

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick (940) 383-1850 home

Bulletin for Sunday March 17th, 2013

Schedule of Clean Week Services

March 17th Forgiveness Sunday; Cheesefare

8:45 a.m. Catechizing of Catechumens to be received

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers, Ice Cream at Beth Marie's

March 18th Clean Monday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Compline with Great Canon, Confession

March 19th Clean Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

6:00 p.m. Great Compline with Great Canon

March 20th Clean Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

5:30 p.m. Community Meal, Spiritual Reading, Discussion

6:30 p.m. Great Compline with Great Canon, Confession

March 21st Clean Thursday

7:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Great Compline with Great Canon

March 22nd Clean Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

March 23rd Clean Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 24th Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Procession with Icons

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, Holy Trinity, Dallas*

From the Triodion

We were banished once, O Lord, from Paradise through eating from the tree; but thou hast led us back again, O my God and Savior, through Thy Cross and Passion. *Matins for Forgiveness Sunday*

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

Announcements for March 17th

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 Oil is offered in thanksgiving by Callum and Sophia Lyda for eleven years of marriage.

No Classes this Week:

The services serve for classes this week. Do come!

Catechizing: today at 8:45 before the Divine Liturgy, we shall be catechizing those whom we plan to receive into the Church at Pascha: Joel and Mindy Brown and their children Daniel, Anya, and Elijah, Gary & Olivia Reynolds and their children Ariel, Analise, and Alexandria, Lauren Williams, and Adam Bramlett.

Forgiveness Vespers will be served tonight at 6:00 p.m. All those who are members of this parish or who consider it their home should plan on attending. If any one service during the years should be considered mandatory for all, this one is it. We'll go out together for ice cream afterwards.

Clean Week: This first week of the Fast calls for special attention from each of us. We should avoid all secular entertainments and whatever will distract us from Christ. At seminary, we were asked not to talk to one another except out of necessity. Let us guard our conversations before and after services to maintain a 'holy quiet' in the Church and to avoid sinning through careless words.

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).

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 \$1344.30 \$1967.95; in March we have given \$3212.25; 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 \$62.50, Renovation (Soda) \$2, Building Fund \$25, Expansion \$32. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 42, Liturgy 96.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of **\$66,495.18** has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

The Fast: Clean Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and marital relations. Those with the strength eat only one uncooked meal on Wednesday and one on Friday in the evening. Others eat similar meals on Tuesday and Thursday and so keep only Monday as a day of complete abstinence from food. Some may not be able even to do this. On weekends, two meals each day, at noon and in the evening, are permitted. Whatever level of fasting we do manage, we should keep this week as strictly as we possibly can. The rules of fasting are relaxed for the elderly, the very young, and those in poor health. As always, see your priest if you have questions how you should fast. To fasting we join prayer and almsgiving to make it yield spiritual gain. The daily services should be our priority this week, especially the Great Canon and the Presanctified Liturgy.

From Saint Maximus

If everything that exists was made by God and for God, and God is superior to the things made by Him, he who abandons what is superior and devotes himself to what is inferior shows that he values things made by God more than God Himself.

When your intellect is concentrated on the love of God you will pay little attention to visible things and will regard even your own body as something alien.

Since the soul is more noble than the body and God incomparably more noble than the world created by Him, he who values the body more than the soul and the world created by God more than the Creator Himself is simply a worshipper of idols.

If you distract your intellect from its love for God and concentrate it, not on God, but on some sensible object, you thereby show that you value the body more than the soul and the things made by God more than God Himself.

400 Chapters on Love, First Century 5-8

The time is now at hand for us to start upon the spiritual contest and to gain the victory over the demonic powers. Let us put on the armor of abstinence and clothe ourselves in the glory of the angels. With boldness Moses spoke to the Creator, and he heard the voice of the invisible God. In Thy love for man, O Lord, grant us with the same boldness to venerate Thy Passion and Thy holy Resurrection.

Matins of Forgiveness Sunday

Troparia and Kontakia for March 17th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to Thee.

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.

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.

Forgiveness Sunday, Kontakion, tone 6

O Master, Guide to wisdom, / Giver of prudent counsel, Instructor of the foolish and Champion of the poor, / make firm my heart and grant it understanding. / O Word of the Father, give me words, / for see, I shall not stop my lips / from crying out to Thee: I am fallen, / in Thy compassion have mercy on me.