

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Forgiveness Sunday March 13th, 2016

Schedule of Services

March 13th Sunday tone 8 Forgiveness Sunday, Cheese fare

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

6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers, Beth Marie's

***** The Great Fast Begins at Midnight *****

March 14th Clean Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Canon of St. Andrew, Confession

March 15th Clean Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Canon of St. Andrew, Confession

March 16th Clean Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

7:00 p.m. Great Canon of St. Andrew

March 17th Clean Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Canon of St. Andrew, Confession

March 18th Clean Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

March 19th Clean Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 20th Sunday tone 1 Sunday of Orthodoxy

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

1:00 p.m. Vespers

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers, Holy Trinity, Dallas

Announcements for March 13

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 library.

Today we receive Estephania Dean as a catechumen and catechize Adam and Jenilee Skelton in preparation for receiving them on Holy Saturday.

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Nathan Eaton, and William and Carolyn.

Today is Cheesefare Sunday. This means today is the last day for eating meat until Pascha.

Two Lenten Bible Reading programs have been provided on one page and may be found on the candle stand, one to take you through the entire New Testament during the Fast, the other to take you through some of the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament. If you need a plan to get you into Holy Scripture, take one or both.

Presanctified Fasting: The Eucharistic Fast for evening Liturgies of the Presanctified Gifts should begin no later than noon. For a 3:00 p.m. Liturgy, begin by 9:00 a.m. Strictly, the fast begins at midnight, but the bishops have blessed the accommodation above. We shall share a potluck meal following each Presanctified Liturgy

No Classes This Week

Forgiveness Vespers is tonight at 6:00 p.m. Please plan on being present for this time of reconciliation, of the liturgical beginning of the Great Fast, and for the fellowship at Beth Marie's Creamery afterwards. Following Vespers tonight, we shall observe the rite of mutual forgiveness. Each person will do a prostration (or bow if not able to prostrate) to each other person, asking forgiveness of one another "Forgive me!" and responding "God forgives, and I forgive." Please be sure to ask and extend forgiveness audibly to each person you face.

A New Bishop: We have received no word from about a decision by the Holy Synod.

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 \$2122.18 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$61; building fund \$125, renovation (drink jar) \$1, special offering for prison ministry \$37. Attendance: Sat Vigil 24 Sun Liturgy 83.

Please Pray: for those preparing for holy illumination and Adam and Jenilee Skelton, our catechumens Estephania Dean and Marsha Northam, our inquirers 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. Pray for Mother Lukia, and for Moses (Dave) Eaton and his son Nathan.

The Fast: Clean Week

In this strictest week of fasting for the year, we abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and marital relations. Those with the strength eat only one uncooked meal on Wednesday and one on Friday in the evening. Others eat similar meals on Tuesday and Thursday and so keep only Monday as a day of complete abstinence from food. Some may not be able even to do this. On weekends, two meals each day, at noon and in the evening, are permitted. Whatever level of fasting we do manage, we should keep this week as strictly as we possibly can. The rules of fasting are relaxed for the elderly, the very young, and those in poor health. As always, see your priest if you have questions how you should fast. To fasting we join prayer and almsgiving to make it yield spiritual gain. The daily services should be our priority this week, especially the Great Canon and the Presanctified Liturgy.

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

Goodness so far as the intellect is concerned is a dispassionate predilection for the spirit; evil is an impassioned attachment to the senses. Goodness so

far as the senses are concerned is the impassioned activity of the body under the stimulus of pleasure; evil is the state destitute of such activity. 2.35

He who persuades his conscience to regard the evil he is doing as good by nature reaches out with his moral faculty as with a hand and grasps the tree of life in a reprehensible manner; for he thinks that what is thoroughly evil is by nature immortal. Therefore God, who has implanted in man's conscience a natural hatred of evil, cuts him off from life, for he has now become evil in his will and intention. God acts in this way so that when a man does wrong he cannot persuade his own conscience that what is thoroughly evil is good by nature. 2.36

The vine produces wine, the wine drunkenness and drunkenness an evil form of ecstasy. Similarly the intelligence — which is the vine — when well-nurtured and cultivated by the virtues, generates spiritual knowledge; and such knowledge produces a good form of ecstasy which enables the intellect to transcend its attachment to the senses.

2.37

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, March 13

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.

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.

Forgiveness Sunday, Kontakion, tone 6

O Master, Guide to wisdom, / Giver of prudent counsel, Instructor of the foolish and Champion of the poor, / make firm my heart and grant it understanding. / O Word of the Father, give me words, / for see, I shall not stop my lips / from crying out to Thee: I am fallen, / in Thy compassion have mercy on me.