

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, March 25th, 2012

Schedule of Services During the Fifth Week of Lent

March 25th Sunday Annunciation

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

March 27th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 28th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Matins with the Great Canon, Mary of Egypt

March 29th Thursday

4:30 p.m. Class: The Arena

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

March 30th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. *Russian Presanctified Liturgy*

8:00 p.m. *Late Vocations Class: Doctrine, Dallas*

March 31st Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

April 1st Sunday St. Mary of Egypt

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

From Saint Thalassios, the Libyan

Think good thoughts about what is good by nature, and think well of every man.

On the day of judgment we shall be asked by God to answer for our words, acts, and thoughts.

Whether we think, speak, or act in a good or an evil manner depends upon whether we cleave inwardly to virtue or to vice.

An intellect dominated by the passions thinks base thoughts; words and actions bring these thoughts into the open.

An evil thought is preceded by passion. The passion is caused by the senses, but the misuse of the senses is clearly the fault of the intellect. *400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 3.13.5*

Announcements for March 18th

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door.

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 (so as not to distract others) and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

Church School will meet today after the Liturgy.

The Special Offering is for our hall.

The Pan-Orthodox Vespers tonight, 6:00 p.m., is at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, 303 Cullum Drive, Euless, TX 76040. They are nearly finished building a large new church.

Schedule Alert: The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts will be on Thursday this week. Wednesday evening will see the service with the complete Great Canon and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt.

From the Priest: Two weeks remain until Holy Week. Please come make your confessions during this time, before Holy Week. Anyone who has not been to Confession since the beginning of Great Lent must make a confession during the Fast in order to commune at Pascha and beyond. Anyone who has not been to Communion within the past three months would do well now to come to Confession and prepare to receive the Eucharist.

Grave Watch: The grave watch sign-up sheet will be going up soon. Keep an eye open for it and sign up to watch and pray before the tomb on Holy Friday and Saturday.

Classes this Week:

Thursday, 4:30 p.m. *The Arena*, St. Ignatius Brianchaninov
Friday, 8:00 p.m. *St. Seraphim's*, Dallas: Orthodox Doctrine.

Church Cleaning: Help is needed to clean the church. Please sign up for this ministry in the hall.

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 in 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).

Last week we gave \$3044.20 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$6720.12; our monthly budget is \$8179 (\$2045 per week. (To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$10,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$77, special offering \$116; building fund \$50, soda \$10, coffee hour \$20. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 32, Liturgy 71.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of \$57,908.62 has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

Expansion Update: Rain is hampering efforts to move forward. Please keep an eye on your children in regard to the construction site. Thank you.

The Fast: Fifth Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), 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 cut back on (or cut out) all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: Caleb Rehmet, Shane Gibson, Ashley Gibson, and Madeline preparing for Holy Illumination; Hunter Bellan, Sean Chaney, Elizabeth Dakak, Philip Smith, and ; and for our inquirers Joel and Mindy Brown and their children. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Sherrie Joanna Hall, for the novice Svetlana, and for Melanie Betz.

From Saint Maximus

If God suffers in the flesh when He is made man, would we not rejoice when we suffer, for we have God to share our sufferings? This shared suffering confers the kingdom on us. For he spoke truly who said, 'If we suffer with Him, then we shall also be glorified with Him.'

If we have to suffer because our ancestor involved our nature in sensual pleasure, let us endure our temporary sufferings bravely; for they blunt the sharp point of such pleasure for us, and free us from the eternal torment which it brings upon us.

First Century of Various Texts, 24, 25

From Saint Ignatius Brianchaninov

The essence of the Christian life consists in healing our impaired will, uniting it with the will of God, and sanctifying it by this union. Our will in its fallen state is hostile to the will of God....In the renunciation of one's own will to follow the will of God consists the self-renunciation commanded by the Savior, which is an indispensable condition of salvation and Christian perfection....

In order to do the will of God, it is necessary to know it. Only with this knowledge is the renunciation of one's damaged will possible and its healing by the will of God....

The will of God is revealed to mankind in the Law of God [a Russian term signifying Holy Tradition and the Scriptures]. But eminently, with special clarity and detail, it is made known to us by the incarnate Word of God....

The study of the will of God is a task filled with joy, filled with spiritual consolation. At the same time, it is a task that presents great sorrows, disappointments, trials, and temptations. It is also inseparable from self-renunciation, the mortification of our fallen nature, and the saving destruction of the soul. It involved the crucifixion of the old man. It requires that the carnal mind and outlook be renounced, spurned, annihilated.

Troparia and Kontakia for March 25th



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.

Annunciation, Troparion, tone 4

Today is the crown of our salvation / and the revelation of the mystery which is from before the ages! / The Son of God becometh the Son of the Virgin, / and Gabriel announceth the glad tidings of grace. / Wherefore, with him let us cry out to the Theotokos: / Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace! // The Lord is with thee!

Annunciation, Kontakion, tone 8

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! / We thy servants, delivered from evil, / sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos! / As thou possessest invincible might set us free from every calamity //so that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!