

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, March 15, 2009

Schedule of Services

**March 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Peter's AOC, Fort Worth*

**March 16<sup>th</sup> Monday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

**March 17<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Church History Class

**March 18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**March 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. *Russian Vespers, Dallas*

**March 20<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:30 a.m. Matins

11:30 a.m. Molieben for Parish

12:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

6:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

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

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Ss Constantine & Helen, Dallas*

As we start upon the third week of the Fast, O ye faithful, let us glorify the Holy Trinity, and joyfully pass through the time that still remains. Causing passions of the flesh to wither from our souls, let us gather divine flowers, weaving garlands for the queen of days, that with crowns upon our heads we may sing in praise of Christ the Victor. *Sunday Vespers*

## Announcements for March 15<sup>th</sup>

**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.

**Church School** meets right after the Liturgy.

**Our Lenten Almsgiving** for Woman to Woman and Interfaith Ministries has begun. Please put items in the bins.

**The Special Freewill Offering** today will be for our Alaskan Seminarian Methodius, next week for the new monastery.

**Pan-Orthodox Vespers** tonight at 6:00 p.m. is at St. Peter's Western Rite Antiochian Orthodox Church in Fort Worth). Food will be served after the service.

### The Fast: Third Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), oil, and marital relations. If fasting strictly, 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. Fasting to commune at the Presanctified Liturgy begins no later than noon.

### Classes this Week:

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Church History

Friday, 12:00 p.m. noon: Basics of Orthodoxy: Almsgiving

**Please Pray for our Catechumen:** Thom Anderson, **our inquirers** John Parsons and Adam & Melanie Betz. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, Lois Lyda's father James Anderson, Lisa Robertson's father Bobby, and for Frieda Gluschenko's mother Galina, Elder Zacharias, for Nick Gluschenko, and Gareth Tikhon

Barnard who is working 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, 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 throughout Denton County and north Texas. Checks should be made out to St. Maximus Orthodox Church.

Last week, we gave \$1020.64 in tithes and offerings; in March we have given \$4852.14; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$62.50; Building Fund \$25; Bookstore \$60; Debt Reduction \$26. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 10, Liturgy 48.

### From Saint Maximus

The one who loves God surely loves his neighbor as well. Such a person cannot hold onto money, but rather gives it out in God's fashion to each one who has need.

The one who imitates God by giving alms knows no difference between evil and good or just and unjust in regard to the needs of the body, but distributes to all without distinction according to their need even if he prefers the virtuous person over the wicked because of his good intention.

*400 Chapters on Love, 1.23, 24*

**Comment:** *St. John asks rhetorically, "If a man does not love his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" The proof of our love for God is demonstrated in our love of neighbor, and that love of neighbor is expressed in almsgiving when our neighbor has need, whether the neighbor is someone we know and see regularly, or a total stranger encountered once in a lifetime. If we love our neighbor and have means to relieve his need, we do so, because God loves in this fashion. And just as God gives His good gifts indiscriminately to good and bad alike, so too, we in our almsgiving, have no obligation to determine who is 'worthy' and who is 'unworthy'. When someone is hungry, thirsty, in want of clothing or shelter, even if his need is brought upon him by his own vice, the Christian offers alms in Christ's name. In the Orthodox wedding service, a blessing of material abundance is prayed on the new couple with the express purpose that they might always have enough to relieve the wants of those in need as well as meet their own needs. We cannot assume that 100% of our income is ours to spend as we please upon our desires; to overspend and then to tell God we didn't have money to offer in alms is an excuse that will not wash out our fault.*

## Troparia and Kontakia for March 15<sup>th</sup>



### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / 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.

### Gregory Palamas, Troparion, tone 8

O Gregory the Wonderworker, light of Orthodoxy, / support and teacher of the Church, / glory of monks and invincible protector of theologians, / pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, / pray without ceasing for the salvation of our souls.

### St. Maximus, Kontakion, tone 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

### Gregory Palamas, Kontakion, tone 8

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of theology, / with one accord we sing thy praises, O Gregory inspired by God. / But since thou standest now in mind and spirit before the Original Mind, / guide our minds to Him, O father that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, preacher of grace.

### Palamas Sunday, Kontakion, tone 4

The season of the virtues now hath come, /and the Judge is at the door. / Let us not hold back with darkened face, / but let us keep the Fast, / offering tears, contrition, and almsgiving; / and let us cry out: / our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea, / but Deliverer of all, forgive each one of us, // that we may receive an incorruptible crown.