

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday of February 24th, 2013



Schedule of Services

February 24th Sunday Publican & Pharisee

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. DFW OCF Dinner & Meeting at St. Maximus

February 27th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:30 p.m. Community Meal

6:00 p.m. Class: Orthodox Spirituality

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 28th Thursday

8:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

7:45 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

March 1st Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

March 2nd Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 3rd Sunday Prodigal Son

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From The Desert Fathers

Abba Poemen said, "To throw yourself before God, not to measure your progress, to leave behind all self-will; these are the instruments for the work of the soul."

Abba Poemen said, "If man remembered that it is written: 'By your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned,' he would choose to be silent."

He also said, "The beginning of evil is heedlessness."

He also said, 'As the breath which comes out of his nostrils, so does a man need humility and the fear of God.'

Sayings of the Desert Fathers, Poemen 36, 42, 43, 49

Announcements for February 24th

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 debt reduction.

Temple Oil give for the health and salvation of Christina Anderson and Matushka Michelle.

Fast-Free Week: N.B., this week, there is no fasting.

The DFW-area OCF (college-age group) will meet here tonight at the Sunday at 6:00 for food, fellowship, and spiritual nourishment.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Spirituality, Chapters 5 & 6.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Series on the Divine Liturgy: The Great Litany.

Parenting Help: The Love and Logic class will be taught by Anna Stokes at the church on Saturday March 9, from 10 until 2. Please see Anna or Fr. Justin if you plan to attend.

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 Adam. Please pray for the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher, (Olga's husband).

Hall Expansion Update: A little electrical work remains. The gas meter should be installed soon, leaving only the front porch and gutters to have done. Then, the downstairs kitchen, and after that, the new church.

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 \$3476; in February we have given \$5781.86; 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 \$46, Renovation (Soda) \$2, Building Fund \$50, Expansion \$35. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 34, Liturgy 89.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of **\$66,430.18** has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

From Saint Maximus

God has knowledge only of what is good, because He is in essence the nature and the knowledge of what is good. He is ignorant of evil because He has no capacity for evil. Only of those things for which by nature He possesses the capacity does He also possess the essential knowledge.

He who has conformed his life to God's will through practice of the virtues transposes his intellect to the realm of intelligible realities by means of contemplation. By so doing he places himself utterly beyond the reach of everything that seeks to entrap him, and so is not attracted through some sensory image towards the death that lies in the passions.

So long as you do not pursue virtue or study Holy Scripture for the sake of glory, or as a cloak for greed (cf. 1 Thess. 2:5), or from love of flattery and popularity, or for self-display, but do and say and think all things for the sake of God, then you are walking with spiritual knowledge in the way of truth. If, however, you have in some respects 'prepared the way for the Lord', yet have not 'made His paths straight', He will not come to dwell within you (cf. Isa. 40:3. LXX; Mark 1:3).

If you fast and avoid a mode of life which excites the passions, and in general do whatever contributes to your deliverance from evil, then you have 'prepared the way for the Lord'. But if you do these things out of self-esteem, or greed, or love of flattery, or for some similar motive, and not with a desire to perform God's will, then you have not 'made His paths straight'. You have endured the labor of preparing the way but do not have God walking in your paths.

Various Texts, Second Century 44, 49, 51-52

Troparia and Kontakia for February 24th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit / thou didst pour forth Christ's sacred teachings, / thou didst expound with Divine authority / the self-emptying of God the Word / and wast radiant in thy confession of the True Faith: / O, Glorious Father Maximus / pray to Christ our God / to grant us His great mercy.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

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.

Publican and Pharisee, Kontakion, tone 4

Let us flee from the proud speaking of the Pharisee / and learn the humility of the Publican, / and with groaning let us cry unto the Savior: / Be merciful to us, // for Thou alone art ready to forgive.

Publican & Pharisee, Second Kontakion, tone 3

As the Publican let us bring cries of sorrow to the Lord, and let us fall before him as sinners at the Master's feet. For He desireth the salvation of all men; He granteth forgiveness unto all that repent, and He hath for our sake taken flesh, though He is God coeternal with the Father.