

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday February 21st, 2016

Schedule of Services

February 21st Sunday tone 5 Publican & Pharisee

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

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

February 24th Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Reader Vespers

February 27th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 28th Sunday tone 6 Prodigal Son

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

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

1:00 p.m. Vespers

February 29th Monday *St. John Cassian*

6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

Many are the things of which the believer has need in order to attain knowledge of God and virtue: deliverance from passions, patient acceptance of trials, the inner principles of virtues, the practice of methods of spiritual warfare, the uprooting of the soul's predilection for the flesh, the breaking of the senses' attachment to sensible objects, the utter withdrawal of the intellect from all created things; and, in short, there are countless other things which help us to reject sin and ignorance and to attain knowledge and virtue. It was surely because of this that the Lord said, 'Whatever you ask for in prayer, believing, you will receive' (Matt. 21:22), stating simply that the devout must seek and ask with understanding and faith for all those things, and for those alone, which lead to virtue and knowledge of God. For all these things are profitable, and unquestionably the Lord gives them to those who ask. 2.17

Thus he who for the sake of faith alone — that is to say, for the sake of direct union with God — seeks all the things that contribute towards this union will unquestionably receive them. He who seeks either the things which we have mentioned or other things without this motive will not receive them. For he has no faith, but like an unbeliever uses divine things to boost his own glory. 2.18

Announcements for February 21

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 the education of Alaskan Seminarian Deacon Methodius Nicori, in his last year at St. Herman's Seminary. We are \$208 from our goal of \$500.

No Classes This Week other than Basics 102 today.

Fr. Justin will be attending the Sts. Sebastian and Mardarije Orthodox Institute in Sand Diego this week for continuing education. He will return Friday midday.

Pre-Lent: This weekend, the *Triodion*, the book of hymns for the Great Fast, is opened, inaugurating the pre-lenten season.

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 \$1144.12 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$1317.42 our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$31.50; building fund \$3, special offering for Alaskan Seminarian \$30 (\$292.66 total, goal \$500). Attendance: Sat Vigil 40 Sun Liturgy 77.

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. Pray for Mother Lukia, and for Moses (Dave) Eaton and his son Nathan.

The Transfer of the Remains of Archbishop Dmitri of blessed memory from the cemetery to the new crypt at the cathedral will be accomplished Friday, March 4 — Saturday, March 5: Vespers 6:30 Friday, Liturgy 9:30 Saturday.

Myrrhbearers at St. Nicholas Church in McKinney invite any of us interested to participate in a talk on caring for our departed Tuesday, March 1, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Speakers include Andrew Eells, Licensed funeral director. See fliers on candle table.

Parents! If you turn the heater on in the back room, please be sure it is turned off before you leave church. It was found on this week.

From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

He who purges his will from the corruption of sin destroys the corrupting activity of what causes corruption. For when one's free will is itself free from corruption, it prevents nature from being corrupted by hostile forces and keeps it incorrupt through the providential grace of the Spirit within it. 2.19

Since the principles of nature and of grace are not one and the same, we should not be surprised if certain of the saints sometimes resisted the passions and sometimes succumbed to them; for we know that the miracle of resistance is due to grace, while the passion belongs to nature. 2.20

He who keeps in mind the way of the saints by imitating them not only shakes off the deadly paralysis of the passions but also takes up the life of the virtues. 2.21

God, who before all ages set the bounds of each man's life, in the manner which He wills, leads every man, whether righteous or unrighteous, towards the final end he deserves. 2.22

The soul has three powers: the intelligence [*nous*], the incensive power [*thumos*, anger/aggressive power] and desire [*epithumia*, concupiscence]. With our intelligence we direct our search; with our desire we long for that supernal goodness which is the object of our search; and with our incensive power we fight to attain our object. With these powers these who love God cleave to the divine principle of virtue and spiritual knowledge. Searching with the first power, desiring with the second, and fighting by means of the third, they receive incorruptible nourishment, enriching the intellect with the spiritual knowledge of created beings. 2.25

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 21

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.

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.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

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.

Publican and Pharisee, Kontakion, tone 4

Let us flee from the proud speaking of the Pharisee / and learn the humility of the Publican, / and with groaning let us cry unto the Savior: / Be merciful to us, // for Thou alone art ready to forgive.

Publican and Pharisee, Kontakion, tone 3

As the Publican let us bring cries of sorrow to the Lord, / and let us fall before him as sinners at the Master's feet. / For He desireth the salvation of all men; / He granteth forgiveness unto all that repent, / and He hath for our sake taken flesh, / though He is God // coeternal with the Father.