

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Bulletin for Sunday, April 4th, 2021

April 4th Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Teen Church School

April 5th Monday

7:30 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Mission Council

April 6th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers

6:00 p.m. *Vespers, Decatur*

April 7th Wednesday St. Tikhon

6:30 a.m. Matins

6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

April 8th Thursday

7:30 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Vespers

April 9th Friday

6:30 a.m. Matins

6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

April 10th Memorial Saturday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Pannikhida

5:00 p.m. Vigil

April 11th Sunday of St. John of the Ladder

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Teen Church School

3:00 p.m. Vespers

As we reach today the middle of the time of abstinence, by the power of the Cross let us praise Him who was raised upon it in the midst of the earth; and let us glorify Him as our mighty Savior and our God, crying aloud: Grant us to behold, O Master, Thy passion and Thy holy Resurrection, and to bestow on us forgiveness and great mercy *Tridion, Monday Vespers of the Fourth Week*

Announcements for April 4

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, and fellowship. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the candle table by the door.

The Special Offering today will be for the family of Fr. Antonio Perdomo.

Temple Wine offered for the health and salvation of Nikolai Phy.

The Bathroom Upstairs is back in service. Only the kitchen upstairs awaits the return of its supply of water.

Our Daily Bread: we are collecting this Lent for the local soup kitchen, Our Daily Bread. Items needed may be placed in the box in the hall. Cash donations will be accepted also.

The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts will be served this week Wednesday and Friday at 6:30. Strictly, the Eucharistic Fast begins at midnight, but the bishops have blessed beginning it at noon for evening Presanctifieds. This means abstaining from food and drink.

The Fast: Fourth 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. The fast of the fourth week should be taken more strictly than the past two weeks.

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 \$2494.50 in tithes and offerings; in March we gave \$19,666.50 plus \$11,090.95 electronically for a total of possible record \$30,757.45; candles \$73.50; special offering for St. Basil's \$105.26, Alms \$100; our monthly budget is \$17,560; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). May God bless you for your faithful giving! *Please note: we do not report funds given electronically until the end of the month.*

Please Pray for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Robert Boguski, Branson Clements, Peter Dimitrov & Haley Smith, David and Melissa Sims and their children Carter, Molly, and Caroline and for our inquirers the Dean family, Drew (Andrew), Haydon Grosch, Ethan Peterson, Lance Rawlinson, Vincent Howell, Johnny Jelinek, Delsie Bussell, Reid Jones. Pray for Eugene & Rachel Hollebeak, and for all in need.

Confessions will be heard after Vigil, weekday Vespers, and Matins. It helps the priest if you let him know you'd like to come, but it isn't a prerequisite for confessing. Everyone should plan on making a good Confession during the Fast *before* Holy Week. As Fr. Justin will be attending an Orthodox homeschool conference April 13-19, it is important that you not wait to the last minute.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$303,000.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.89 Some people with possessions possess them dispassionately, and so when deprived of them they are not dismayed but are like those who accepted the seizure of their goods with joy (cf. Heb. 10:34). Others possess with passion, so that when they are in danger of being dispossessed they become utterly dejected, like the rich man in the Gospel who went away full of sorrow (cf. Matt. 19:22); and if they actually are dispossessed, they remain dejected until they die. Dispossession, then, reveals whether a man's inner state is dispassionate or dominated by passion.

2.90 The demons attack the person who has attained the summits of prayer in order to prevent his conceptual images of sensible things from being free from passion; they attack the gnostic so that he will dally with impassioned thoughts; and they attack the person who has not advanced beyond the practice of the virtues so as to persuade him to sin through his actions. They contend with all men by every possible means in order to separate them from God.

2.91 Those whom divine providence is leading towards holiness in this life are tested by the following three tests: by the gift of agreeable things, such as health, beauty, fine children, money, fame and so on; by afflictions causing distress, such as the loss of children, money and fame; and by bodily sufferings, such as disease, torture and so on. To those in the first category the Lord says, 'If a person does not forsake all that he has, he cannot be My disciple' (Luke 14:33); and to those in the second and third He says, 'You will

gain possession of your souls through your patient endurance' (Luke 21:19).

From St. Justin Popovich

The transformation of the misfortune of life into a means of salvation, into a feat of salvation—this is an act of God's grace.

Christians are mighty through divine grace.

He who does not experience the reality of the Crucified Christ cannot experience the reality of the Resurrected Christ.

A love of prayer every enhances our love of God and love of man.

Hope walks in exaltation in heaven while leading faith and love from spiritual feat to spiritual feat on earth (*podvig*).

The peace of Christ arises in the soul when sins are removed from it.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, April 4

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / 'O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!'

Sunday of the Cross, Troparion, tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross / preserve Thine estate.

Kontakion of the Third Sunday of Lent, tone 7

The fiery sword no longer guardeth the gate of Eden, / for in a strange and glorious way / the wood of the Cross hath quenched its flames. / The sting of death and the victory of hell are now destroyed, / for Thou art come, O my Savior, / crying unto those in hell: / "Return again to Paradise."

"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*
