

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday of February 17th, 2013

Schedule of Services

February 17th Zacchaeus Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 19th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

February 20th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:30 p.m. Community Meal

6:00 p.m. Class: Orthodox Spirituality

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 21st Thursday

8:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Little Compline w/Akathist

7:45 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

February 22nd Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. NTOM Conference, St. Barbara, Fort Worth

February 23rd Saturday

9:00 a.m. NTOM Conference, Holy Trinity, Dallas

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 24th Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. DFW OCF Dinner & Meeting at St. Maximus

From The Desert Fathers

Abba Poemen said, "A man may seem to be silent, but if his heart is condemning others, he is babbling ceaselessly. But there may be another who talks from morning till night and yet he is truly silent; that is, he says nothing that is not profitable."

Abba Poemen said, "If three men meet, of whom the first fully preserves interior peace, and the second gives thanks to God in illness, and the third serves with a pure mind, these three are doing the same work." *Sayings of the Desert Fathers, Poemen 27, 29*

Announcements for February 17th

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.

The Special Offering will go for our hall expansion.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Spirituality, session for men, from the little book *How To Live a Holy Life* (in bookstore). Ladies, come, eat and have fellowship.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Series on the Divine Liturgy.

North Texas Orthodox Missions (NTOM) is sponsoring a conference Friday February 22 at St. Barbara's in Fort Worth and Saturday February 23 at Holy Trinity in Dallas on the topic of "How to Talk with Our Children and Grandchildren about God." The conference is free (and meals), but you are asked to register online at ntom.org.

The OCF meeting has been changed: students will gather for dinner and a meeting here at St. Maximus next Sunday at 6:00

Parenting Help: The Love and Logic class to be taught by Anna Stokes at the church is being changed to Saturday March 9, from 10 until 2 to avoid any conflict with the NTOM conference. Please see Anna or Fr. Justin if you plan to attend.

House Blessings: If you would like your house blessed, look for he sign-up sheet in the hall. Fr. Justin will call to confirm a time.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: for Joel and Mindy Brown and their children Daniel, Anya, and Elijah, Gary & Olivia Reynolds and their children Ariel, Analise, and Alexandria, Lauren Williams, Philip, and Adam. Please pray for the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher, (Olga's husband).

Hall Expansion Update: A little electrical work remains. The gas meter should be installed soon, leaving only the front porch and

gutters to have done. Then, the downstairs kitchen, and after that, the new church.

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) and a box for our building fund.

Last week we gave \$1359.31; in February we have given \$2305.86; our monthly budget is \$9187 (\$2297 per week. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$30.50, Renovation (Soda) \$12, Building Fund \$23, Expansion \$12. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 28, Liturgy 79.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of **\$66,395.18** has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

From Saint Maximus

It is said that he who does not first reintegrate himself with his own being by rejecting those passions which are contrary to nature will not be reintegrated with the Cause of his being - that is, with God - by acquiring supernatural blessings through grace. For he who would truly unite himself with God must first separate himself mentally from created things.

The function of the written Law is to deliver men from passions; that of the natural law is to grant equal rights to all men in accordance with natural justice. The fulfillment of the spiritual law is to attain similitude to God, in so far as this is possible for man.

The intellect has by nature the capacity to receive a spiritual knowledge of corporeal and incorporeal things; but by grace alone does it receive revelations of the Holy Trinity. While believing that the Trinity exists, the human intellect can never presume to grasp what the Trinity is in Its essence, in the way that this is known to the divine Intellect. The person without spiritual knowledge is completely ignorant of the way in which sin is purged by virtue.

He who loves falsehood is handed over to be harrowed by it, so that by suffering he may come to know what it is he willingly pursued, and may learn by experience that he mistakenly embraced death instead of life.

Various Texts, Second Century 40-43

Troparia and Kontakia for February 17th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

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.

Great Martyr Theodore, Troparion, tone 2

Great are the achievements of faith! / In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water, the holy martyr Theodore rejoiced; / for, wholly consumed by the fire, / he offered himself as sweet bread unto the Trinity. // By his prayers, O Christ God, save Thou our souls!

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 4

My Saviour and Deliverer as God/ hath raised out of the grave the earth-born from their bonds / and He hath shattered the gates of hell / and as Master / He hath risen on the third day.

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.

Great Martyr Theodore, Kontakion, tone 8

Having received the faith of Christ within thy heart as a shield, / thou didst trample down hosts of the adversary, O longsuffering one; / and with a heavenly crown hast thou been crowned invincibly, O Theodore, // in that thou art invincible.