

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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**Bulletin for Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt**

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

**April 19<sup>th</sup> Monday**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

2:00 p.m. Vespers

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

**April 21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday**

6:30 a.m. Matins

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

**April 22<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**

7:30 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Vespers

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> Friday**

6:30 a.m. Matins

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

**April 24<sup>th</sup> Lazarus Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

**April 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday**

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

3:00 p.m. Vespers

As we begin with eagerness, O ye faithful, the sixth week of the holy Fast, let us sing a hymn in preparation for the Feast of Palms, to the Lord who cometh with glory to Jerusalem in the power of the Godhead, that he may slay death. So with reverence let us prepare the branches of the virtues, as emblems of victory; and let us cry Hosanna! to the Creator of all. *Tridion, Sunday Vespers of the Fifth Sunday*

## Announcements for April 18

**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 our building fund.

**Temple Wine** offered for the health and salvation of Viola Frederick.

**Welcome**, today, to our dean and diocesan administrator, Hieromonk Gerasim.

**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: 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.

Last week, we gave \$3794.53 in tithes and offerings; in April, we have given \$6397.53; candles \$123.50; special offering for the seminarians \$185, Alms \$70, Building Fund \$790; 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, and weekday Vespers and Matins, and by appointment. It helps the priest if you let him know you'd like to come. Anyone needing to make a confession should try to come this week if possible.

### 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

2.97 A pure intellect sees things correctly. A trained intelligence puts them in order. A keen hearing takes in what is said. He who is lacking in these three qualities insults the person who has spoken.

2.98 He who knows the Holy Trinity, the Trinity's creation, and providence, and who has brought his soul's passible aspect into a state of dispassion, is with God.

2.99 Again in Psalm 23 'the rod' is said to signify God's judgment and 'the staff' His providence. So he who has received spiritual knowledge of these things is able to say, 'Thy rod and Thy staff have comforted me.'

2.100 When the intellect is stripped of passions and illuminated with the contemplation of created beings, then it can enter into God and pray as it should.

3.1 An intelligent use of conceptual images and their corresponding physical objects produces self-restraint, love and spiritual knowledge; an unintelligent use produces licentiousness, hatred and ignorance.

3.2 'You have prepared a table before me . . .' (Ps. 23:5). In this passage, 'table' stands for the practice of the virtues, for this has been prepared for us by Christ to use 'against those who afflict' us. The 'oil' anointing the intellect is the contemplation of created things. The 'cup' of God is the knowledge of God. His 'mercy' is His divine Logos. For through His incarnation the Logos pursues us 'all the days' until He overtakes all those who are to be saved, as He did in the case of Paul (cf. Phil. 3:12). The 'house' is the kingdom in which all the saints will dwell. 'Length of days' means eternal life.

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

### 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.

### 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.

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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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