

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Thomas Sunday, April 25th, 2010

Christ Is Risen! Indeed, He Is Risen!

Schedule of Services

April 25th 4th Sunday of Pascha Paralytic

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

April 27th Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

April 28th Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Vespers

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

April 29th Thursday

6:30 a.m. Matins

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

April 30th Friday

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

7:00 p.m. Reader Vespers

May 1st Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil

May 2nd 5th Sunday of Pascha Samaritan Woman

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

We do not require wealth or learning in order to know the Lord—we must simply be obedient and sober, have a humble spirit and love our fellow men. The Lord will love such a soul as this, of His own accord make Himself manifest to her and instruct her in love and humility, and give her all things needful for her to find rest in God.

We may study as much as we will, but we shall still not come to know the Lord unless we live according to His commandments, for the Lord is not made known through learning but by the Holy Spirit. Many philosophers and scholars have arrived at a belief in the existence of God but they have not come to know God. . . . To believe that God exists is one thing, to know God another.

St. Silouan of Athos

Announcements for April 25th

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 our expansion.

Congratulations to Mark & Wendy Jackson on the safe, healthy birth of Thomas Jonathan last Sunday.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Basics of Orthodoxy: The Path of the Commandments of Christ

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

Friday, noon: Catechumens preparing for Illumination.

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.

Crawfish Boil & Catfish Children's Fishing Tournament to benefit the new women's monastery, Sunday, May 23, 1 to 6 p.m. at Indian Oaks HOA Park on Lake Tawakoni with Zydeco band.

Sponsored by a parishioner of St. Seraphim's Cathedral. Cost \$20 per adult, \$5 for children under 12. Register by May 10 online at <http://www.mainlandchinatrading.com/crawfish/>

Memorial Day this year falls on the beginning of the Apostles' Fast. We plan to have a more modest picnic/cookout the afternoon of Sunday, May 30, in its place, at 3:00 p.m.

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 \$1497.71 in tithes and offerings; in April we have given \$3872.41; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$29; Bookstore \$86; Building fund \$50; special gifts \$824, Special Offering Debt Reduction \$108. May God bless your faithful giving! Expansion fund \$41 (\$1393.28 total collected; min. goal \$2500). Attendance: Sunday Liturgy 54, 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 and for little Thomas Jackson and his parents, Mark & Wendy.

From Saint Maximus

In no way can the sinner escape the judgment to come unless he takes on here below voluntary hardships or involuntary afflictions.

It is said that there are five reasons why we are allowed to be warred upon by the demons. First, so that in offensive and defensive battle we come to distinguish virtue and vice. Second, that in acquiring virtue by struggles and toil we shall hold on to it firmly and steadfastly. Third, that while advancing in virtue we do not become haughty but learn rather to be humble. Fourth, that having experienced vice we will hate it with a consummate hate. Fifth, and most important, that when we become detached we do not forget either our weakness or the power of the One who has helped us.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.66-67

