

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, March 22, 2009

Schedule of Services

March 22nd 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*

March 23rd Monday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

March 24th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

8:00 p.m. Vigil (Great Compline & Matins)

March 25th Wednesday Annunciation (Fish Permitted)

7:00 a.m. Hours, Molieben

7:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy

March 26th Thursday

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 27th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, 8:30 Pannikhida

11:30 a.m. Molieben for Parish

12:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

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

March 28th Saturday

7:30 a.m. Matins

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 29th Sunday of St. John of the Ladder

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Demetrios, FW*

Now that we have come, my Christ, to the middle of the time of abstinence, and have reached the veneration of Thy life-giving Cross, falling down before it we call upon Thee: Mighty art Thou, who lovest mankind, and mighty are Thy works, for Thou hast made manifest Thy precious Cross. In fear we venerate it as we cry: Glory to Thy boundless compassion. *Monday Matins*

Announcements for March 22nd

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.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for the new North Texas women's monastery.

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

Pan-Orthodox Vespers tonight at 6:00 p.m. is at Ss. Constantine & Helen Antiochian Orthodox Church in Dallas). Food will be served after the service.

The Fast: Fourth Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), oil, and marital relations. Fish is permitted Wednesday for Annunciation; wine and oil Tue, Wed, Thur. 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 or evening Vespertal Liturgy begins no later than noon.

Classes this Week:

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

Grave Watch Sign-up: You may begin signing up for the grave watch kept from after Vespers on Holy Friday until before Nocturnes on Holy Saturday. It is a time to read the Psalter or the

Acts of the Apostles and to pray alone before the tomb of Christ in the church. Be sure to take advantage of this with your family.

Confessions: Three weeks remain until Holy Week. Please plan on making your regular Confessions during those three weeks if at all possible. Please don't wait to the last minute! If you have not made a Confession in the last month or have not been to Communion for some time, you should make every effort to do so in the next three weeks and to prepare yourself for Communion.

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, 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. Thanks be to God that Frieda's mother Galina has been declared 'cancer free' and Lisa's father Bobby is again at home.

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 \$637.50 in tithes and offerings; in March we have given \$5489.64; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$32.50; Seminarian \$18; Bookstore \$21. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 9, Liturgy 52.

From Saint Maximus

Just as God who is by nature good and free of passion loves all in an equal way as His creatures but glorifies the virtuous man for having become His friend through his intention and has mercy on the wicked out of His goodness and converts him by chastening him in this life, so also does the one who is good and without passion through his intention love equally all men—the virtuous because of his nature and good will and likewise the wicked because of his nature and compassion by which he pities one who is foolish and makes his way in darkness.

400 Chapters on Love, 1.25

Troparia and Kontakia for March 22nd



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

Sunday of the Cross, Troparion, tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross / preserve Thine estate.

Kontakion of the Third Sunday of Lent, tone 7

The fiery sword no longer guardeth the gate of Eden, / for in a strange and glorious way / the wood of the Cross hath quenched its flames. / The sting of death and the victory of hell are now destroyed, / for Thou art come, O my Savior, / crying unto those in hell: / “Return again to Paradise.”

