

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday February 7th, 2016

Schedule of Services

February 7th Sunday tone 3

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 102 (Orthodox Way)

12:30 p.m. Mission Council

February 12th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:30 p.m. Compline, Confession

February 13th Saturday

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 14th Sunday tone 4

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 102 (Orthodox Way)

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

Since man is composed of body and soul, he is moved by two laws, that of the flesh and that of the spirit (cf. Rom. 7:23). The law of the flesh operates by virtue of the senses; the law of the Spirit operates by virtue of the intellect. The first law, operating by virtue of the senses automatically binds one closely to matter; the second law, operating by virtue of the intellect, brings about direct union with God. Suppose there is someone who does not doubt in his heart (cf. Mark 11:23) that is to say, who does not dispute in his intellect and through such doubt sever that immediate union with God which has been brought about by faith, but who is dispassionate or, rather, has already become god through union with God by faith: then it is quite natural that if such a person says to a mountain, 'Go to another place', it will go (cf. Matt. 17:20). The mountain here indicates the will and the law of the flesh, which is ponderous and hard to shift, and in fact, so far as our natural powers are concerned; is totally immovable and unshakeable. 2.9

The capacity for unintelligence is rooted so deeply in human nature through the senses that the majority think that man is nothing more than flesh, which possesses sense faculties so that he can enjoy this present life. 2.10

Announcements for February 7

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 his 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).

The Special Offering this week will be for the education of Alaskan Seminarian Deacon Methodius Nicori, in his last year at St. Herman's Seminary.

Classes This Week

Today 11:30 Basics of Orthodox 102: *Orthodox Way 2*

DOS Pastoral Conference: Due to Fr. Justin's being at the diocesan pastoral conference at St. Symeon the New Theologian Orthodox Church in Birmingham, Alabama this week, there will be no classes during the week and no weekday liturgy.

Sts. Sebastian and Mardarije Orthodox Institute: Fr. Justin has received blessing to attend this institute conducted by Bishop Maxim for continuing education the week of February 22-26 at St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in San Diego. Fr. Maximos, a monk from Simonopetra Monastery, Mount Athos, and noted "Maximologist", will, along with others, be speaking on the topic "Virtue and Knowledge in St. Maximus." This means you will need to plan carefully if you wish to make a confession this month. Fr. Justin will try to accommodate everyone.

Pre-Lent: Next Sunday with the Gospel reading about Zacchaeus will mark the last Sunday before we enter the sequence of pre-lenten Sundays.

The Transfer of the Remains of Archbishop Dmitri of blessed memory from the cemetery to the new crypt at the cathedral will be accomplished Friday, March 4 — Saturday, March 5. On Friday afternoon the body of Archbishop Dmitri will be brought from Restland Cemetery to be met at the Cathedral by clergy and faithful before Vespers at 6:30. Friday evening both clergy and faithful will have the opportunity to pray in the Memorial Chapel and read the Holy Scriptures. Metropolitan Tikhon will preside at the Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, followed by a Panikhida. Then we will solemnly lower the coffin containing the body of Archbishop Dmitri into his final earthly resting place. Texas-style hospitality will follow the festivities on Saturday.

House Blessings are now being performed. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If the listed times don't work for you, something else may be worked out with the priest.

Forgiveness Vespers is Sunday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m. Please plan on present for this time of reconciliation, of the liturgical beginning of the Great Fast, and for the fellowship at Beth Marie's afterwards.

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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during Liturgy), where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for our building fund.

Last week, we gave \$1002.13 in tithes and offerings; this month, we have given \$7995.10; with electronic giving of \$2831, our total for January is \$10,826.10; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$81.50; building fund \$15.12, special offering for Prison Ministry \$64. Attendance: Sat Vigil 27 Sun Liturgy 70.
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Please Pray: for our catechumens, Adam and Jenilee Skelton and Marsha Northam, for the inquirers Dante, the Wells family, the Dean family, for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin, and for our diocesan administrator, Fr. Gerasim. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest field here in Denton and North Texas. Remember always to pray for your priest. Please pray for John Roberts and his wife Edith, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Pray for those whom you have not seen at church for some time.

From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

'All things are possible', says Scripture, 'for the person who believes' (Mark 9:23) and does not doubt that is to say, for the person who is not dominated by his soul's attachment to the body through the senses, and so does not separate himself from the union with God which faith has brought about in him through the intellect. Whatever alienates the intellect from the world and the flesh brings it, perfected by its spiritual achievements, close to God. That is what should be understood as implied in the saying, 'All things are possible for the person who believes.' 2.11

Faith is knowledge that cannot be rationally demonstrated. If such knowledge cannot be rationally demonstrated, then faith is a

supranatural relationship through which, in an unknowable and so undemonstrable manner, we are united with God in a union which is beyond intellection. 2.12

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 7

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.

Meeting of the Lord, Troparion, tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos full of grace, / for from thee hath shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / who doth illumine those in darkness. / Be glad also, thou righteous elder, / for thou hast received in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, // who bestoweth upon us Resurrection.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

SS Parthenius & Luke, Troparion, tone 4

O God of our fathers, / who ever dealest with us according to Thy gentleness, / withdraw not Thy mercy from us, / but by the treaties of Luke and Parthenius // govern our life in peace.

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.

St. Parthenius, Kontakion, tone 3

Thou didst receive the divine grace of miracles, / O sacred Parthenius of godly wisdom, / God-bearing wonderworker, / cleansing the faithful of all the passions / and dispelling spirits of wickedness, O father. / Wherefore we hymn thee / as a great initiate // of the myst'ries of the grace of God.

Meeting of the Lord, Kontakion, tone 1

Thou who hast sanctified by Thy birth a virgin womb / and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon, / art come, O Christ our God, and on this day hast saved us. / Give peace to thy commonwealth in time of battle / and strengthen the Orthodox people whom Thou hast loved, // O Thou who alone lovest mankind.