

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday February 16th, 2014

Schedule of Services

February 16th Sunday Prodigal Son

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 17th Monday *Diocesan Council Meeting*

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Compline

February 18th Tuesday *Diocesan Pastoral Conference*

7:30 a.m. Matins

4:30 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Compline w/Akathist

7:30 p.m. Talk: Orthodox Prison Ministry

February 19th Wednesday *Diocesan Pastoral Conference*

7:30 a.m. Matins,

6:00 p.m. Talk: "A Mercy of Peace, A Sacrifice of Praise"

7:30 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 20th Thursday *Diocesan Pastoral Conference*

7:30 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

February 22nd Saturday

4:00 p.m. Russian Class

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 23rd Sunday Last Judgment, Meatfare

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From the *Triodion*

Brethren, let us learn the meaning of this mystery. For when the Prodigal Son ran back from sin to his Father's house, his loving Father came out to meet him and kissed him. He restored to the Prodigal the tokens of his proper glory, and mystically He made glad on high, sacrificing the fatted calf. Let our lives, then, be worthy of the loving father who hath offered sacrifice, and of the glorious Victim who is the Savior of our souls.

Announcements for February 16

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, 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. We invite you to go first through the food line and join the priest at the table.

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 this week will be for debt reduction.

Temple oil given in memory of Nicholas Gluschenko.

Church School will meet today after Liturgy.

Fasting this week is as usual, next week, meat fast only. Meatfare Sunday is next Sunday, so plan accordingly.

Many Thanks to all who helped with the work day yesterday. Many thanks to our warden, Michael Rehmet, for working diligently to get the old hall renovated and the upstairs beautified.

Thanks be to God for giving us the resources to renovate the old hall, build the new one, and repaint much of the upstairs, and adorn our Father's house with greater beauty. May He richly bless those who have given of their time and resources to make it possible and prosper the ministry that will take place here.

Overflow Parking is now available in the cleared area behind the white shed. Please feel free to make use of it.

DOS Pastoral Conference: The annual Pastoral Conference of the Diocese of the South is meeting here this week. The events listed in the bulletin are open to you to attend; other events are for the gathered clergy. The food that will be served is primarily for those attending the conference and those working, so please plan accordingly.

Reader to be Tonsured: At the hierarchical Liturgy this Thursday at 7:30, our warden Michael Rehmet will be tonsured a reader by Archbishop Nikon.

No Classes this Week

But on Tuesday, Fr. Seraphim Holland will give a presentation about Orthodox prison ministry, and Wednesday evening Fr. Dimitri

Cozby will speak on the relation between sacrifices in the Old Testament and the bloodless sacrifice of the Divine Liturgy.

Church Cleaning is needed each week. Please sign up and take a week.

Please Pray: Holly Bellan, catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, and Sean Chaney, for inquirers Destiny Marcott, Rebecca Marcott, Kathy Wells and her family, Amber Payne, Leah Saunders, Joseph, and Justin; the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, and for Patricia Lydon.

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 \$1609.01 in tithes and offerings; in February, we have given \$4081.23; our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$40; Special Offering for Fr. Seraphim's Prison Ministry \$93.39, Renovation (soda) \$8. Attendance: Saturday Vigil 40, Sunday Liturgy 86.

From Saint Maximus

Of the things contingent upon those given us by God, some are in the soul, some are in the body, and some relate to the body. Those in the soul are spiritual knowledge and ignorance, forgetfulness and memory, love and hate, fear and courage, distress and joy, and so on. Those in the body are pleasure and pain, sensation and numbness, health and disease, life and death, and so on. Those relating to the body are having children and not having children, wealth and poverty, fame and obscurity, and so on. Some of these are regarded as good and others as evil. Not one of them is evil in itself. According to how they are used they may rightly be called good or evil.

Both spiritual knowledge and health are good by nature, yet their contraries have been of more benefit to many people. For such knowledge may serve no good purpose where the wicked are concerned, even though, as we have said, it is good in itself. The same is true with regard to health, riches and joy, for they are not used advantageously by such people. But certainly their contraries do

benefit them. Therefore not one of them is evil in itself, even though it may appear to be evil.

Do not misuse your conceptual images of things, lest you are forced to make a wrong use of the things themselves. For if a man does not first sin in his mind, he will never sin in action.

The principal vices – stupidity, cowardice, licentiousness, injustice – are the ‘image’ of the ‘earthy’ man. The principal virtues – intelligence, courage, self-restraint, justice – are the ‘image’ of the ‘heavenly’ man. As we have borne the image of the earthy, let us also bear the image of the heavenly (cf. 1 Cor. 15:49).

400 Chapters on Love, 2.76-79

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 16

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

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.

Prodigal Son, Kontakion, tone 3

Foolishly have I run away from Thy glory, O Father, / wasting in sin the wealth that Thou gavest me. / Therefore with the words of the Prodigal I cry unto Thee: / I have sinned before Thee, compassionate Father. / Accept me in repentance and make me as one of Thy hired servants.