

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Schedule of Services During the Fourth Week of Lent

**March 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday Veneration of the Cross**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Vespers at SS Constantine & Helen Church, Dallas*

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

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Mechanics of Prayer, Part 2

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

4:30 p.m. Class: The Arena

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

8:00 p.m. *Late Vocations Class: Doctrine, Dallas*

**March 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**March 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday Annunciation, St. John Climacus**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Vespers at St. John the Baptist, Euless*

From Saint Thalassios, the Libyan

When in His compassion for man the Logos became flesh, He changed neither what He was nor what He became.

Just as we speak of the one Christ as being 'from Godhead' and 'from manhood' and 'in Godhead' and 'in manhood', so we speak of Him as being 'from two natures' and 'in two natures.'

We confess that in Christ there is a single hypostasis, or subject, in two indivisibly united natures.

Particular to the three Persons are fatherhood, sonship, and procession. Common to them are essence, nature, divinity, goodness.

*400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 2.94-96, 99*

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission  
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

## Announcements for March 18<sup>th</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation. 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.

**Church School** will meet today after the Liturgy.

**The Special Offering** is for the Fr. Adam Sexton family, who recently lost everything in a rectory fire in Nanticoke, PA.

**The Pan-Orthodox Vespers** tonight, 6:00 p.m., is at SS. Constantine & Helen Antiochian Church, 3755 Walnut Hill, Dallas.

**Schedule Change:** Vespers on Thursday will be served at 3:00 p.m. instead of 6:00, followed by class at 4:30.

**New Thursday Class:** The Thursday class is engaging St. Ignatius Brianchaninov's important book *The Arena*. For this week, find and bring with you at least ten commandments of Christ from the Gospels.

### Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Mechanics of Prayer  
Thursday, 4:30 p.m. *The Arena*, St. Ignatius Brianchaninov  
Friday, 8:00 p.m. *St. Seraphim's, Dallas*: Orthodox Doctrine.

**Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts:** The customary preparation for Holy Communion is needed: pre-Communion Prayers, recent confession, and fasting. Strictly, this eucharistic fasting is from midnight, but our bishops have blessed beginning the complete abstinence from food and drink at noon.

**Church Cleaning:** Help is needed to clean the church. Please sign up for this ministry in the hall.

**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 in 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 \$1149 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$3675.92; our monthly budget is \$8179 (\$2045 per week. (To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$10,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$62.50, special offering \$46  
May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 32, Liturgy 86.

**Hall Expansion Fund:** A total of \$57,888.62 has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

**Expansion Update:** Rain is hampering efforts to move forward. Please keep an eye on your children in regard to the construction site. Thank you.

### The Fast: Fourth Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), 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 cut back on (or cut out) all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ. This week of the Cross should be kept more strictly than the last two, if possible.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Caleb Rehmet, Shane Gibson, Ashley Gibson, and Madeline preparing for Holy Illumination; Hunter Bellan, Sean Chaney, Elizabeth Dakak, Philip Smith, and ; and for our inquirers Joel and Mindy Brown and their children. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Sherrie Joanna Hall, for the novice Svetlana, and for Melanie Betz.

### From Saint Maximus

If all the saints had their share of discipline, we too should thank God that we are disciplined with them, so that we may be found worthy to partake of their glory. 'For whom the Lord loves He disciplines; He chastens every son He accepts.'

When Adam accepted the sensual pleasure offered to him by Even, who had come from his side, he expelled humanity from paradise. But when the Lord in His agony was pierced in his side by the lance, He brought the robber into paradise. Let us, then, love the suffering of the flesh and hate its pleasure; for the first brings us in and restores God's blessings to us, while the second drives us out and separates us from those blessings.

*First Century of Various Texts, 22, 23*

### From Saint Ignatius Brianchaninov

The Lord's commandments are "Spirit and life." They save the doer of them. They restore a dead soul to life. They make a carnal and worldly person spiritual. On the other hand, a person who neglects the commandments ruins himself and remains in a carnal and worldly state, in a fallen condition, and develops the fall in himself.

True Christianity and true monasticism consists in the practice of the commandments of the Gospel. Where this practice is absent, there is neither Christianity nor monasticism, whatever the outward appearance may be.

One who practises the commandments of the Gospel is always immersed in humility. Comparing the loftiness and purity of the holy commandments with his own fulfillment of them, he constantly admits that his efforts are extremely unsatisfactory and unworthy of God. He sees himself meriting temporal and eternal punishments for his sins, for his unbroken fellowship with Satan, for the fall that is common to all men, for his own continuance in a fallen state, and finally for his insufficient and frequently fickle fulfillment of the commandments. Whatever trouble or suffering comes his way by the ordering of Divine Providence, he submissively bows his head, knowing that, by means of suffering, God trains and educates His servants during their earthly pilgrimage. He is kind and merciful to his enemies and prays for them as brothers...who are spiritually sick, as his benefactors, and as instruments of the providence of God.

### Troparia and Kontakia for March 18<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.

#### Sunday of the Cross, Troparion, tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross / preserve Thine estate.

#### Kontakion of the Third Sunday of Lent, tone 7

The fiery sword no longer guardeth the gate of Eden, / for in a strange and glorious way / the wood of the Cross hath quenched its flames. / The sting of death and the victory of hell are now destroyed, / for Thou art come, O my Savior, / crying unto those in hell: / "Return again to Paradise."