

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday January 31st, 2016

Schedule of Services

January 31st Sunday tone 2 New Russian Martyrs & Confessors

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 102 (Orthodox Way)

February 1st Monday *Eve of the Meeting*

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 2nd Tuesday Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 201 Prayer 3

February 3rd Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:15 p.m. Class: Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses: Gluttony

7:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 5th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

4:00 p.m. Class: Pastoral Epistles: Titus

7:30 p.m. Compline

February 6th Saturday

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 7th Sunday tone 3

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 102 (Orthodox Way)

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

He who does not view the ritual of the Law with his senses alone, but noetically penetrates every visible symbol and thoroughly assimilates the divine principle which is hidden in each, finds God in the Law. For rightly he uses his intellect to grope among the material forms of the Law, as among litter, in the hope of finding hidden somewhere in its body that pearl or principle which utterly escapes the senses (cf. Matt. 13:45-46). 2.4

Announcements for January 31

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 his 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).

The Special Offering this week will be for Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry.

Temple Oil offered for the health and salvation of Katherine Frederick.

Classes This Week

Today 11:30 Basics of Orthodox 102: *Orthodox Way 2*

Tuesday 8:00 Basics of Orthodoxy 201 "When You Pray 3"

Wednesday 6:15 Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses, "Gluttony"

Friday 4:00 p.m. Bible Study: Pastoral Epistles (Titus)

The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with Vigil Monday evening at 7:00 and Divine Liturgy Tuesday morning at 9:00. We do well to keep the feast by attending as much of the cycle of services for it as we can.

No Thursday Liturgy will be served this week due to the feast.

Divine Liturgy in Church Slavonic will be served this Saturday at 9:30. Confession will be available from 8:30 a.m.

Parents, if your children use the back room downstairs to play after Liturgy, please check to make sure the heater gets turned off before you depart. Sometimes it gets turned up very high and left on. If we all keep an eye on this, we may avert any problem.

House Blessings are now being performed. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Forgiveness Vespers is Sunday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m. Please plan on present for this time of reconciliation, of the liturgical beginning of the Great Fast, and for the fellowship at Beth Marie's afterwards.

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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during Liturgy), where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for our building fund.

Last week, we gave \$1782.90 in tithes and offerings; this month, we have given \$6992.97; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$48; building fund \$128, special offering for IOCC 86. Attendance: Sat Vigil 22, Sun Liturgy 86.

Please Pray: for our catechumens, Adam and Jenilee Skelton and Marsha Northam, for the inquirers Dante, the Wells family, the Dean family, for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin, and for our diocesan administrator, Fr. Gerasim. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest field here in Denton and North Texas. Remember always to pray for your priest. Please pray for John Roberts and his wife Edith, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Pray for those whom you have not seen at church for some time.

From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

Again, he who does not limit his perception of the nature of visible things to what his senses alone can observe, but wisely with his intellect searches after the essence which lies within every creature, also finds; God, for from the manifest magnificence of created beings he learns what is the Cause of their being. 2.5

Discrimination is the distinctive characteristic of one who probes. He then who examines the symbols of the Law in a spiritual manner, and who contemplates the visible nature of created beings with intelligence, will discriminate in Scripture between letter and spirit, in creation between inner essence and outward appearance, and in himself between intellect and the senses; and in Scripture he will choose the spirit, in creation the inner essence or *logos*, and in himself the intellect. If he then unites these three indissolubly to one another, he will have found God: he will have come to recognize, as he should and as is possible, the God who is Intellect, Logos and Spirit. In this way he will be delivered from all the things which deceive man and seduce him into innumerable errors — delivered, that is to say, from the letter, the outward appearance of things, and the senses, all of which possess quantitative distinctions and are the negation of unity. But if a man compounds the letter of the Law, the outward appearance of visible things, and his own senses with each other, he is 'so short-sighted as to be blind' (2 Pet. 1:9), sick through his ignorance of the Cause of created beings. 2.6

The apostle gives us the following definition of faith: 'Faith makes real for us things hoped for, gives assurance of things not seen' (Heb. 11:1). One may also justly define it as an engrained blessing or as true knowledge disclosing unutterable blessings. 2.7

Faith is a relational power or a relationship which brings about the immediate perfect and supernatural union of the believer with the God in whom he believes. 2.8

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, January 31

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!'

New Martyrs of Russia, Troparion, tone 4

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passion bearers and pastors, / monks and laymen, ye countless new martyrs and confessors, / men, women, and children, / flowers of the spiritual meadow of Russia, / who blossomed forth wondrously in time of grievous persecutions, / bearing good fruit for Christ in your endurance: / Entreat Him as the One who planted you, / that He deliver His people from godless and evil men, / and that the Church of Russia / be made steadfast through your blood and suffering, // unto the salvation of our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 2

Thou didst rise from the grave, all-powerful Saviour; / and Hades, seeing the wonder, was affrighted; / and the dead arose; and creation, beholding, rejoiceth with Thee; / and with Thee Adam also is glad; / and the world, O my Saviour, hymneth Thee forever.

New Martyrs of Russia, Kontakion, tone 2

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, / who have with your confession finished the course of this earth, / receiving boldness through your sufferings: / Beseech Christ who strengthened you, / that we also, whenever the hour of trial find us, / may receive the gift of courage from God. / For ye are a model for us who venerate your struggle; / for neither tribulation, prison, nor death / could separate you from the love of God.