

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, March 29, 2009

Schedule of Services

March 29th Fourth Sunday of Lent: St. John of the Ladder

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Ladies' tea at Lydas'

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

March 30th Monday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Great Vespers for St. Innocent, Confession

March 31st Tuesday St. Innocent of Alaska

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:30 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. OCF Talk on Icons, UNT Biology Building

April 1st Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal, Reading

9:00 p.m. Matins with Great Canon

April 2nd Thursday

7:30 a.m. Molieben to St. Maximus for our Parish, Needs

7:00 p.m. *Russian Presanctified Liturgy, Dallas*

April 3rd Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

12:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

3:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

9:00 p.m. Matins with Akathist Hymn

April 4th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

April 5th Fifth Sunday of Lent: St. Mary of Egypt

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

Come, let us work in the mystical vineyard, making fruits of repentance grow within it; let us not labor for the sake of food and drink, but through prayer and fasting let us gain the virtues. And the Lord of the vineyard, pleased by our labor, will provide the payment, whereby He redeemeth our souls from the debt of sin, for He alone is rich in mercy. *Praises of Sunday Matins*

Announcements for March 29th

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.

No Church School today. It will resume, God willing, next week.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for St. Paul's Orthodox Church in Denison, who are trying to finish their hall, and next week for our priest.

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 St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Fort Worth. Food will be served after the service.

The Fast: Fifth 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 from Christ.

Classes this Week:

Friday, 12:00 p.m. noon: Basics of Orthodoxy: Spiritual Reading: How to nourish our souls by reading the Bible, etc.

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: Two weeks remain until Holy Week. Please plan on making your regular Confessions during those two weeks if at all possible. Please don't wait to the last minute! Regular communicants should confess no less than once a month; less frequent communicants should prepare themselves for Holy Communion at this time.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: 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.

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 \$833.08 in tithes and offerings; in March we have given \$6322.72; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$53.50; Monastery \$51; Bookstore \$21. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 11, Liturgy 59.

From Saint Maximus

The disposition of love is made manifest not only in the sharing of money, but much more in sharing the Word of God and physical service.

The one who has genuinely renounced worldly matters and serves his neighbor without pretense through love soon frees himself of all passion and is rendered a sharer of divine love and knowledge.

400 Chapters on Love, 1.26-27

Comment: As important as monetary almsgiving is, even more important is sharing the Word of God, the Gospel of life, with those spiritually impoverished. The blessing we gain from physically serving others, such as caring for the sick, aged, infirm, is greater than that gained by giving money or things. Love does not admit passionate attachment to things; it moves us to surrender all claim to things in order to love; it prefers divine justice to human justice; it gives us fellowship with God Himself, for God is love.

Troparia and Kontakia for March 29th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, 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.

Sunday of John Climacus, Troparion tone 1

O John, our father, saint of God, thou was revealed as a citizen of the desert, / an angel in a body and a worker of miracles. / Through fasting, prayer and vigils, /thou hast received heavenly gifts of grace, /and thou healest the sick and the souls of those that turn to thee with faith. / Glory be to Him who gave thee strength; / glory, be to Him who crowned thee / glory be to Him who through thee granteth to all men healing.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

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.

John Climacus, Kontakion, tone 4

Truly the Lord hath set thee as fixed star in the firmament of abstinence, / giving light to the ends of the earth / O father John our teacher.