

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Schedule of Services

**February 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Tone 1 Prodigal Son**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

**February 15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:45 p.m. Class: NT Survey II Peter, Jude

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**February 16<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**February 17<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:30 p.m. Vespers

**February 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**February 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Tone 2 Last Judgment**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

25. Let him who cultivates self-restraint and longs for blessed purity — which could rightly be called dispassion — discipline the flesh and bring it into subjection, with humble thoughts invoking divine grace, and he will achieve the aim he desires. But he who feeds the body intemperately will be tormented by the demon of unchastity. Just as much water puts out a flame, so hunger or self-control combined with humility of soul extinguishes the fever of the flesh and of shameful fantasies.

26. If you love Christ you must keep the passion of rancor far from your soul. You should on no account yield to feelings of hostility: rancor lurking in the heart is like fire hidden in stalks of dry flax. Rather you should pray fervently for anyone who has grieved you, and you should help him, if you have the means. By this action your soul will be delivered from death (cf. Tobit 4:10) and nothing will hinder your communion with God when you pray.

## Announcements for February 12

**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 also invite you to go first through the food line.

**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 seminarian Daniel Greeson.

**Temple Oil** offered for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn Roders and in memory William Frederick.

**Fr. Justin** will not be going out of town this week.

### Classes This Week.

Sunday: Basics of Orthodoxy 103, 11:45

Wednesday: NT Survey 5:45 p.m.: II Peter, Jude

**Mission Council** will meet today following classes.

**Forgiveness Sunday** comes two Sundays from today, February 26. Please put Forgiveness Vespers at 6:00 that day on your calendar and plan to come. All members should attend.

**Great Lent** begins in two weeks. It is not too soon to prepare by planning how we may increase our prayer, our almsgiving, our reading, our service to others. Please see the article in the *Confessor's Tongue* for more on this topic.

**Vigil in Lent:** The Fast is a time to increase our prayer. One easy way to do this is to attend Vigil Saturday nights during the Fast. All of you are urged to make this part of your Lenten pursuit of God. If you cannot come to the whole Vigil, come to part. The part with the greatest concentration of Lenten material is from 6:00 to 7:00.

**For the Sick:** Two short prayers for those who are ill are included this week in the *Confessor's Tongue*. Please use them to pray for Joel Brown and any others you desire. You are encouraged to ask the prayers of St. John of San Francisco for him as well. Speak to Reader Vasilios and Elizabeth Colias about their experience at his relics. We may seek St. John's prayers by praying the akathist hymn composed in his honor. It is readily available online, such as here: <http://orthodoxchristian.blogspot.com/2011/07/akathist-to-st-john-maximovitch.html> Let us in these ways unite our prayer to God in Joel's behalf.

**Talking in the Narthex:** It has come to our attention that conversations are being held in the narthex during Liturgy and that they can be heard in the church, distracting people. Two things. First, we should be in Liturgy, not outside talking. Second, if you simply cannot resist or necessity compels you, please go into the kitchen and close the doors to talk.

**The Parish Directory** should be ready in the next week or so. Please see Subdeacon Anthony Stokes if you have any last-minute data to convey to him for it.

**Commemorations:** Please try to submit your Sunday commemorations Saturday night (or earlier) whenever you can.

**Congregational Singing:** The choir leads the congregation's singing. Please sing in such a way that you may hear and follow the choir.

**Tithes, Offerings & Attendance:** Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and 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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during service). There are also boxes for alms (those in need) and our building fund.

Last week we gave \$3911.10 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$11,250. Candles \$157.50; Building Fund \$450.23; Special Offering for seminarian \$6.28. Attendance: Liturgy 111, Vigil 32.
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**Please Pray:** for Cassian and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for catechumens the Wells family and Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Dean family and the Jones family; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, and for Eugene and Rachel.

### From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

1.80 'Learn from Me', He said 'for I am gentle and humble in heart' (Matt. 11:29). Gentleness keeps the soul's incensive power in a calm state; humility frees the intellect from conceit and self-esteem.

1.81 Fear of God is of two kinds. The first is generated in us by the threat of punishment. It is through such fear that we develop in due order self-control, patience, hope in God and dispassion; and it is from dispassion that love comes. The second kind of fear is linked with love and constantly produces reverence in the soul, so that it

does not grow indifferent to God because of the intimate communion of its love.

1.82 The first kind of fear is expelled by perfect love when the soul has acquired this and is no longer afraid of punishment (cf. 1 John 4:18). The second kind, as we have already said, is always found united with perfect love. The first kind of fear is referred to in the following two verses: 'Out of fear of the Lord men shun evil' (Prov. 16:6), and 'Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom' (Ps. 111:10). The second kind is mentioned in the following verses: 'Fear of the Lord is pure, and endures for ever' (Ps. 19:9. LXX), and "Those who fear the Lord will not want for anything' (Ps. 34:10. LXX).

### Troparia and Kontakia for February 12<sup>th</sup>



#### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

#### 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.

#### Prodigal Son, Kontakion, tone 3

Foolishly have I run away from Thy glory, O Father, / wasting in sin the wealth that Thou gavest me. / Therefore with the words of the Prodigal I cry unto Thee: / I have sinned before Thee, compassionate Father. / Accept me in repentance and make me as one of Thy hired servants.