

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, March 14, 2010

Schedule of Services

**March 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. John of the Ladder**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vespers, *St. Mary's, Colleyville*

**March 15<sup>th</sup> Monday**

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**March 16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

6:30 a.m. First Hour

2:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**March 17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:30 a.m. Matins

6:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

8:00 p.m. Matins with Great Canon

**March 18<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

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

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**March 19<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Little Compline and Akathist to the Theotokos

**March 20<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vespers, *St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

Now that we have passed beyond the middle point in the time of the Fast, let us manifest in ourselves a beginning of divine glory, and let us hasten eagerly towards our journey's end, the life of holiness, that we may receive the joy that groweth not old.

Having passed beyond the middle point in this holy season of the Fast, with joy let us go forward to the part that still remaineth, anointing our souls with the oil of almsgiving. So may we be counted worthy to venerate the divine Passion of Christ our God, and to attain His dread and holy Resurrection. *Vespers of the Fourth Sunday*

## Announcements for March 14<sup>th</sup>

**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 All-Parish Meeting** decided that we shall expand the nave on the side of the stairs if we can raise at least \$2500 in the next 13 weeks; the total cost will be about \$5000. No more than \$2500 may come out of our building fund; of course, it would be best if none did. The parish also chose to explicitly limit the building fund to the narrow purpose of constructing a new temple, not for general building purposes. We ask all the faithful prayerfully to consider making a gift above your regular tithes and offerings for this purpose. Please designate checks or offering envelopes for "Expansion Fund". Someone calculated that if everyone gave just \$10 more each week, we'll have the money we need within the allotted time.

**Please Note Schedule Changes:** Basics of Orthodoxy class at 6:30 this week only; Presanctified Liturgy Thursday at 6:00.; no Matins Thursday or Saturday mornings.

**The Special Offering** today will be for IOCC, next week for our seminarian.

**Lenten Pan-Orthodox Vespers** tonight, 6:00 p.m., at St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church, Colleyville (near DFW airport). Your priest has been asked to speak.

**Confessions:** Two weeks remain until Palm Sunday and Holy Week. You are asked to make every effort to make your Confession during the Fast in the next two weeks and not wait until Holy Week. Please see Fr. Justin if you need to schedule a special time. All regular communicants (communing more than once a month) are expected to confess no less frequently than once a month. Though younger children past age 7 might be brought to Confession less frequently

(once every two months), teens certainly should confess monthly in order to commune. Otherwise, one should confess before each Communion, if one communes infrequently. All baptized Orthodox Christians should make the effort to prepare for Confession and Holy Communion during Great Lent.

**Lenten Almsgiving:** As customary, we are collecting items for the local charities Women to Women and Interfaith Ministry and for our own "Care Bundles". See bins and lists of needed items under the bookstore table.

**Care Bundles:** Throughout Lent we will be collecting items to assemble into "care bundles" for the homeless. Our goal is to assemble 200 bags. The list for items needed is posted in the coffee hour room, and reflects real needs of real homeless people. Items may be placed in the black bins under the bookstore table.

### Classes this Week

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.: Basics of Orthodoxy

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

### The Fast: Fifth Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), and oil. If fasting strictly, we take one meal a day M-F after 3 p.m. or after the Presanctified Liturgy. We join increased prayer and almsgiving to our fasting and avoid all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion at the Presanctified Liturgy keep a Eucharistic fast from noon. Please see your priest if you have problems or questions.

**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 \$2323.94 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$36.50; Bookstore \$101; Building fund \$147; special gifts \$155. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 36, Liturgy 74.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Thom Anderson, Adam & Melanie Betz, Ashley Davis, Mary Moses, Javier Largazspada, and 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 who has suffered a stroke and is in rehab, and for Adam Betz's health.

### From Saint Maximus

A monk is one who separates his mind from material things and who devotes himself to God by self-mastery, love, psalmody, and prayer.

*400 Chapters on Love, 2.56*

### Troparia and Kontakia for March 14<sup>th</sup>



#### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

#### St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

#### Sunday of John Climacus, Troparion tone 1

O John, our father, saint of God, thou was revealed as a citizen of the desert, / an angel in a body and a worker of miracles. / Through fasting, prayer and vigils, / thou hast received heavenly gifts of grace, / and thou healest the sick and the souls of those that turn to thee with faith. / Glory be to Him who gave thee strength; / glory, be to Him who crowned thee / glory be to Him who through thee granteth to all men healing.

#### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

#### St. Maximus, Kontakion, tone 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

#### John Climacus, Kontakion, tone 4

Truly the Lord hath set thee as fixed star in the firmament of abstinence, / giving light to the ends of the earth / O father John our teacher.