Archbishop Alexander has blessed us to serve as many services as we wish with a restricted group to produce the service for streaming it. The Holy Synod meets this week and will be taking up the question of how and when to reopen parishes. Keep praying at home and practicing the Faith, which not circumstances can hinder.

**Temple Wine** offered for the health and salvation of Eudokia, Basil, Terence and Gregory Stevenson of Dymphna, of Robert Rehmet, and in Memory of Thomas Boguski and Anna Pascale; **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.

**Basics of Orthodoxy** will be held this week after Liturgy at 12:30 by livestream.

**Confession:** If you desire to make a confession, please contact the priest directly to arrange it.

**Livestreaming:** We are streaming the services live today and this week.

**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. We also have some resources to help those who are pinched by the economic shutdown.

### Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 7. Instead we say or sing the Paschal Troparion, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death..." three times.

During the 50 days from Pascha to Pentecost, 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 through the Leavetaking (May 27), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!" We also use the Paschal Troparion before and the Kontakion after meals and when setting out on a trip.

**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 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

1.28 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.

1.31 Just as the thought of fire does not warm the body, so faith without love does not actualize the light of spiritual knowledge in the soul.

1.32 Just as the light of the sun attracts a healthy eye, so through love knowledge of God naturally draws to itself the pure intellect.

## Troparia and Kontakia for April 26

### 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.

### 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!

### From St. Paisius of Athos

“Geronda, sometimes the temptations come one after another, and I can’t stand it.”

“If I give you a solution to avoid them, will you accept it?”

“Yes.”

“The only way to avoid temptations is to . . . make an alliance with the devil! Why are you smiling? You don’t like this solution? Look, let me explain. As long as someone is struggle, there will be temptations and difficulties. And the more one tries to avoid temptation, the more contrary the devil becomes. But through temptations—if we use them correctly—we are given the opportunity to make our life, which sometimes is anti-evangelical, “evangelical” [i.e., having the quality of being in accordance with the Evangelos, Gospel].

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The person who is struggling to the best of his abilities, who has not desire to live a disorderly life, but who in the course of the struggle for faith and life falls and rises again and again, God will never abandon. And if he has the slightest will not to grieve God, he will go to Paradise with his shoes on. The Benevolent God will surprisingly push him into Paradise. God will ensure HE takes him when he is at his best, in repentance. He may have to struggle all his life, but God will not abandon him; HE will take him at the best possible time.

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“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*

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