

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Bulletin for Palm Sunday, April 25th, 2021

April 25th Palm Sunday

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

3:00 p.m. Vespers

6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

April 26th Great & Holy Monday

6:30 a.m. Third Hour with Gospel Reading

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

April 27th Great & Holy Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Third Hour with Gospel Reading

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

April 28th Great & Holy Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Third Hour with Gospel Reading

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

April 29th Great & Holy Thursday

Noon: Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

6:30 p.m. Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels

April 30th Great & Holy Friday *Strict Fast*

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours

10:00 a.m. Cleaning and Decoration of Church

3:00 p.m. Burial Vespers and Compline

7:00 p.m. Matins with Lamentations & Procession

9:00 p.m. Grave Watch Begins

May 1st Great & Holy Saturday

Noon: Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

11:30 p.m. Nocturnes, Procession

May 2nd Pascha Sunday, the Feast of Feasts

Midnight: Matins, Hours, Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Agape Vespers, Picnic

Announcements for April 25

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

Lenten Alms: we have been 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.

Many Thanks to Valentina and Svetlana for making new curtains for the church and for their work in the yard, and to those who came out to work in the yard yesterday. Much was accomplished in a short time through your willing hands.

The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts will be served this week Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 4:00. The Eucharistic Fast should begin no later than 10:00 a.m. Each service will be followed by a communal fast-worthy meal as usual.

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 (before, say, 7:00 p.m.) Wine is permitted on this day, but not oil.

Decoration of Church: As usual, we shall meet Holy Friday at 10:00 to clean and decorate the Church for Pascha. Friday is a strict fast, with no food to be eaten until after Vespers if at all, though young children or those with physical infirmities may eat.

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 \$1213.05 in tithes and offerings; in April, we have given \$7610.58; candles \$55.50; Building Fund \$207; 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, for Tabitha, and for all in need.

Confessions will be heard this week if needed and if there is time after the Third Hour M-W, by appointment, and after the evening service. Please let the priest know ahead of time.

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

3.3 When we misuse the soul's powers their evil aspects dominate us. For instance, misuse of our power of intelligence results in ignorance and stupidity; misuse of our incensive power and of our desire produces hatred and licentiousness. The proper use of these powers produces spiritual knowledge, moral judgment, love and self-restraint. This being so, nothing created and given existence by God is evil.

3.4 It is not food that is evil but gluttony, not the begetting of children but unchastity, not material things but avarice, not esteem but self-esteem. This being so, it is only the misuse of things that is

evil, and such misuse occurs when the intellect fails to cultivate its natural powers.

3.5 Among the demons, says the blessed Dionysios, evil takes the form of mindless anger, desire uncontrolled by the intellect, and impetuous imagination. But mindlessness, lack of intellectual control and impetuosity in intelligent beings are privations of intelligence, intellect and circumspection. But a privation is posterior to the possession of something. There was a time, then, when the demons possessed intelligence, intellect and devout circumspection. This being the case, not even the demons are evil by nature, but they have become evil through the misuse of their natural powers.

3.6 Some of the passions produce licentiousness, some hatred, while others produce both dissipation and hatred.

3.7 Overeating and gluttony cause licentiousness. Avarice and self-esteem cause one to hate one's neighbor. Self-love, the mother of vices, is the cause of all these things.

3.8 Self-love is an impassioned, mindless love for one's body. Its opposite is love and self-control. A man dominated by self-love is dominated by all the passions.

Troparia and Kontakia for Palm Sunday, April 25th

Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem, Troparion tone 1

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, / Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God! / Like the children with the palms of victory, / we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: / hosanna in the highest! / Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!

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!

“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*
