

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Thomas Sunday, April 18th, 2010

Christ Is Risen! Indeed, He Is Risen!

Schedule of Services

April 18th 3rd Sunday of Pascha Myrrhbearing Women

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

April 20th Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

April 21st Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

April 22nd Thursday

6:30 a.m. Matins

1:00 p.m. Class: St. Theophan, *Path of Salvation*

April 23rd Friday Great Martyr George

6:30 a.m. Matins

12:00 p.m. Catechumens preparing for Holy Illumination

8:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

April 24th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil

April 26th 4th Sunday of Pascha Paralytic

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Why do ye mingle tears with the myrrh-oils, O ye women disciples? The stone hath been rolled away, the sepulchre is empty. Behold corruption trodden under by Life, the seals bearing clear witness, the guards of the disobedient fast asleep. Mortal nature is saved by the flesh of God, Hades is lamenting. Hasten ye with joy and say unto the Apostles: "Christ, the firstborn of the dead, who caused death to die, goeth before you into Galilee." *Vespers for the Holy Myrrhbearers*

The Lord in His mercy gives man to understand that he must suffer affliction with a grateful heart. My whole life long I have never once rebelled against affliction but accepted all things as physic from the hand of God, and I have ever offered up thanks to God, wherefore the Lord has enabled me to bear all afflictions lightly. *St. Silouan*

Announcements for April 18th

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation and church school for the children. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door. Be aware that shortly after the sermon, the catechumens, i.e., those preparing for Baptism & Chrismation, will be dismissed, but you are invited to stay for the rest of the service.

To All: Please be aware that Holy Communion is open only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves for worthy participation in the Mystery through prayer, fasting, and a recent confession to a priest (within the last month or so). We should be modestly dressed and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading).

Please Move Forward during the Liturgy! **Please be quiet** in the Narthex afterwards while the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion are being read in the church.

The Special Offering today will be for debt reduction.

Congratulations to Ben and Lois Lyda on the safe, healthy birth of Evangeline Ruth, 8 lbs, 6 ozs, 21 inches.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Basics of Orthodoxy

Thursday, 1:00 p.m., St. Theophan, *Path of Salvation*

Friday, noon: Catechumens preparing for Illumination.

Memorial Day this year falls on the beginning of the Apostles' Fast. We are thinking of having a more modest picnic/cookout the afternoon of Sunday, May 30, in its place.

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, May 23.

During the 50 days from Pascha to the Feast of Pentecost on June 7th, we do not kneel or make prostrations at home or 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 until the Feast of Ascension (May 13), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!"

During the same period, we replace "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal..." with the paschal troparion said thrice.

Through the Leavetaking of Pascha (May 12), we use the Paschal Troparion before and 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, which also 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 throughout Denton County and north Texas. Checks should be made out to St. Maximus Orthodox Church and placed in the basket on the candle table, where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for the building fund.

Last week, we gave \$1579.30 in tithes and offerings; in April we have given \$2374.70; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$37.50; Bookstore \$22; Building fund \$20; special gifts \$0. May God bless your faithful giving! Expansion fund \$70 (\$1352.28 total collected; min. goal \$2500). Attendance: Sunday Liturgy 62, Saturday Vigil 15.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: for those preparing for Holy Illumination at Pentecost: Adam, Melanie, Olive Betz, Ashley Davis, and Mary Moses; for our **catechumens** Thom Anderson, Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Jason O'Brien, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston.

From Saint Maximus

Let no one deceive you, monk, into thinking that you can be saved while in the service of pleasure and vainglory.

Just as the body which sins through things and has as discipline the bodily virtues to bring it back to its senses, so in its turn does the mind which sins through passionate thoughts likewise have as discipline the virtues of the soul, in order that looking at things in a pure and detached way it might return to its senses.

Just as night follows day and winter follows summer, so do sorrow and pain follow vainglory and pleasure whether in the present or in the future.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.63-65

From St. Silouan of Athos (+1938)

Many people like to read good books, and this is right, but it is best of all to pray; while he who reads newspapers or bad books condemns his soul to go hungry—hungry because the food of the soul and her true satisfaction lie in God. In God are life, joy, gladness, and the Lord loves us ineffably, and this love is made known by the Holy Spirit.

Do not forget the pattern of spiritual life: God bestows His gifts on the simple, lowly, and obedient soul. The man who is obedient and temperate in all things—in food, in speech, in movement—receives the gift of prayer from the Lord Himself, and prayer continues without difficulty in his heart.

Unceasing prayer is born of love, while fault-finding, idle talk, and self-indulgence are the death of prayer. The man who loves God is able to keep his mind on Him day and night since no form of activity interferes with loving God.

Everyone in this world has his task to perform, be he king or patriarch, cook, blacksmith, or teacher, but the Lord whose love extends to everyone of us will give great rewards to the man whose love is greater. The Lord gave us the commandment to love God with all our hearts, with all our minds, with all our souls. But without prayer how can one love? The mind and heart of man, therefore, must always be free to pray. *from St. Silouan the Athonite*

Troparia and Kontakia for April 18th



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!’

Myrrh-bearing Women, Troparion, tone 2

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thine immaculate Body from the tree,/wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,/ and placed it in a new tomb./ But Thou didst rise on third day, O Lord, // granting the world great mercy.

Myrrh-bearing Women, Kontakion, tone 2

The Angel came to the myrrbearing women at the tomb / and said: “Myrrh is meet for the dead; / but Christ hath shown Himself a stranger to corruption! / So proclaim: the Lord is risen, / granting the world great mercy.

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 myrrbearing women, / granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.