

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Schedule of Services

**February 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> Monday *St. John Cassian***

6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics 201: Fasting

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

7:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**March 4<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:30 p.m. Vespers, *St. Seraphim Cathedral*

**March 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *St. Seraphim Cathedral*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**March 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday tone 7 Last Judgment**

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

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

When the Logos of God became man. He filled human nature once more with the spiritual knowledge that it had lost; and steeling it against changefulness, He deified it, not in its essential nature but in its quality. He stamped it completely with His own Spirit, as if adding wine to water so as to give the water the quality of wine. For He becomes truly man so that by grace He may make us gods. 2.26

## Announcements for February 28

**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 alms.

### Classes This Week

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

Tuesday 8:00 Basics of Orthodox 201 Fasting

Wednesday 6:15 Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses "Love of Money"

**Sts. Sebastian and Mardarije Orthodox Institute** sponsored by Bishop Maxim's Western Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North America was excellent. We are most blessed to have the Orthodox Church's most profound theologian as our patron.

Recording of the talks should be posted online. I'll let you know. It was a wonderful week of worship, instruction, continuing education, inspiration, and fellowship. Your priest is better for having gone.

**Lent:** As part of our lenten effort, you will notice at Vigil that we will do the full first stasis of the first kathisma at Vespers. Instead of the choir singing selected verses only of Psalms 1-3, the reader will chant the remaining verses while the choir sings "alleluia" softly. Beginning with Forgiveness Sunday, we will at the Litia to Vespers for the duration of the Fast. This, in addition to the other lenten additions to the services, will add a few minutes to the weekly Vigil, giving us one means of increasing and intensifying our prayer to God.

**A Prayer We All Can Use:** *Request for the Gift of Prayer*

Teach me, O Lord, to pray to Thee sincerely with attention and love, without which prayer is not heard. Let my prayer not be slipshod unto sin for me. O God, Holy Spirit, grant me a spirit of prayer! *Fr. Justin trans.*

**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 Creamery 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 \$2043.31 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$3360.73 our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$73.50; building fund \$537.10, special offering for Alaskan Seminarian \$228.11 (\$520.77 total, goal \$500—Glory to God!). Attendance: Sat Vigil 36 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. 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 this 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.

### From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

When God created human nature, at the same time as He gave it being and free will He joined to it the capacity for carrying out the duties laid upon it. By this capacity I mean the impulse implanted in human nature on the level of both being and free will: on the level of being, so that man has the power to achieve the virtues; on the level of free will, so that he may use this power in the right way. 2.27

We have as a natural criterion the law of nature. This teaches us that, before we can acquire the wisdom that lies in all things, we must through mystical initiation seek their Maker. 2.28

Jacob's well (cf. John 4:5-15) is Scripture. The water is the spiritual knowledge found in Scripture. The depth of the well is the meaning,

only to be attained with great difficulty, of the obscure sayings in Scripture. The bucket is learning gained from the written text of the word of God, which the Lord did not possess because He is the Logos Himself; and so He does not give believers the knowledge that comes from learning and study, but grants to those found worthy ever-flowing waters of wisdom that spill from the fountain of spiritual grace and never run dry. For the bucket — that is to say, learning — can only grasp a very small amount of knowledge and leaves behind all that it cannot lay hold of, however it tries. But the knowledge which is received through grace, without study, contains all the wisdom that man can attain, springing forth in different ways according to his needs. 2.29

### **Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 21**

#### **Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6**

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / 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.

#### **Prodigal Son, Kontakion, tone 3**

Foolishly have I run away from Thy glory, O Father, / wasting in sin the wealth that Thou gavest me. / Therefore with the words of the Prodigal I cry unto Thee: / I have sinned before Thee, compassionate Father. / Accept me in repentance and make me as one of Thy hired servants.