

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton  
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## Bulletin for Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Schedule of Services

**March 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Tone 7 Leavetaking Annunciaton, Arch. Gabriel**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
6:00 p.m. Pan Orthodox Vespers. St. Demetrios, FW

**March 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession  
4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**March 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession  
6:30 p.m. Great Canon of St. Andrew

**March 30<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

**March 31<sup>st</sup> Friday St. Innocent**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession  
2:00 p.m. Class NT Survey I & II Thessalonians  
6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts  
8:30 p.m. Compline with Akathist to the Theotokos

**April 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

9:30 a.m. Slavonic Divine Liturgy  
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Tone 8 St. Mary of Egypt**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
6:00 p.m. Pan Orthodox Vespers. St. Seraphim, Dallas

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

33. 'Do not plan to spend feast-days in drinking wine, but in regenerating your intellect and purifying your soul. If you eat gluttonously and drink wine you will provoke anger in the person whom the feast is honoring.

34. We have been instructed to keep vigil – with prayers, readings, and the recitation of the Psalter – at all times, and especially at feasts. A monk who keeps vigil refines his mind for contemplation, whereas much sleep coarsens the intellect. But take care that during vigils you do not pass the time in empty gossip or evil thoughts. It is better to be asleep than to keep vigil with vain words and thoughts.

## Announcements for March 26

**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).

**Temple Oil** offered for the blessed repose of William Frederick.

**The Special Offering** this week will be for the Prison Ministry of Fr. Seraphim Holland.

**Seating:** The chairs in the church are primarily for the aged and the injured or ill. Out of respect for the elderly, children and youth should not be using the chairs during Sunday Liturgy.

**Lenten Almsgiving:** Please remember our alms box and our food pantry in your almsgiving. Particularly welcome are canned staples, especially hearty foods such as chili, soups, beans, along with fruits and vegetables. We are also collecting goods and cash for Loreto House, a local ministry to pregnant women. A list of the things they can use has been sent out by email.

### Classes This Week.

Thursday: St. Dorotheos of Gaza; we will read and discuss a bit of this basic spiritual work during the meal following the Presanctified Liturgy. Possibly the same on Friday.

Friday: NT Survey 2:00 p.m. I & II Thessalonians

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

**Fasting for Presanctified Liturgy:** If you desire to commune at a Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts this week, the Eucharistic fast begins at noon on Wednesday, at 10:00 on Friday.

### 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 Front Door** should not be used during the Sunday Liturgy.

**Confession Countdown:** Everyone who wishes to receive Holy Communion at Pascha and beyond should make a Confession some

time during the Fast. Please do not wait until the last minute. Please plan to make your Confession during the next two weeks. Fr. Justin plans to be gone to the Monastery Monday April 2 until Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday, so plan ahead.

**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 \$1596.64 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$5688.94 our monthly budget is \$11,250. Special Offering St. Michael Skete \$36.25; Candles \$55; Building Fund \$8. Attendance: Liturgy 83, Vigil 40.

**Please Pray:** for Cassian and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for our catechumens Frank, Cathy, Joy, Charity, Patience, and Gabriel Wells, Meghann, Caleb, True, Noble, Pearl, Primrose, and Valor Jones, and Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Dean family; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Albina Gashushina, and for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, and for Eugene and Rachel.

**Gospel Readings on Pascha:** We desire to read the Paschal Gospel, John 1:1-17, at the Paschal Liturgy in as many languages as we can with reasonable competence. If you think you may like to read, start practicing. We usually read verses 1-5, and 14 except for English and Greek, but practice them all: we will probably read 1-5 and 11-14.

### From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.1 He who truly loves God prays entirely without distraction, and he who prays entirely without distraction loves God truly. But he whose intellect is fixed on any worldly thing does not pray without distraction, and consequently he does not love God.

2.2 The intellect that dallies with some sensible thing clearly is attached to it by some passion, such as desire, irritation, anger or rancor; and unless it becomes detached from that thing it will not be able to free itself from the passion affecting it.

