

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Schedule of Services

<b>May 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Antipascha, Thomas Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Church School, Mission Council
<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday</b> 7:00 p.m. DFW Late Vocations Scripture Survey
<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday</b> 7:00 a.m. Matins
<b>May 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday</b> 7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession 7:00 p.m. Vespers (Confession at 6:30) 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy
<b>May 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday</b> 7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
<b>May 6<sup>th</sup> Friday</b> 7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession 4:00 p.m. Class: Life after Death, Chapter 7 7:00 p.m. Russian Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession
<b>May 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday</b> 5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession
<b>May 8<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Holy Myrrhbearers</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Children's Choir

“We must pray for other people with contrition and pain in our soul. We can only achieve this, if, due to our humbleness, we consider ourselves the cause of all the problems in the world.”

—But, Father, how can you accept that you are the cause for the divorce of a married couple in Athens?

—Well, I say to myself: If I were a saint, like the old fathers, I would ask God to make them love each other again, and he would help them, as He has promised to listen to saints. Since I am not a saint, God does not listen to me. Therefore, it is my fault that this family is breaking up, as well as for the evil existing in the world. This way, I never judge anyone, but I only blame myself for everything; then God will help.

*Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain*

## Announcements for May 1<sup>st</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee, 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

**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 (so as not to distract others) and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

**The Special Offering** this week is for our priest.

**Coffee Hour Donations** go to support building new space for Coffee Hour (our hall expansion). A few dollars a week from each of us will do much!

**Many Thanks** to all of you who helped with Holy Week and Pascha: cleaning, setting up, bringing food, singing, reading, decorating, giving, making the picnic happen, etc., and most importantly, coming to worship. The parish works and ministers because of you. May all our labors be for God's glory and for the building up of His Body, the Church.

### Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 12.

During the 50 days from Pascha to the Feast of Pentecost, 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 (June 2), 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.

**Ministry to Shut-ins:** We currently have two shut-ins whom the priest visits and to whom he administers the Mysteries. Each would welcome visits from parishioners. To visit Nina Johnston at 5892 Mills Road in Denton, call her son Richard to set up a visit at (972) 900-0201. Sherrie Joanna Hall has been a long-time parishioner at St.

Barbara's in Fort Worth who now lives in Denton. She lives right across from the Cumberland Children's Home at 1407 Bernard apt. #1011. You may reach her by phone at (940) 381-303 or (817)925-4183.

**A Yard Sale** will be held this Saturday, May 7, at the church to raise money for the construction of our new hall. Your donations of all sorts of unneeded household goods are welcome. Please see Ben and Lois Lyda for more information and about what to do with your donations. A sign-up sheet may be found on the pillar in the all to help with the sale.

### Classes this Week

Monday, 7:00 p.m. DFW Late Vocations Scripture

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

Friday, 4:00 p.m. *Life After Death*, chapter 7.

**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).

Last week we gave \$578.21 in tithes and offerings; in April we gave \$5832.11 our monthly budget is \$7975 (\$1994 per week). Candles \$204; Special Gifts \$500 (\$1200 for April); thus total giving in April to general fund was \$7032.11. Church Building Fund \$70; Pascha Flowers \$157; Hall Expansion Fund \$, Soda Jar for Building Renovation Fund \$37.45. May God bless your giving! Attendance: Paschal Vigil & Liturgy 94+, Agape Vespers 92.

**Hall Expansion Fund:** The hall expansion fund has pledges for \$7700 of the \$17,000 we need to pay for our hall expansion, \$6300 of which has been given; a total of \$11,330 has been raised so far. All coffee hour donations will go for this end. (Parish council suggests \$5 per family per week; \$ was given last week).

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, Jeremy Pike, and David Eaton; **those preparing for Holy Illumination** Thom Anderson, Samuel Vanderburg, Michael, Gina, and Ian Rehmet. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Sherrie Joanna Hall, and for Michael Rodgers at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Thanks be to God: the premature baby Victoria is now home from the hospital and in good health.

**From Saint Maximus**

You will check the hurt of the envious person with great difficulty, for he considers what he envies in you as his misfortune. It can be checked in no other way but in hiding something from him. But if the thing is helpful to many yet gives him grief, which side will you choose? It is certainly necessary to be of service to the many while still taking as much care as possible that you be not carried off by the vice of passion, since you could be retaliating not against the passion but against the one who is experiencing it. Instead, you will through humility regard him as above yourself and in every time, place, and situation prefer him to yourself. You will be able to check your own envy if you join the one you envy in rejoicing at what he rejoices at and grieving over what he grieves over. In this way you fulfill the Apostle's words, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."

Our mind is in the middle of two things, each one active at its own work, the one at virtue, the other at vice, in other words, between angel and devil. The mind has the power and strength to follow or oppose the one it chooses.

On the one hand, the holy angels urge us on to the good, and natural tendencies and a good will assist us. On the other hand, passions and an evil will support the assaults of the demons.

*400 Chapters on Love, 3.91-93*

**Troparia and Kontakia for May 1<sup>st</sup>**



**Thomas Sunday, Troparion, tone 7**

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! / Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy disciples, O Christ God. / Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, / by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all.

**Thomas Sunday, Kontakion, tone 8**

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, / when Thou, O Christ God, didst come to Thine Apostles through closed doors. / He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God!