


St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday, February 19th, 2017



Schedule of Services

February 19th Sunday, Tone 2 Last Judgment Meatfare

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 21st Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

February 22nd Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:45 p.m. Class: NT Survey Hebrews

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 23rd Thursday Martyr Polycarp

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 24th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

2:00 p.m. Class: NT Survey Hebrews

6:30 p.m. Vespers

February 25th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 26th Sunday, Tone 3 Expulsion, Forgiveness, Cheesefare

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

27. The Lord dwells in the souls of the humble; but shameful passions fill the hearts of the proud. Nothing so strengthens these passions against us as arrogant thoughts, and nothing uproots the evil herbs of the soul so effectively as blessed humility. Hence humility is rightly called the executioner of passions.

28. Let your soul be free of evil fantasies and illumined with thoughts of what is truly noble. Constantly remember the saying, 'A self-indulgent heart becomes a prison and a chain for the soul when it leaves this life; whereas an assiduous heart is an open door.' Truly, when pure souls leave the body they are guided by angels who lead them to the life of blessedness. But unclean and unrepentant souls will be taken in charge by the demons.

Announcements for February 19

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 our building fund.

Temple Oil offered in memory William Frederick; **Temple Wine** offered for the health and salvation of Maria, Elias, Ian, Connor.

It is Meatfare Sunday today, which means this is the last day to eat meat until Pascha. This coming week we fast from meat, but nothing else. Next Sunday is Cheesefare Sunday, when we say farewell to dairy products (including eggs) until Pascha.

Narthex Use: Today, for the first time, we are using our narthex as part of the nave for Sunday's Liturgy. Please do not use the front door from the start of Liturgy to the dismissal.

Classes This Week.

Sunday: Basics of Orthodoxy 103, 11:45

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

Friday: NT Survey 2:00 p.m.: Hebrews

The Game Night scheduled for this Monday has been cancelled. We'll plan to have one the Friday after Pentecost, June 9.

Forgiveness Sunday comes next Sunday, February 26. Please attend Forgiveness Vespers at 6:00 that. All members should attend. We'll go together to Beth Marie's on the square afterwards for ice cream.

Great Lent begins next Monday. Be sure to plan this week how you may increase and improve your prayer, almsgiving, reading, and service to others as well as your fasting.

Lenten Reading: A reading program that will take you through the epistles of the New Testament during the Fast has been prepared and is available on the candle table for those who would like to use it.

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 the portion of Matins from 6:00 to 7:00.

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

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 \$1736.35 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$11,250. Candles \$94.50; Building Fund \$24; Special Offering for seminarian \$48. Attendance: Liturgy 132, Vigil 56.
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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

1.83 'Put to death therefore whatever is earthly in you: unchastity, uncleanness, passion, evil desire and greed' (Col. 3:5). Earth is the name St Paul gives to the will of the flesh. Unchastity is his word for the actual committing of sin. Uncleanness is how he designates assent to sin. Passion is his term for impassioned thoughts. By evil desire he means the simple act of accepting the thought and the desire. And greed is his name for what generates and promotes passion. All these St Paul ordered us to mortify as 'aspects' expressing the will of the flesh

1.84 First the memory brings some passion-free thought into the intellect. By its lingering there, passion is aroused. When the passion is not eradicated, it persuades the intellect to assent to it. Once this assent is given, the actual sin is then committed. Therefore, when writing to converts from paganism, St Paul in his wisdom orders them first to eliminate the actual sin and then systematically to work back to the cause. The cause, as we have already said, is greed, which generates and promotes passion. I think that greed in this case means gluttony, because this is the mother and nurse of unchastity. For greed is a sin not only with

regard to possessions but also with regard to food, just as self-control likewise relates to both food and possessions.

1.85 When a sparrow tied by the leg tries to fly, it is held back by the string and pulled down to the earth. Similarly, when the intellect that has not yet attained dispassion flies up towards heavenly knowledge, it is held back by the passions and pulled down to the earth.

1.86 The intellect, once totally free from passions, proceeds undistracted to the contemplation of created beings, making its way towards knowledge of the Holy Trinity.

Troparia and Kontakia for February 19th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / ‘O Giver of life, Christ our God, 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.

Last Judgment, Kontakion, tone 1

When Thou comest, O God, upon the earth with glory, / the whole world will tremble. / The river of fire will bring men before Thy judgment seat, / the books will be opened and the secrets disclosed. / Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, / and count me worthy to stand on Thy right hand, O most righteous Judge.