

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday March 30th, 2014

Schedule of Services for the Fifth Week of Lent

March 30th Sunday of St. John of the Ladder (4th of Lent)

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
noon Basics of Orthodoxy: Prayer 2: A Rule of Prayer
6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Demetrios, FW

March 31st Monday St. Innocent

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession
3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

April 1st Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession
4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

April 2nd Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
noon Class: Gospel of John
7:00 p.m. *Great Canon at Kursk Root Icon at St. Nicholas, McKinney*

April 3rd Thursday

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

April 4th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession
7:00 p.m. *Russian Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Dallas*

April 5th Saturday

4:00 p.m. Russian Class
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

April 6th Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt (5th of Lent)

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
noon Basics of Orthodoxy: Prayer 3
6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Seraphim's, Dallas

The holy Fast feeds our hearts, ripening within us thoughts acceptable to God, and causing the deep abyss of our passions to dry up; and with the rain of compunction it cleanses those who in faith offer praise to the Almighty. *Monday Matins of the 5th Week*

Announcements for March 30

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 if we are communing), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

The Special Offering this week will be for our new church.

Temple wine given for the health and salvation of Carolyn and William.

Please remember in your prayers catechumen Sean Irenaeus Chaney as he is catechized this morning in preparation for Baptism on Lazarus Saturday.

Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers tonight at 6:00 will be at St. Demetrius, Fort Worth. A lenten meal will be provided.

Lenten Almsgiving: We are collecting alms for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and for our local ministry to unwed mothers, Woman to Woman. Please see Olivia Reynolds or Isabel Stone for more information on IOCC and Elisabeth Terry for more on Woman to Woman. There is a box with a list of needed items in the hall. We could also use some substantial canned goods for our own food pantry, such as chili, soups, etc. May the Lord bless your generous gifts.

The Kursk Root Icon, an icon of the Theotokos discovered in 1259 and since then much revered and the means of many miracles will be at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in McKinney this Wednesday. Matins with the complete Great Canon will be served there. We shall not hold services here that evening so that those who so desire will be free to go to St. Nicholas.

The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts will be celebrated this week on Thursday at 6:00.

Classes this Week

Sunday, noon, Basics of Orthodoxy: Prayer 2: A Rule of Prayer

Wednesday, noon, Gospel of John

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Russian Language

Please Pray: for catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, Sean Chaney, and Virginia Warwas, for inquirers Destiny Marcott, Rebecca Marcott, Kathy Wells and her family, Rick Hollembeak, Leah Saunders, Joseph, and Justin; the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia and James Lydon, and for the newly-departed Irina.

The Fast: Fifth Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), oil. If fasting fully according to the norm, 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 cut back on (or cut out) all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ. We prepare to receive Holy Communion as usual at the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts. Strictly, the Eucharistic fast is from midnight, but for an evening Presanctified, we may begin our Eucharistic fast no later than noon. Please see your priest if you have questions.

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 \$1610.89 in tithes and offerings; in March, we have given \$7613.08 our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$75.50; Building Fund \$35; soda \$2; Special Offering for IOCC \$146.65. Attendance: Saturday Vigil 41, Sunday Liturgy 73.

From Saint Maximus

A pure intellect sees things correctly. A trained intelligence puts them in order. A keen hearing takes in what is said. He who is lacking in these three qualities insults the person who has spoken.

He who knows the Holy Trinity, the Trinity's creation, and providence, and who has brought his soul's passible aspect into a state of dispassion, is with God.

Again in Psalm 23 'the rod' is said to signify God's judgment and 'the staff' His providence. So he who has received spiritual knowledge of these things is able to say, 'Thy rod and Thy staff have comforted me.'

When the intellect is stripped of passions and illuminated with the contemplation of created beings, then it can enter into God and pray as it should.
400 Chapters on Love, 2.97-100

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, March 23

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto 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.

Sunday of John Climacus, Troparion tone 1

O John, our father, saint of God, thou was revealed as a citizen of the desert, / an angel in a body and a worker of miracles. / Through fasting, prayer and vigils, / thou hast received heavenly gifts of grace, / and thou healest the sick and the souls of those that turn to thee with faith. / Glory be to Him who gave thee strength; / glory, be to Him who crowned thee / glory be to Him who through thee granteth to all men healing.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

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.

John Climacus, Kontakion, tone 4

Truly the Lord hath set thee as fixed star in the firmament of abstinence, / giving light to the ends of the earth / O father John our teacher.