

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday March 6th, 2016

Schedule of Services

March 6th Sunday tone 7 Last Judgment, Meatfare Sunday

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

1:00 p.m. Vespers

March 8th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics 201: Fasting

March 9th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

7:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 10th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

March 11th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers

4:00 p.m. Class: Pastoral Epistles

7:30 p.m. Compline, Confession

March 12th Saturday Soul Saturday

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for the Departed

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 13th Sunday tone 8 Forgiveness Sunday, Cheesefare

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

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

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

There is a great and unutterable difference between the tree of life and the one which is not the tree of life. This is clear simply from the fact that the one is called the tree of life while the other is merely called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (cf. Gen. 2:9). Unquestionably, the tree of life is productive of life; the tree that is not called the tree of life, and so is not productive of life, is obviously productive of death. For only death is the opposite of life. 2.30

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

Announcements for March 6

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 given for the health and salvation of Nathan Eaton, and William and Carolyn.

Today is Meatfare Sunday. This means today is the last day for eating meat until Pascha. This coming week we observe a fast from meat and meat products in preparation for full fasting during Clean Week.

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 "Sadness"

Friday 4:00 Pastoral Epistles

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

A New Bishop: Metropolitan Tikhon announced to the clergy yesterday that he will have word for us by Friday as to whether the Holy Synod will elect Fr. Gerasim as our bishop. They will be having a phone conference Wednesday morning at which they will make their decision. Please pray.

The Re-interment of Archbishop Dmitri of blessed memory was beautifully accomplished yesterday at St. Seraphim Cathedral. As you have heard, when the coffin was opened, his remains were found in a state of incorruption. A long-time employee of the cemetery said she had never seen the remains of someone buried without being embalmed in such condition and was very moved. While this is not proof of sainthood, it is an indicator. There is no doubt our Vladyka Dmitri was a saintly man. It remains to be seen whether the Holy Spirit will give the Church a conviction of his sanctity leading to his formal canonization. Meanwhile we may ask him to pray for us, and if

you receive answers to the requests you direct toward God through him, please let me or another priest know.

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 \$2122.18 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$5482.91 with another \$3766 given electronically for a total of \$9248.91 our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$52; building fund \$4.26, special offering for alms \$34. Attendance: Sat Vigil 52 Sun Liturgy 103.

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.

From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

The tree of life, when understood as symbolizing wisdom, likewise differs greatly from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, in that the latter neither symbolizes wisdom nor is said to do so. Wisdom is characterized by intellect and intelligence, the state which is opposite to wisdom by lack of intelligence and by sensation. 2.31

Since man came into being composed of noetic soul and sentient body, one interpretation could be that the tree of life is the soul's intellect, which is the seat of wisdom. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil would then be the body's power of sensation, which is clearly the seat of mindless impulses. Man received the divine commandment not to involve himself actively and experientially with these impulses; but he did not keep the commandment. 2.32

Both trees in Scripture symbolize the intellect and the senses. Thus the intellect has the power to discriminate between the spiritual and the sensible, between the eternal and the transitory. Or rather, as the soul's

discriminatory power, the intellect persuades the soul to cleave to the first and to transcend the second. The senses have the power to discriminate between pleasure and pain in the body. Or rather, as a power existing in a body endowed with soul and sense-perception, they persuade the body to embrace pleasure and reject pain. 2.23

If a man exercises only sensory discrimination between pain and pleasure in the body, thus transgressing the divine commandment, he eats from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, that is to say, he succumbs; to the mindless impulses that pertain to the senses; for he possesses only the body's power of discrimination, which makes him embrace pleasure as something good and avoid pain as something evil. But if he exercises only that noetic discrimination which distinguishes between the eternal and the transitory, and so keeps the divine commandment, he eats from the tree of life, that is to say, from the wisdom that appertains to his intellect; for he exercises only the power of discrimination associated with the soul, which makes him cleave to the glory of what is eternal as something good, and avoid the corruption of what is transitory as something evil. 2.34

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, March 6

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto 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.

Last Judgment, Kontakion, tone 1

When Thou comest, O God, upon the earth with glory, / the whole world will tremble. / The river of fire will bring men before Thy judgment seat, / the books will be opened and the secrets disclosed. / Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, / and count me worthy to stand on Thy right hand, O most righteous Judge.