

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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**Bulletin for Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Schedule of Services**

**February 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee**

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 noon Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Great Vespers w/Litia for the Meeting

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Meeting of the Lord in the Temple**

5:00 a.m. Matins

6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**February 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:45 p.m. Class: St. Athanasius: *Letter to the Bishops of Egypt*

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**February 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**February 6<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

**February 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**February 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 noon Mission Council

But it is written, say they, 'The Lord created me in the beginning of His ways for His works.' O untaught and insensate that ye are! He is called also in the Scriptures, 'servant,' and 'son of a handmaid,' and 'lamb,' and 'sheep,' and it is said that He suffered toil, and thirst, and was beaten, and has suffered pain. But there is plainly a reasonable ground and cause, why such representations as these are given of Him in the Scriptures; and it is because He became man and the Son of man, and took upon Him the form of a servant, which is the human flesh: 'for the Word,' says John, 'was made flesh.' And since He became man, no one ought to be offended at such expressions; for it is proper to man to be created, and born, and formed, to suffer toil and pain, to die and to rise again from the dead.

St. Athanasius, *Letter to the Bishops of Egypt*

## Announcements for February 1

**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 St. Arsenius Skete.

**Temple Oil and Wine** offered by Elisabeth in Thanksgiving for health.

### Classes this Week

Today: Basics of Orthodoxy, Divine Liturgy: Proskomide  
Wednesday, 5:45 p.m. St. Athanasius the Great: Letter to the Bishops of Egypt, part 2

**The Myrrhbearers** will meet today during coffee hour. Look for their table if you wish to attend. See Lois Lyda or Andrea Rovny.

**Today**, we open the *Tridion* and consider the parable of the

**The Great Feast** of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple will be celebrated with Great Vespers today at 3:00 and Matins tomorrow morning at 5:00, Divine Liturgy at 6:15.

**No Fasting** this week. It is a fast-free week!

**Giving Statements** for 2014, produced by our treasurer, Jordan Rovny, are available on the candle table. Please find and take yours. See Jordan if you have any questions.

**House Blessings:** Please make an appointment with the priest.

**Forgiveness Vespers** is in three weeks, February 22 at 6:00. All who make this their parish home should plan to attend this service

**Candle Money** only goes in the candle box, commemorations and general offerings in the basket on the candle table, alms in the alms box, building fund in building fund box.

**Candle Snuffing:** Please use the candle snuffers when extinguishing candles rather than blowing them out. This is advance preparation to reducing soot and smoke damage to walls and icons in the new church when we build it.

**Commemorations:** It is good to see so many of you submitting names for commemoration at the Proskomide. Please try to submit your books or slips ahead of time at Vigil whenever possible. Put them in the basket on the candle table.

**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 \$1600 in tithes and offerings; in January we gave \$1600 electronically for a total of \$7595.37 our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$208.13; Special offering for St. Arsenius Skete \$79.80; drink jar (renovations) \$4; building fund \$111. Attendance: Liturgy 89, Vigil 31.

**Please Pray:** the novice Elias, and the novice Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin.

### From Saint Maximus

He who loves Christ is bound to imitate Him to the best of his ability. Christ, for example, was always conferring blessings on people; He was long-suffering when they were ungrateful and blasphemed Him; and when they beat Him and put Him to death, He endured it, imputing no evil at all to anyone. These are the three acts which manifest love for one's neighbor. If he is incapable of them, the person who says that he loves Christ or has attained the kingdom deceives himself. For 'not everyone who says to Me: "Lord, Lord" shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father' (Matt. 7:21); and again, 'He who loves Me will keep My commandments' (cf. John 14:15, 23).

The whole purpose of the Savior's commandments is to free the intellect from dissipation and hatred, and to lead it to the love of Him and one's neighbor. From this love springs the light of active holy knowledge.

When God has granted you a degree of spiritual knowledge, do not neglect love and self-control; for it is these which, once they have purified the soul's passible aspect, always keep open for you the way to such knowledge.

*400 Chapters on Love, 4.55-57*

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 1

### 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.

### Troparion of Forefeast, tone 1

The celestial choir of the angels in heaven, / coming to earth, beheld the Firstborn of all creation, / who is come, borne into the temple as a Babe / in the arms of the Mother who knew not man. / Wherefore, with us they chant hymns // of the forefeast, rejoicing.

### St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all 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.

### Publican and Pharisee, Kontakion, tone 4

Let us flee from the proud speaking of the Pharisee / and learn the humility of the Publican, / and with groaning let us cry unto the Savior: / Be merciful to us, // for Thou alone art ready to forgive.

### Kontakion of the Forefeast, tone 6

The Word who is invisibly with the Father is now seen in the flesh, / ineffably born of the Virgin; / and He is given to the high priest on the arm of the elder. // Let us worship Him as our true God!