

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton  
2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201  
(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org  
Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

## Bulletin for Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

### Schedule of Services

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Last Judgment, Meatfare**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**February 26<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. Class: Gospel of John

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**February 27<sup>th</sup> Thursday St. Raphael of Brooklyn**

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

7:45 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

**February 28<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**March 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

4:00 p.m. Russian Class

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Expulsion from Paradise, Cheesefare**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers

Great Fast Begins at Midnight

### From the *Triodion*

When the thrones are set up and the books are opened, and God sitteth in judgment, O what fear there will be then! When the angels stand trembling in Thy presence, and the river of fire floweth before Thee, what shall we do then guilty of many sins? When we hear Him call the blessed of His Father into the Kingdom, but send the sinners to their punishment, who shall endure His fearful condemnation? But, Savior, King of the ages, who alone lovest mankind, before the end cometh turn me back through repentance and have mercy on me.

*Vespers for the Sunday of the Last Judgment*

## Announcements for February 23

**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.

**Temple oil** given in memory of Nicholas Gluschenko.

**Church School** will meet today after Liturgy.

**Fasting:** Today is the last day to eat meat until Pascha. This coming week, we abstain from meat only. The following week, Clean Week, the first week of the Fast, the Fast is particularly strict. Whatever level of fasting we are able to undertake, we should plan and prepare now that we may make profitable use of that week. Our efforts should include special attention to prayer both corporate and private, reading, as well as abstinence from sin and from excessive talk.

**Many Thanks** to all who labored so diligently as to make the Diocesan Pastoral Conference go off with nary a hitch. The priests were most appreciative of our hospitality. Well done!

**Overflow Parking** is now available in the cleared area behind the white shed. Please feel free to make use of it.

**Many Years** to the newly-tonsured reader, Michael Rehmet!

### Classes this Week

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Gospel of John: the Seven Signs.

Thursday, 7:45 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Three Pillars of Christian Spiritual Life.

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Russian Language

**Forgiveness Vespers** will take place next Sunday at 6:00 p.m. We ask that all who make St. Maximus their parish home make every effort to attend, as we begin the Great Fast together by asking forgiveness of one another.

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

**Please Pray:** for catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, and Sean Chaney, for inquirers Destiny Marcott, Rebecca Marcott, Kathy Wells and her family, Rick, Amber Payne, Leah Saunders, Joseph, and Justin; the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. 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 \$2272.01 in tithes and offerings; in February, we have given \$6353.24; our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$41; Special Offering Debt Reduction \$7.50, Renovation (soda) \$12.01, Building Fund \$100. Attendance: Saturday Vigil 29, Sunday Liturgy 88.
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### From Saint Maximus

If you wish to find the way that leads to life, look for it in the Way who says, 'I am the way, the door, the truth and the life' (John 10:7; 14:6), and there you will find it. Only let your search be diligent and painstaking, for 'few there are that find it' (Matt. 7:14) and if you are not among the few you will find yourself with the many.

Five things make a soul cut itself off from sin: fear of judgment, hope of future reward, love of God and, lastly, the prompting of conscience.

Some say that there would be no evil in the created world unless there were some power outside this world dragging us towards evil. But this so-called power is in fact our neglect of the natural energies of the intellect. For those who nurture these energies always do good, never evil. If this, then, is what you too wish to do, get rid of negligence and you will also drive out evil, which is the wrong use of our conceptual images of things, followed by the wrong use of the things themselves.

In its natural state, the human intelligence is subject to the divine intelligence and itself rules over the non-intelligent element in us. Let this order be maintained in all things, and there will be no evil among creatures nor anything which draws us towards evil.

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 23

### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / ‘O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!’

### 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.

### 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.

### Last Judgment, Kontakion, tone 1

When Thou comest, O God, upon the earth with glory, / the whole world will tremble. / The river of fire will bring men before Thy judgment seat, / the books will be opened and the secrets disclosed. / Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, / and count me worthy to stand on Thy right hand, O most righteous Judge.

**Clean Week** Fasting (March 3-8) We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and marital relations. Those with the strength eat only one uncooked meal on Wednesday and one on Friday in the evening. Others eat similar meals on Tuesday and Thursday and so keep only Monday as a day of complete abstinence from food. Some may not be able even to do this. On weekends, two meals each day, at noon and in the evening, are permitted. Whatever level of fasting we do manage, we should keep this week as strictly as we possibly can. The rules of fasting are relaxed for the elderly, the very young, and those in poor health. As always, see your priest if you have questions how you should fast. To fasting we join prayer and almsgiving to make it yield spiritual gain. The daily services should be our priority this week, especially the Great Canon and the Presanctified Liturgy.