

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday March 24th, 2013

Schedule of Services for the Second Week

March 24th Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Procession with Icons
6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, Holy Trinity, Dallas*

March 25th Monday of the Second Week; Annunciation

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:00 p.m. Vespersal Divine Liturgy

March 26th Tuesday of the Second Week

10:00 a.m. *Funeral for Fr. Martin, St. Seraphim's*

March 27th Wednesday of the Second Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
7:30 p.m. Community Meal, Spiritual Reading, Discussion

March 28th Thursday of the Second Week

5:00 p.m. Vespers
6:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

March 29th Friday of the Second Week

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession
5:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

March 30th Saturday of the Second Week

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 31st Second Sunday of Lent: St. Gregory Palamas

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Peter's, Fort Worth (West Rite)*

From the Triodion

Moses in the season of abstinence, received the Law and proclaimed it to the people. Elijah by fasting closed the heavens; and the three children of Abraham through fasting overcame the lawless tyrant. Count us also worthy, O Christ, through fasting to attain the Feast of Thy Resurrection, as we cry aloud: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *Matins for Sunday of Orthodoxy*

Announcements for March 24th

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 Myrrhbearers Ministry.

Temple Wine is offered for the health and salvation of Reader Michael Rodgers.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday 7:30 p.m.: Community Meal after the Presanctified Liturgy, Patristic Reading, Discussion

Thursday 6:00 p.m.: Basics of Orthodoxy for those preparing for Baptism, 6:00 p.m.

Annunciation, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated tomorrow. Vespers tonight will be at Holy Trinity Church in Dallas as part of the series of Pan-Orthodox during Lent. Festal Matins will be tomorrow at 7:30 a.m. The Vespertine Liturgy for the Feast will be at 6:00 p.m. The Eucharistic Fast will begin at noon.

Funeral services for Fr. Martin Lebrecht will be this Tuesday at 10:00 at St. Seraphim's Cathedral; a Pannikhida will be served sometime Monday evening.

The Catechizing of Lauren Williams is taking place this morning right before the Divine Liturgy.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: for Joel (John Cassian) and Mindy Brown and their children Daniel, Anya, and Elijah, Gary & Olivia Reynolds and their children Ariel, Analise, and Alexandria, Lauren Williams, and Adam Bramlett who are preparing for Holy Illumination, and for inquirers Rebecca and Rebecca. Please pray for the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga.

Driver Training: Olga Fincher has her learner's permit but needs an experienced driver to ride with her while she practices for the driving test. She needs to be able to drive to care better for her

disabled husband. If someone is looking for a practical work of mercy for the Fast, this is it. Please call her at (940) 484-4169.

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 \$2677.50; in March we have given \$5889.75; 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 \$73.50, Renovation (Soda) \$7, Building Fund \$20, Expansion \$14. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 41, Liturgy 92.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of **\$66,509.18** has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

The Fast: Second 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. The Eucharistic fast (no food or drink) for the Presanctified Liturgies begins no later than noon (six hours before the service begins).

From Saint Maximus

Since the light of spiritual knowledge is the intellect's life, and since this light is engendered by love for God, it is rightly said that nothing is greater than divine love (cf. 1 Cor. 13:13).

When in the intensity of its love for God the intellect goes out of itself, then it has no sense of itself or of any created thing. For when it is illumined by the infinite light of God, it becomes insensible to everything made by Him, just as the eye becomes insensible to the stars when the sun rises.

All the virtues cooperate with the intellect to produce this intense longing for God, pure prayer above all. For by soaring towards God through this prayer the intellect rises above the realm of created beings.

When the intellect is ravished through love by divine knowledge and stands outside the realm of created beings, it becomes aware of God's infinity. It is then, according to Isaiah, that a sense of amazement makes it conscious of its own lowliness and in all sincerity it repeats the prophet's words: 'How abject I am, for I am pierced to the heart; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell among a people of unclean lips; and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts' (Isa. 6:5).
400 Chapters on Love, First Century 9-12

Troparia and Kontakia for March 24th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

Sunday of Orthodoxy, Troparion, tone 2

We venerate Thine immaculate icon, O Good One, / asking pardon of our offenses, O Christ God. / For Thou wast pleased of thy good will to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / to deliver those whom Thou hadst fashioned from bondage to the enemy. / Wherefore, in thanksgiving, we cry out to Thee: / Thou hast filled all things with joy, O our Savior, having come to save the world.

Sunday of Orthodoxy, Kontakion, tone 8

The uncircumscribed Word of the Father became circumscribed, / taking flesh from thee, O Theotokos, / and He hath restored the sullied image to its ancient glory, filling it with the divine beauty. / This our salvation we confess in deed and word, and we depict it in the holy icons.