

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday March 2nd, 2014

Schedule of Services

March 2nd Sunday Expulsion from Paradise, Cheesefare

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:45 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers

Great Fast Begins at Midnight

March 3rd Clean Monday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Compline w/Great Canon of St. Andrew

March 4th Clean Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

6:00 p.m. Great Compline w/Great Canon of St. Andrew

March 5th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

6:00 p.m. Class: Gospel of John

7:00 p.m. Great Compline w/Great Canon of St. Andrew

March 6th Clean Thursday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Compline w/Great Canon of St. Andrew

March 7th Clean Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

March 8th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 9th Sunday of Orthodoxy (First Sunday of Lent)

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:45 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Holy Trinity

Announcements for March 2

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 IOCC as part of our Lenten almsgiving. We'll also be collecting items for Woman to Woman, a local ministry to unwed mothers.

Temple oil given in thanksgiving on Callam and Sophia Lyda's twelfth wedding anniversary.

Church School will meet today after Liturgy.

Cheesefare: Today we bid farewell to cheese and all dairy products until Pascha.

The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts will be celebrated Wednesday at 3:00 and Friday at 7:00. We prepare to receive Holy Communion as usual at these services. Strictly, the Eucharistic fast is from midnight, but for an evening Presanctified, we may begin our fast no later than noon, and for the 3:00 p.m. service, we should begin no later than 9:00 a.m. Please see your priest if you have questions.

Classes this Week

Sunday, 11:45 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Three Pillars of Spiritual Life

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Gospel of John: the Seven Signs 2.

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Russian Language

Forgiveness Vespers will take place tonight at 6:00 p.m. We ask that all who make St. Maximus their parish home make every effort to attend, as we begin the Great Fast together by asking forgiveness of one another. After Vespers and a prayer to help us with the Fast, we'll approach one another, asking, "Please forgive me," then prostrating before one another, and then responding "I forgive and God forgives." As is our custom, afterwards we'll go to Beth Marie's on the square for ice cream.

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

Please Pray: for catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, and Sean Chaney, for the newly-received catechumen Virginia Warwas, for inquirers Destiny Marcott, Rebecca Marcott, Kathy Wells and her family, Rick Hollebeak, 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 and James Lydon.

Clean Week Fasting (March 3-8) 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 once 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.

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 \$1212.61 in tithes and offerings; in February, we gave \$7565.85; our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$65.50; Special Offering Alms \$10.22. Attendance: Saturday Vigil 36, Sunday Liturgy 88.

From Saint Maximus

Some thoughts are simple, others are composite. Thoughts which are not impassioned are simple. Passion-charged thoughts are composite, consisting as they do of a conceptual image combined with passion. This being so, when composite thoughts begin to provoke a sinful

idea in the mind, many simple thoughts may be seen to follow them. For instance, an impassioned thought about gold rises in someone's mind. He has the urge mentally to steal the gold and commits the sin in his intellect. Then thoughts of the purse, the chest, the room and so on follow hard on the thought of the gold. The thought of the gold was composite – for it was combined with passion – but those of the purse, the chest and so on were simple; for the intellect had no passion in relation to these things. And the same is true for every thought – thoughts of self-esteem, women and so on. For not all thoughts which follow impassioned thought are themselves impassioned, as our example has shown. From this, then, we may know which conceptual images are impassioned and which are not.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.84

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, March 2

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.
/ From the womb of hell hath He delivered us, // and hath granted the world great mercy.

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.