

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday March 16th, 2014

Schedule of Services

March 16th Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas (2nd of Lent)

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

noon Basics of Orthodoxy

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Peter's, Fort Worth

March 17th Monday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 18th Tuesday

March 19th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

noon Class: Gospel of John

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

8:00 p.m. Meal, Class: Gospel of John

March 20th Thursday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 21st Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

March 22nd Saturday

4:00 p.m. Russian Class

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 23rd Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross (3rd of Lent)

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

noon Basics of Orthodoxy

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers at SS Constantine & Helen

O holy and honored Trinity, as we now enter upon the third week of the Fast, keep us safe from harm and condemnation. Enable us rightly to pass through the time that still remains, and so to fulfill all Thy commandments; that so, offering up our hymns of praise, with a pure conscience we may attain the glorious Resurrection.

Matins of the Third Week

Announcements for March 16

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 if we are communing), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

The Special Offering this week will be for the debt reduction.

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

Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers tonight at 6:00 will be at St. Peter's Western Rite Antiochian Church in Fort Worth. A lenten meal will be provided.

Lenten Almsgiving: We are collecting alms for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and for our local ministry to unwed mothers, Woman to Woman. Please see Olivia Reynolds or Isabel Stone for more information on IOCC and Elisabeth Terry for more on Woman to Woman. There is a box with a list of needed items in the hall. We could also use some substantial canned goods for our own food pantry, such as chili, soups, etc.

The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts will be celebrated this week on Wednesday at 6:00 and Friday at 7:00.

The Mission Council met last Sunday. The members of the council are Anna Stokes, Elisabeth Terry, Jordan Rovny, Michael Rehmet, and George Rovny. Besides hearing the usual pastoral and financial reports, they discussed the conceptual design of the new church which is posted in the hall to give our architects some feedback as they go forward in developing the design. We hope to have a final design by June. The new church will hold 177 people at the level of fullness we experience now when we have about 73 people present. At the rate of packing when we now have 100, the new church will hold 240. Thus it will offer plenty of room to grow to the point we can spin off a new mission.

Classes this Week

Sunday, noon, Basics of Orthodoxy: Fasting
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Gospel of John

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Russian Language

Please Pray: for catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, Sean Chaney, and Virginia Warwas, for inquirers Destiny Marcott, Rebecca Marcott, Kathy Wells and her family, Rick Hollebeak, Amber Payne, Leah Saunders, Joseph, and Justin; the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia and James Lydon, and for the newly-departed Irina.

The Fast: Third Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), oil. If fasting fully according to the norm, 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. We prepare to receive Holy Communion as usual at the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts. Strictly, the Eucharistic fast is from midnight, but for an evening Presanctified, we may begin our Eucharistic fast no later than noon, and for the 7:00 p.m. service, we should begin no later than 1:00 p.m. Please see your priest if you have questions.

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 \$1436.92 in tithes and offerings; in March, we have given \$2938.42 our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$123; Building Fund \$120; soda \$1; Special Offering for IOCC \$40. Attendance: Saturday Vigil 33, Sunday Liturgy 81. In February, we gave \$1605 more in tithes and offerings than was previously reported here, due to gifts made electronically through our website. The total for February, then, was \$9160.8.

From Saint Maximus

The demons attack the person who has attained the summits of prayer in order to prevent his conceptual images of sensible things from being free from passion; they attack the gnostic so that he will dally with impassioned thoughts; and they attack the person who has not advanced beyond the practice of the virtues so as to persuade him

to sin through his actions. They contend with all men by every possible means in order to separate them from God.

Those whom divine providence is leading towards holiness in this life are tested by the following three tests: by the gift of agreeable things, such as health, beauty, fine children, money, fame and so on; by afflictions causing distress, such as the loss of children, money and fame; and by bodily sufferings, such as disease, torture and so on. To those in the first category the Lord says, 'If a person does not forsake all that he has, he cannot be My disciple' (*Luke 14:33*); and to those in the second and third He says, 'You will gain possession of your souls through your patient endurance' (*Luke 21:19*). *400 Chapters on Love, 2.90-91*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, March 16

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

Palamas Sunday, Troparion, tone 8

O Gregory the Wonderworker, light of Orthodoxy, / support and teacher of the Church, / glory of monks and invincible protector of theologians, / pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, / pray without ceasing for the salvation of our souls.

Gregory Palamas, Kontakion, tone 8

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of theology, / with one accord we sing thy praises, O Gregory inspired by God. / But since thou standest now in mind and spirit before the Original Mind, / guide our minds to Him, O father that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, preacher of grace.

Second Sunday of Lent, Kontakion, tone 4

The season of the virtues now hath come, / and the Judge is at the door. / Let us not hold back with darkened face, / but let us keep the Fast, / offering tears, contrition, and almsgiving; / and let us cry out: / our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea, / but Deliverer of all, forgive each one of us, // that we may receive an incorruptible crown.