

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday March 8th, 2015

Schedule of Services

March 8th Sunday of Gregory Palamas

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers here at St. Maximus

March 9th Monday 40 Matrys of Sebaste

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

March 10th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 11th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal, Life of Antony

March 12th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 13th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:30 p.m. Class: Lenten Themes from the Triodion

5:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal, Life of Antony

March 14th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 15th Sunday Veneration of the Precious Cross

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. John's, Euloss

As we start upon the third week of the Fast, O ye faithful, let us glorify the Holy Trinity, and joyfully pass through the time that still remains. Causing passions of the flesh to wither from our souls, let us gather divine flowers, weaving garlands for the queen of days, that with crowns upon our heads we may sing in praise of Christ the Victor.
Sunday Vespers of Second Sunday

Announcements for March 8

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 a 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 the family of the newly-departed priest, Fr. Matthew Baker, who died in a car accident last Sunday. He leaves behind a wife and six young children.

Temple Wine given for the health and salvation of Reader Michael Rehmet.

The Pan-Orthodox Vespers tonight will be here at St. Maximus at 6:00 p.m. Hieromonk Gerasim, our nominee for bishop, will speak. Please come early, please park on the street if at all possible, and please let our guests eat first tonight. A special offering will be taken to support the work of the local clergy brotherhood.

Many Thanks to all of you who helped clean the church and grounds yesterday! It was time well-spent.

Mission Council will meet next Sunday.

Classes this Week

Sunday, noon: Basics of Orthodoxy, Divine Liturgy, The Great Litany, part two

Friday, 3:30 Themes in the Triodion & a Command of Christ

The Fast: Third 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. Whatever time the Presanctified Liturgy is served, the Eucharistic fast should begin no fewer than six hours before it.

Lenten Almsgiving: This Lent we will collect imperishable goods for our food pantry. The children are collecting books for Cumberland Children's Home. Cash may be put in the alms box for

those in need, both inside and outside the parish. We'll take up special offerings for the IOCC as well.

Meals after Presanctified Liturgies: We like to provide something to eat after the Presanctified Liturgies, to break fast together and be strengthened after fasting. Please bring something fastworthy to share if you can. There will be a spiritual reading from the St. Athanasius's *Life of Antony* given during these meals as well for edification.

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 \$1919.14 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$56.50; Special offering for St. Arsenios Skete \$28; building fund \$125; Renovation fund (drink jar) \$4.15. Attendance: Liturgy 86, Vigil 25.

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

This is the treasure hidden in the field of your heart (cf. Matt. 13:44), which you have not yet found because of your laziness. Had you found it, you would have sold everything and bought that field. But now you have abandoned that field and give all your attention to the land nearby, where there is nothing but thorns and thistles.

It is for this reason that the Savior says, 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God' (Matt. 5:8) for He is hidden in the hearts of those who believe in Him. They shall see Him and the riches that are in Him when they have purified themselves through love and self-control; and the greater their purity, the more they will see.

And that is why He also says, 'Sell what you possess and give alms' (Luke 12:33), 'and you will find that all things are clean for you' (Luke 11:41). This applies to those who no longer spend their time on things to do with the body, but strive to cleanse the intellect (which the Lord calls 'heart') from hatred and dissipation. For these defile the intellect and do not allow it to see Christ, who dwells in it by the grace of holy baptism. *400 Chapters on Love, 4.71-73*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, March 8

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

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. Gregory Palamas, Troparion, tone 8

O Gregory the Wonderworker, light of Orthodoxy, / support and teacher of the Church, / glory of monks and invincible protector of theologians, / pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, / pray without ceasing for the salvation of our souls.

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.

St. Gregory Palamas, Kontakion, tone 8

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of theology, / with one accord we sing thy praises, O Gregory inspired by God. / But since thou standest now in mind and spirit before the Original Mind, / guide our minds to Him, O father that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, preacher of grace.

Second Sunday of Lent, Kontakion, tone 4

The season of the virtues now hath come, / and the Judge is at the door. / Let us not hold back with darkened face, / but let us keep the Fast, / offering tears, contrition, and almsgiving; / and let us cry out: / our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea, / but Deliverer of all, forgive each one of us, // that we may receive an incorruptible crown.