

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton  
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## Bulletin for Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013

### Schedule of Services for the Second Week

- March 31<sup>st</sup> Second Sunday of Lent: St. Gregory Palamas**  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Peter's, Fort Worth (West Rite)*
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Third Week**  
6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts  
7:30 p.m. Community Meal, Spiritual Reading, Discussion
- April 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Third Week**  
7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession  
4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession  
6:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Preparing for Holy Communion
- April 5<sup>th</sup> Friday of the Third Week**  
7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession  
5:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
- April 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Second Week**  
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession
- April 7<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Cross**  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. John's, Euless*

### From the Triodion

As we start upon the third week of the Fast, O ye faithful, let us glorify the Holy Trinity, and joyfully pass through the time that still remains. Causing passions of the flesh to wither from our souls, let us gather divine flowers, weaving garlands for the queen of days, that with crowns upon our heads we may sing in praise of Christ the Victor.

Throwing off from my unruly mind the bridle of the Father, I have lived with bestial thoughts of sin, and in my misery like the Prodigal I have wasted all my life. Forsaking the food that gives strength to man's heart, I have fed upon the pleasure that gives passing satisfaction. Yet good Father, shut not against me the door of Thy compassionate love, but opening it wide receive me as the Prodigal Son and save me.

*Vespers of the Second Sunday of the Fast*

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

## Announcements for March 31<sup>st</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 St. Basil Mission in Oklahoma.

**The Catechizing** of Lauren Williams is taking place this morning right before the Divine Liturgy—God-willing.

**Lenten Almsgiving:** We are collecting things for Woman to Woman, a ministry to unwed mothers to help them not abort their babies and for Interfaith Ministries, a local charity in Denton which assists people in need. Bins are placed with a list of items that each ministry needs.

**Temple Wine** is offered for the health and salvation of Alison Green and Charles David Rodgers. **Temple Oil** is offered for in thanksgiving for Bethany and Andrew, Eli and Samuel.

**Fr. Justin** will be at Holy Archangels monastery at the beginning of the week. He'll return in time for the service Wednesday evening.

**Confessions During Lent:** Everyone should prepare for Holy Communion at Pascha, and part of that preparation is making a good Confession. Abundant opportunities to make a Confession are available, and if the scheduled times do not work for you, you may make an appointment. Please do not save your Confession for the last moment, but rather plan on making it by Palm Sunday.

### Classes this Week:

Wednesday 7:30 p.m.: Community Meal after the Presanctified Liturgy, Patristic Reading, Discussion

Thursday 6:00 p.m.: Basics of Orthodoxy for those preparing for Baptism: Preparation for Holy Communion.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** for Joel (John Cassian) 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 who are preparing for Holy Illumination, and for inquirers Rebecca and Rebecca. Please pray for

the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga.

**Driver Training:** Olga Fincher has her learner's permit but needs an experienced driver to ride with her while she practices for the driving test. Please call her at (940) 484-4169.

**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 \$1535.45; in March we have given \$7425.20; 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 \$159.50, Renovation (Soda) \$8, Building Fund \$2, Myrrhbearers \$84. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 38, Liturgy 92.

**Hall Expansion Fund:** A total of \$66,509.18 has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

### The Fast: Third 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.

### From Saint Maximus

The person who loves God cannot help loving every man as himself, even though he is grieved by the passions of those who are not yet purified. But when they amend their lives, his delight is indescribable and knows no bounds.

A soul filled with thoughts of sensual desire and hatred is unpurified. If we detect any trace of hatred in our hearts against any man whatsoever for committing any fault, we are utterly estranged from love for God, since love for God absolutely precludes us from hating any man.

*400 Chapters on Love, First Century 13-15*

## Troparia and Kontakia for March 31<sup>st</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!'

### 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.

### Palamas Sunday, Troparion, tone 8

O Gregory the Wonderworker, light of Orthodoxy, / support and teacher of the Church, / glory of monks and invincible protector of theologians, / pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, / pray without ceasing for the salvation of our souls.

### 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.

### Gregory Palamas, Kontakion, tone 8

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of theology, / with one accord we sing thy praises, O Gregory inspired by God. / But since thou standest now in mind and spirit before the Original Mind, / guide our minds to Him, O father that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, preacher of grace.

### Second Sunday of Lent, Kontakion, tone 4

The season of the virtues now hath come, /and the Judge is at the door. / Let us not hold back with darkened face, / but let us keep the Fast, / offering tears, contrition, and almsgiving; / and let us cry out: / our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea, / but Deliverer of all, forgive each one of us, // that we may receive an incorruptible crown.