

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

**Bulletin for Thomas Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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

**May 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Paralytic**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vigil

**May 11<sup>th</sup> Monday SS Cyril & Methodius**

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers

**May 12<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Vespers

**May 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Midfeast Pentecost**

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

**May 14<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers

**May 15<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers

**May 16<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

6:45 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

**May 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

*From St. Porphyrios*

There are two paths that lead to God: the hard and debilitating path with fierce assaults against evil and the easy path with love. There are many who chose the hard path and 'shed blood in order to receive Spirit' until they attained great virtue. I find (*cont. on back*)

## Announcements for May 10

**Public Services:** We have been blessed to open services to the parish, but at a very limited number of those present each time. For now we stream daily Vespers, Saturday Vigil, and Sunday Divine Liturgy, and we'll stream Vigil and Liturgy for Ascension. Please pray faithfully at home, contact the priest about attending services, and tune in on Sundays and Saturdays if you cannot attend in person.

**Temple Wine** offered for the health and salvation of Dymphna, and in Memory of Thomas Boguski.

**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 not be held this week.

**Gospel of John** (instead of Hebrews): There will be a class via zoom or a series of talks after Vespers on the Gospel of John. Start reading it and noting your questions. You may send questions to Fr. Justin. When this is to begin will be announced on the email list. We will come back to Hebrews later.

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

**Livestreaming:** We are streaming the service live today so that you may observe the secular holiday of Mothers' Day.

**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.

In April, during the stay-at-home order, we gave \$22,699.73; 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.

### 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

1.39 Do not say that you are the temple of the Lord, writes Jeremiah (cf. Jer. 7:4); nor should you say that faith alone in our Lord Jesus Christ can save you, for this is impossible unless you also acquire love for Him through your works. As for faith by itself, 'the devils also believe, and tremble' (Jas. 2:19).

1.40 We actively manifest love in forbearance and patience towards our neighbor, in genuinely desiring his good, and in the right use of material things.

1.41 He who loves God neither distresses nor is distressed with anyone on account of transitory things. There is only one kind of distress which he both suffers and inflicts on others: that salutary

distress which the blessed Paul suffered and which he inflicted on the Corinthians (cf. 2 Cor. 7:8-11).

*(continued from front)* that the shorter and safer route is the path with love. This is the path that you, too, should follow. That is, you can make a different kind of effort: to study and pray and have as your aim to advance in the love of God and of the Church. Do not fight to expel the darkness from the chamber of your soul. Open a tiny aperture for light to enter, and the darkness will disappear. The same holds true for our passions and our weaknesses. Do not fight them, but transform them into strengths by showing disdain for evil. Occupy yourself with hymns of praise, with poetic canons, with the worship of God and with divine *eros*. All the holy books of our Church—the Book of the Eight Tones (*Ochtoechos*), the Book of the Hours (*Horologian*), the Psalter, the books with the Offices for the Feasts and Saint-day Commemorations—contain holy, loving words addressed to Christ. Read them with joy and love and exaltation. When you devote yourself to this effort with intense desire, your soul will be sanctified in a gentle and mystical way without your even being aware of it.

### **Troparia and Kontakia for May 10**

#### **Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3**

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead./ He hath delivered us from the womb of hell, / and hath granted the world / great mercy.

#### **Paralytic, Kontakion, Tone 3**

As of old Thou didst raise up the paralytic, / O Lord God, by Thy God-like care and might, raise up my soul / which is palsied by diverse sins and transgressions / and by unseemly deeds and acts, / that saved I may also cry out: / O Compassionate Redeemer, / O Christ God, / glory to Thy dominion and might.

#### **Paschal Kontakion, tone 8**

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the myrrhbearing women, / granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

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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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