

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, March 1, 2009

Schedule of Services

March 1st Sunday *Cheesefare & Forgiveness Sunday*

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, 11:45 Mission Council

6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers

March 2nd Clean Monday

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:30 p.m. Great Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew

March 3rd Clean Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:30 p.m. Great Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew

March 4th Clean Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:30 p.m. Great Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew

March 5th Clean Thursday

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

March 6th Clean Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins

12:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal w/ Reading

March 7th Clean Saturday

7:30 a.m. Matins

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 8th Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Holy Trinity GOC*

The time is now at hand for us to start upon the spiritual contest and to gain the victory over the demonic powers. Let us put on the armor of abstinence and clothe ourselves in the glory of the angels. With boldness Moses spoke to the Creator, and he heard the voice of the invisible God. In Thy love for man, O Lord, grant us with the same boldness to venerate Thy Passion and Thy holy Resurrection. *The Praises for Sunday Matins*

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

Announcements for March 1st

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation and church school for the children. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door. Be aware that shortly after the sermon, the catechumens, i.e., those preparing for Baptism & Chrismation, will be dismissed, but you are invited to stay for the rest of the service.

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). We should be modestly dressed and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not have missed Sunday Liturgy for three or more weeks in a row.

Please Move Forward during the Liturgy! **Please** try to be quiet afterwards while the prayers of thanksgiving are being read in the church, or better yet, stay for the prayers so you don't have to read them later at home.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for our priest, next week for debt reduction.

Forgiveness Vespers is tonight at 6:00 p.m. Everyone who attends this parish should plan on attending, as this marks the liturgical beginning to Great Lent and gives us a chance to face, forgive, and be reconciled with each other.

Many Thanks to those who came to tear out the kitchen and to clean and to finish painting the frieze in the altar.

The Fast: Clean Week

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 are not 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.

Church History Class will not meet this week.

Classes this Week:

Friday, 12:00 p.m. noon: Basics of Orthodoxy: How to Pray 2

Church School meets right after the Liturgy.

Please Pray for our Catechumen: Thom Anderson, **our inquirers** John Parsons and Adam Betz, & Melanie. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, Lois Lyda's father James Anderson, Lisa Robertson's father Bobby, and for Frieda Glusheknko's mother Galina diagnosed with cancer, Elder Zacharias, also diagnosed with cancer, for Nick Gluschenko, and Gareth Tikhon Barnard who is working away from us in Kansas. Please remember Met. Jonah in your prayers, our Alaskan Seminarian Methodius Nicori, and for the nun Barbara as she labors to found a new monastery in our area.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and a sign that Christ is, for us, Lord of all, including our money. Your worship of God through giving 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 throughout Denton County and north Texas. Checks should be made out to St. Maximus Orthodox Church.

Last week, we gave \$1312.56 in tithes and offerings; in February we gave \$4895.30; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$45; Building Fund \$50; Bookstore \$26, Monastery \$201. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 12, Liturgy 47.

From Saint Maximus

Blessed is the man who has learnt to love all men equally.

Blessed is the man who is not attached to any corruptible or transitory thing.

Blessed is the mind which has gone beyond all beings and takes unceasing delight in the Divine Beauty.

400 Chapters on Love, 1.17-19

Comment: *There is no favoritism with God. His love for each person is the same, and it is vast. To be His children, we become like God in virtue by grace, and this means learning to love all men, including our enemies, equally. This is the summit of the commandment and perfection in love. But if we cannot yet do this, at least we should not hate anyone and should be sure to pray for our enemies.*

To be attached to any created thing is to be detached from God. We have to let go of what is good to grab hold of what is best. But as good as the created world and all it contains is, it is merely a creature and is transitory: it will change and pass away. God only remains the same.

Detachment from changeable things enables man's nous to go beyond the creature to the Creator. God is the source of infinitely greater delight than any

