

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday February 2nd, 2014

Schedule of Services

February 2nd Sunday Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 4th Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

February 5th Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

12:00 p.m. Class: Gospel of John Session 2

6:15 p.m. Class: Gospel of John Session 3

7:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 6th Thursday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

7:45 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

February 7th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

February 8th Saturday

4:00 p.m. Russian Class

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 9th Sunday Leavetaking, Publican & Pharisee

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From St. Symeon the New Theologian

It is by the free choice of the will that every person either attains compunction and humility, or else becomes hard-hearted and proud.

It is not, as some think, by nature but by will that every man becomes either humble and apt for compunction, or hard-hearted, hardened, and insensitive.

He who advances rapidly is the one who is humble in heart, who thinks the most humble thoughts and is contrite in mind, and choose more zealously to follow the divine Scriptures. He endures every tribulation and bears every trial, and in addition numbers himself among the lowliest of all; he thinks over his actions and his faults and daily blames himself and sees himself as a sinner. *Discourse 4*

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

Announcements for February 2

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, 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. We invite you to go first through the food line and join the priest at the table.

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 this week will be for St. Basil's Mission, Weatherford, OK. Next week: for Fr. Seraphim Holland's Prison Ministry.

No Church School today due to the mess upstairs. It will resume next week.

Many Years to the newly-illuminated Milana Daria Salienko, daughter of Artyom & Zarina, and to her godmother Alina (Elena)!

Temple oil given for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn.

DOS Pastoral Conference: The annual Pastoral Conference of the Diocese of the South will be held here February 17-20. Talks open to you will be given Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Help is needed to prepare food and to set up and clean up for each meal. Please see what you can do, and sign up on the side of the refrigerator downstairs.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, noon, Gospel of John Session 2

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Gospel of John Session 3

Thursday, 7:45 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Russian

Church Cleaning is needed each week. Please sign up and take a week.

Dismissals: Please stand for the dismissal at the end of every service. To sit through a dismissal (or through any blessing given with the sign of the cross), unless one is incapable of standing, is an act of ecclesiastical rudeness.

Please Pray: Holly Bellan, catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, and Sean Chaney, for inquirers Destiny Marcott, Rebecca

Marcott, Kathy Wells and her family, Amber Payne, Leah Saunders, and Joseph; the novice Svetlana, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, and for Patricia Lydon.

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 \$2325.11; in January, we gave \$7698.78; our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$101; Special Offering for alms \$17.07; Building Fund \$68; Soda (Renovation) \$5.39. Attendance: Saturday Vigil 49, Sunday Liturgy 96.

From Saint Maximus

Just as the intellect of a hungry man imagines bread and that of a thirsty man water, so the intellect of a glutton imagines a profusion of foods, that of a sensualist the forms of women, that of a vain man worldly honor, that of an avaricious man financial gain, that of a rancorous man revenge on whoever has offended him, that of an envious man how to harm the object of his envy, and so on with all the other passions. For an intellect agitated by passions is beset by impassioned conceptual images whether the body is awake or asleep.

When desire grows strong, the intellect in sleep imagines things that give sensual pleasure; and when the incensive power grows strong, it imagines things that cause fear. For the impure demons, finding an ally in our negligence, strengthen and excite the passions. But holy angels, by inducing us to perform works of virtue, make them weaker.

When the desiring aspect of the soul is frequently excited, it implants in the soul a habit of self-indulgence which is difficult to break.

When the soul's incensive power is constantly stimulated, it becomes in the end cowardly and unmanly. The first of these failings is cured by long exercise in fasting, vigils and prayer; the second by kindness, compassion, love and mercy.

The demons fight against us either through things themselves or through our impassioned conceptual images of these things. They fight through things against those who are occupied with things and through conceptual images against those who are not attached to things.

Just as it is easier to sin in the mind than in action, so warfare through our impassioned conceptual images of things is harder than warfare through the things themselves.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.68-72

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 2

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

Meeting of the Lord, Troparion, tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos full of grace, / for from thee hath shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / who doth illumine those in darkness. / Be glad also, thou righteous elder, / for thou hast received in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, // who bestoweth upon us Resurrection.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

Meeting of the Lord, Kontakion, tone 1

Thou who hast sanctified by Thy birth a virgin womb / and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon, / art come, O Christ our God, and on this day hast saved us. / Give peace to thy commonwealth in time of battle / and strengthen the Orthodox people whom Thou hast loved, // O Thou who alone lovest mankind.