

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday February 22nd, 2015

Schedule of Services

February 22nd Forgiveness Sunday, Cheesefare

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers, Beth Marie's Ice Cream after

The Great Fast Begins at Midnight

February 23rd Clean Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, First Hour, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Canon of St. Andrew

February 24th Clean Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Canon of St. Andrew

February 25th Clean Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

6:45 p.m. Class: St. Athanasius

8:00 p.m. Great Canon of St. Andrew

February 26th Clean Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins, First Hour, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Canon of St. Andrew

February 27th Clean Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

February 28th Clean Saturday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 1st Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers, Holy Trinity GOC, Dallas

Announcements for February 22

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 St. Basil's Mission in Weatherford, Oklahoma.

Cheesefare: Today we say "farewell" to cheese and dairy products until Pascha.

Classes this Week

Basics of Orthodoxy, today: Divine Liturgy, "Blessed is the Kingdom" The Kingdom of God

Forgiveness Vespers is tonight at 6:00. All who make this their parish home should plan to attend. We'll have ice cream together afterwards at Beth Marie's on the square.

Presanctified Fasting: The Eucharistic Fast for evening Liturgies of the Presanctified Gifts should begin no later than noon. For a 3:00 p.m. Liturgy, begin by 9:00 a.m. Strictly, the fast begins at midnight, but the bishops have blessed the accommodation above.

Pan Orthodox Vespers: St Maximus will host the DFW Pan-Orthodox Vespers on March 8, the second Sunday of the Fast, at 6:00 p.m. We will need to provide food for after the service and arrange a good clean-up of the church and grounds on the Saturday before.

Meals after Presanctified Liturgies: We like to provide something to eat after the Presanctified Liturgies, to break fast together and be strengthened after fasting. Please bring something fastworthy to share if you can. There will be a spiritual reading given during these meals as well for edification.

Clean Week: This first week of the Fast calls for special attention from each of us. We should avoid all secular entertainments and whatever will distract us from Christ. At seminary, we were asked not to talk to one another except out of necessity. Let us guard our

conversations before and after services to maintain a 'holy quiet' in the Church and to avoid sinning through careless words.

Nomination of New Bishop: Hieromonk Gerasim was nominated to be bishop by a special assembly of the Diocese of the South last Monday at Christ the Savior Cathedral in Miami. Of 109 delegates, 81 voted for Fr. Gerasim, 18 for Fr. Alexander Pihach, 2 for Fr. Callincus Berger, 1 for Bishop Daniel Brum, 3 ballots submitted were invalid, and 4 were not submitted. Fr. Gerasim's name is submitted to the Holy Synod, who will elect either him or someone else to be our new bishop when they meet in March. Consecration of the new bishop and installation are planned for May 8-9 at St. Seraphim's, Dallas. It is hope that the remains of Archbishop Dmitri will be transferred at that time to the cathedral crypt.

The Fast: Clean Week

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.

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 \$1615.43 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$6006.79; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$59.50; Special offering for Prison Ministry \$109; building fund \$25. Attendance: Liturgy 78, Vigil 29.

Please Pray: the novice Elias, and the novice Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia, Perpetua,

and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin, and for Mary Moses who is out of the country.

From Saint Maximus

One ignorant of the spiritual path is not on his guard against impassioned conceptual images, but devotes himself entirely to the flesh. He is either a glutton, or licentious, or full of resentment, anger and rancor. As a result he darkens his intellect, or he practices excessive asceticism and so confuses his mind.

Scripture does not forbid anything which God has given us for our use; but it condemns immoderation and thoughtless behavior. For instance, it does not forbid us to eat, or to beget children, or to possess material things and to administer them properly. But it does forbid us to be gluttonous, to fornicate and so on. It does not forbid us to think of these things — they were made to be thought of — but it forbids us to think of them with passion.

400 Chapters on Love, 4.65-66

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 22

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.

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.

Forgiveness Sunday, Kontakion, tone 6

O Master, Guide to wisdom, / Giver of prudent counsel, Instructor of the foolish and Champion of the poor, / make firm my heart and grant it understanding. / O Word of the Father, give me words, / for see, I shall not stop my lips / from crying out to Thee: I am fallen, / in Thy compassion have mercy on me.