

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton  
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## Bulletin for Sunday of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

### Schedule of Services

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**February 6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

5:30 p.m. Community Meal

6:00 p.m. Class: Orthodox Spirituality

7:00 p.m. Vespers

**February 8<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Little Compline w/Akathist, Confession

**February 9<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

6:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**February 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

### From Saint Thalassios, the Libyan (*friend of St. Maximus*)

The single divinity of the Trinity is undivided and the three Persons of the one divinity are unconfused.

The individual characteristics of the Father are described as unoriginateness and unbegottenness; of the Son, as co-presence in the source and as being begotten by it; and of the Holy Spirit, as co-presence in the source and as proceeding from it. The origin of the Son and Holy Spirit is not to be regarded as temporal: how could it be? On the contrary, the term 'origin' indicates the source from which Their existence is eternally derived, as light from the sun. For They originate from that source according to Their essence, although They are in no sense inferior or subsequent to it.

Each Person preserves His individual characteristics immutably and irremovably; and the common nature of Their essence, that is to say, Their divinity, is indivisible.

We confess Unity in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, divided but without division and united but with distinctions.

*400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 4.95-98*

## Announcements for February 3<sup>rd</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.

**The Special Offering** will go for our hall expansion.

**Temple wine** given for the health and salvation of Michael Rodgers.

**Fr. Justin** will be out of town this week. Fr. Michael Storozuk is available in case of emergency (469) 688-7644.

**Vigil Change:** This Saturday only (Feb 9<sup>th</sup>), the Saturday Vigil will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. instead of 5:00.

### Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. (Orthodox Spirituality). Subdeacon Anthony, substituting for Fr. Justin, will speak on the Jesus Prayer as presented in the classic work *The Way of the Pilgrim*.

**Parenting with Love and Logic:** In response to the interest expressed by some of you, our own Anna Stokes will offer a Love and Logic class in parenting on Saturday, February 23 for parents, those who hope to be parents, or those who just have to deal with children. The class will last about four hours. Please register your intention to attend with Anna or Fr. Justin.

**House Blessings:** If you would like your house blessed, look for the sign-up sheet in the hall. Fr. Justin will call to confirm a time.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** for Joel and Mindy Brown and their children Daniel, Anya, and Elijah, Gary & Olivia Reynolds and their children Ariel, Analise, and Alexandria, Lauren Williams, Philip, and Sean. Please pray for the novice Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher, (Olga's husband).

**Hall Expansion Update:** The construction trash in the yard has been hauled away. The floor will be sanded and finished this week.

**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), and a box for our building fund.

Last week we gave \$2010.15; in January, we gave \$6887.73; our monthly budget is \$9187 (\$2297 per week. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$70.50, Renovation (Soda) \$12, Building Fund \$69.50, Expansion \$15.41. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 22, Liturgy 81.

**Hall Expansion Fund:** A total of **\$66,383.18** has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

### From Saint Maximus

If a man exercises only sensory discrimination between pain and pleasure in the body, thus transgressing the divine commandment, he eats from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, that is to say, he succumbs to the mindless impulses that pertain to the senses; for he possesses only the body's power of discrimination, which makes him embrace pleasure as something good and avoid pain as something evil. But if he exercises only that noetic discrimination which distinguishes between the eternal and the transitory, and so keeps the divine commandment, he eats from the tree of life, that is to say, from the wisdom that appertains to his intellect; for he exercises only the power of discrimination associated with the soul, which makes him cleave to the glory of what is eternal as something good, and avoid the corruption of what is transitory as something evil.

Goodness so far as the intellect is concerned is a dispassionate predilection for the spirit; evil is an impassioned attachment to the senses. Goodness so far as the senses are concerned is tile impassioned activity of the body under the stimulus of pleasure; evil is the state destitute of such activity.

He who persuades his conscience to regard the evil he is doing as good by nature reaches out with his moral faculty as with a hand and grasps the tree of life in a reprehensible manner; for he thinks that what is thoroughly evil is by nature immortal. Therefore God, who has implanted in man's conscience a natural hatred of evil, cuts him off from life, for he has now become evil in his will and intention. God acts in this way so that when a man does wrong he cannot persuade his own conscience that what is thoroughly evil is good by nature.

*Various Texts, Second Century 34-36*

## **Troparia and Kontakia for February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### **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!’

### **Meeting of the Lord, Troparion, tone 1**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos full of grace, / for from thee hath shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / who doth illumine those in darkness. / Be glad also, thou righteous elder, / for thou hast received in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, // who bestoweth upon us Resurrection.

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

#### **St. Nicholas of Japan, Troparion, tone 4**

O holy hierarch Nicholas, equal of the apostles, / O thou who didst share in the ways of the apostles and sit upon their throne, / O faithful and divinely wise servant of Christ, / chosen harp of the divine Spirit, / vessel overflowing with the love of Christ, / enlightener of the land of Japan: / Pray thou to the life-bestowing Trinity / in behalf of all thy flock // and for the whole world.

### **Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 2**

Thou didst rise from the grave, all –powerful Saviour; / and Hades, seeing the wonder, was affrighted; / and the dead arose; and creation, beholding, rejoiceth with Thee; / and with Thee Adam also is glad; / and the world, O my Saviour, hymneth Thee forever.

### **St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody***

Let us the faithful praise with fitting hymns / that lover of the Holy Trinity, great Maximus, / who clearly taught the divinely-given Faith: / that we should give glory unto Christ our God, / Who, but one person, hath in very truth / two natures, wills, and energies. / Let us cry to him: // Rejoice, divine herald of the Faith.

### **St. Nicholas of Japan, Kontakion, tone 2**

As God Thou hast rewarded / the steadfast and divinely eloquent preacher of Thy Gospel, O Lord; / for Thou hast preferred his labors and pangs / over all the sacrifices and wholeburnt offerings of the law. // Through his supplications preserve us from evil.

### **Meeting of the Lord, Kontakion, tone 1**

Thou who hast sanctified by Thy birth a virgin womb / and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon, / art come, O Christ our God, and on this day hast saved us. / Give peace to thy commonwealth in time of battle / and strengthen the Orthodox people whom Thou hast loved, // O Thou who alone lovest mankind.