

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday February 15th, 2015

Schedule of Services

February 15th Sunday of the Last Judgment, Meatfare 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
February 19th Thursday 7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession
February 20th Friday 6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession 3:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession
February 21st Saturday 9:30 <i>Russian Divine Liturgy, Dallas</i> 5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession
February 22nd Forgiveness Sunday, Cheesefare 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers, Beth Marie's Ice Cream after

Let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Putting off the old man and his deeds, let us put on the new man, which is created in God, in humbleness of mind, and a pure conscience; in meditation of the law by night and by day. And casting away all hypocrisy and fraud, putting far from us all pride and deceit, let us take upon us love towards God and towards our neighbor, that being new and receiving the new wine, even the Holy Spirit, we may properly keep the feast, even the month of these new [fruits]. . . . Let us keep the feast on the first day of the great week, as a symbol of the world to come, in which we here receive a pledge that we shall have everlasting life hereafter. Then having passed hence, we shall keep a perfect feast with Christ, while we cry out like the saints, 'I will pass to the place of the wondrous tabernacle, to the house of God; with the voice of gladness and thanksgiving, the shouting of those who rejoice;' whence pain and sorrow and sighing have fled, and upon our heads gladness and joy shall have come to us! May we be judged worthy to be partakers in these things. Let us remember the poor, and not forget kindness to strangers; above all, let us love God with all our soul, and might, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. So may we receive those things which the eye hath not seen, nor the ear heard, and which have not entered into the heart of man, which God hath prepared for those that love Him, through His only Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; through Whom, to the Father alone, by the Holy Ghost, be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

St. Athanasius, *Paschal Letter 1*

Announcements for February 15

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 Fr. Seraphim Holland's Prison Ministry.

Temple Oil offered in memory of Victor and Archbishop Dmitri.

No Classes this Week

Meat Fast: This week we fast from meat only. Fish, eggs, wine, oil, etc., are all permitted, as we prepare for the Fast.

Nomination of New Bishop: We have lived without a ruling bishop of the Diocese of the South since Vladyka Dmitri of blessed memory retired six years ago. Tomorrow, delegates from the various parishes and missions of the Diocese of the South gather in Miami to nominate a new bishop. Fr. Justin and Reader Michael Rehmet will represent St. Maximus. As we have prayed for six years, please pray for God's will to be done tomorrow. We nominate, but the bishops elect and consecrate, so the matter is ultimately in their hands.

Forgiveness Vespers is next Sunday, February 22 at 6:00. All who make this their parish home should plan to attend this service.

Planning for the Fast: with the Fast beginning in one week, it is time to consider how we shall seek God during it. Each person should choose an Orthodox spiritual work to read in addition to the Gospel. A reading plan to read the whole New Testament during the Fast will be put out on the candle table for those who desire to use it. Each person should make a plan for attending services, for increasing and improving prayer and almsgiving, and for serving others. Meal planning should be done that we may keep that aspect of the Fast. Thus we may make good use of the season of the Fast with God's help to fast with the soul as well as with the body.

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.

Litia at Vigil: Beginning next Saturday, at least for the course of the Fast, we'll be adding the Litia prayers to the Vespers portion of Vigil.

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 \$1788 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$4391.36; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$68; Special offering for Debt Reduction \$44; building fund \$53. Attendance: Liturgy 89, Vigil 33.
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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, and for Mary Moses who is out of the country.

From Saint Maximus

It is natural for spiritual knowledge to produce conceit and envy, especially in the early stages. Conceit comes only from within, but envy comes both from within and from without — from within when we feel envious of those who have knowledge, from without when those who love knowledge feel envious of us. Love destroys all three of these failings: conceit, because love is not puffed up; envy from within, because love is not jealous; and envy from without, because love is 'long-suffering and kind' (1 Cor. 13:4). A person with spiritual knowledge must, then, also acquire love, so that he may always keep his intellect in a healthy state.

He who has been granted the grace of spiritual knowledge and yet harbors resentment, rancor or hatred for anybody, is like someone who lacerates his eyes with thorns and thistles. Hence knowledge must be accompanied by love.

Do not devote all your time to your body but apply to it a measure of asceticism appropriate to its strength, and then turn all your intellect

to what is within. 'Bodily asceticism has only a limited use, but true devotion is useful in all things' (1Tim. 4:8).

He who always concentrates on the inner life becomes restrained, long-suffering, kind and humble. He will also be able to contemplate, theologize, and pray. That is what St Paul meant when he said: 'Walk in the Spirit' (Gal. 5:16). *400 Chapters on Love, 4.61-64*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 15

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.

Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

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.

Last Judgment, Kontakion, tone 1

When Thou comest, O God, upon the earth with glory, / the whole world will tremble. / The river of fire will bring men before Thy judgment seat, / the books will be opened and the secrets disclosed. / Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, / and count me worthy to stand on Thy right hand, O most righteous Judge.