

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, February 28, 2010

Schedule of Services

February 28th Sunday of Gregory Palamas

9:00 a.m. Primatial Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Jonah

6:00 p.m. Vespers, *St. John the Baptist, Euloss*

March 1st Monday

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 2nd Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

2:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 3rd Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

March 4th Thursday

6:30 a.m. Matins

1:00 p.m. Class: St. Theophan, *Path of Salvation*

2:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 5th Friday

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Russian Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

March 6th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil

March 7th Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vespers,

O wise Gregory, thou hast burnt up the error of the heretics, and hast revealed in its true beauty the faith of the Orthodox, bringing light to all the world. Thou art triumphantly victorious, a pillar of the Church, and a true bishop. Never cease to intercede with Christ that we may all be saved. *Matins of St. Gregory Palamas Sunday*

Announcements for February 28th

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).

Please Move Forward during the Liturgy! **Please be quiet** in the Narthex afterwards while the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion are being read in the church, or better yet, stay for the prayers lest you forget to read them on your own later.

We welcome his Beatitude Jonah, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All American and Canada, and *locum tenens* of our own diocese. Along with him, we welcome Deacon Steven Kroll and Fr. Gregory, assistant to the Metropolitan. This is the first visit of an Orthodox primate to Denton.

Please Note that the time for the Presanctified Liturgy is now 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30.

Lenten Almsgiving: As customary, we are collecting items for the local charities Women to Women and Interfaith Ministry. See bins and lists of needed items under the bookstore table.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.: Basics of Orthodoxy

Thursday, 1:00 p.m., St. Theophan, *Path of Salvation*

Bookstore News: Besides some new books from SVS Press, the bookstore has available 8x10 inch prints of our icon of St. Maximus at \$6 which are suitable for framing.

A Special All-Parish Meeting has been called by the Mission Council for Sunday, March 7, after the Divine Liturgy. The Council has determined that the nave should be expanded to the left side into the hallway to give us more space to grow until we are ready to build a temple. The meeting will discuss this proposal and how to fund it.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: Thom Anderson, Adam & Melanie Betz, Ashley Davis, Mary Moses, Javier Largazspada, and Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha,

Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Jason O'Brien, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston who has suffered a stroke and is in Presbyterian Hospital, and for Adam Betz's health.

The Fast: Third Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), and oil. 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 avoid all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion at the Presanctified Liturgy keep a Eucharistic fast from noon. Please see your priest if you have problems or questions.

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 and placed in the basket on the candle table, where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for the building fund.

Last week, we gave \$1021.20 in tithes and offerings; in February, we have given \$3099.97; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$69.50; Bookstore \$37; Building fund \$50; debt reduction \$12; special gifts \$395; St. Herman icon \$543. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 14, Liturgy 52.

From Saint Maximus

When you see your mind dallying with pleasure over material things and taking fond delight in thinking of them, know that you love these things rather than God. "For where your treasure is," says the Lord, "there will your heart be also."

The mind which attains God and abides with Him through prayer and love becomes wise, good, powerful, benevolent, merciful, and forbearing; in short, it carries around almost all the divine qualities in itself. But when it withdraws from him and goes over to material things, it becomes pleasure-loving like cattle or fights with men like a wild beast over these things.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.51-52

Troparia and Kontakia for February 28th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

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.

Palamas Sunday, 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 8

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.

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.