

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday March 22nd, 2015

Schedule of Services

March 22nd Fourth Sunday St. John of the Ladder

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Peter's, Fort Worth*

March 23rd Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:30 p.m. Matins with the Complete Great Canon

March 24th Thursday

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 25th Wednesday Annunciation

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

March 26th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 27th 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 28th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 29th Fifth Sunday St. Mary of Egypt

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Seraphim, Dallas*

Having passed beyond the middle point in this holy season of the Fast, with joy let us go forward to the part that still remains, anointing our souls with the oil of almsgiving. So may we be counted worthy to venerate the divine Passion of Christ our God, and to attain His dread and holy Resurrection.

Sunday Vespers of the Fifth Week

Taking thought for my flesh, I have become the murderer of my soul. I have been made a plaything of the devils and a slave of sinful pleasures. In Thy compassion spare me, for Thou dost put to flight the demons: before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord.

Vespers before the Great Canon

Announcements for March 22

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 debt reduction. Our mortgage with the DOS stands at only \$9872.

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

Mission Council will meet today. No **Basics** class today.

Classes this Week

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

Great Canon: The Great Canon of St. Andrew served in its entirety marks the fifth week of the Fast. This year, due to Annunciation, the Canon will be served on Monday evening. Appointed to begin at 10:00 p.m., it usually begins earlier in parish practice. The *Life of St. Mary of Egypt* is read during the service as well.

Annunciation: One of the Twelve Great Feasts, Annunciation will be celebrated with Vigil Tuesday evening at 7:00 and a Vespers Liturgy Wednesday evening at 7:00. The Vespers Liturgy allows for the fast to be kept during the day and the feast to be celebrated with the Liturgy, which is not normally served on weekdays during the Fast, in the evening.

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. The Eucharistic fast for the Vespers Liturgy on Wednesday begins at 1:00 p.m., for Friday's Presanctified Liturgy, 11:00 a.m.

Candle Desk: We have acquired a proper candle desk which was made for and once used at Holy Archangels Monastery. Please put your candle money in the slot on the right end of the desk.

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.

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 about \$2200 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$5628.88; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$?; Special offering for prison ministry \$33; Renovation fund (drink jar) \$3.76. Attendance: Liturgy 92, Vigil 39.

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

God, who has promised you eternal blessings (cf. Tit. 1:2) and has given you the pledge of the Spirit in your hearts (cf. 2 Cor. 1:22), has commanded you to pay attention to how you live, so that the inner man may be freed from the passions and begin here and now to enjoy these blessings.

When you have been granted the higher forms of the contemplation of divine realities, give your utmost attention to love and self-control, so that you may keep your soul's passible aspect undisturbed and preserve the light of your soul in undiminished splendor.

Bridle your soul's incensive [anger] power with love, quench its desire with self-control, give wings to its intelligence with prayer, and the light of your intellect will never be darkened.

Disgrace, injury, slander either against one's faith or one's manner of life, beatings, blows and so on — these are the things which dissolve love, whether they happen to oneself or to any of one's relatives or

friends. He who loses his love because of these things has not yet understood the purpose of Christ's commandments.

Strive as hard as you can to love every man. If you cannot yet do this, at least do not hate anybody. But even this is beyond your power unless you scorn worldly things. *400 Chapters on Love, 4.78-82*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, March 22

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, 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.

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.

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.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

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.