

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Forgiveness Sunday March 20th, 2016

Schedule of Services

- March 20th Sunday tone 1 Sunday of Orthodoxy**
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Procession, Church School
6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers, Holy Trinity, Dallas
- March 21st Monday**
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
2:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession
- March 22nd Tuesday**
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
7:00 p.m. Vespers
8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 201 “Almsgiving”
- March 23rd Wednesday**
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal
- March 24th Thursday**
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
7:00 p.m. Vigil for Annunciation, Confession
- March 25th Friday Annuciation to the Theotokos *Fish***
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
5:30 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy, Meal
- March 26th Saturday**
9:00 a.m. Bearded Men’s Society Outing
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession
- March 27th Sunday tone 2 St. Gregory Palamas**
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School
1:00 p.m. Vespers
6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Mary’s, Colleyville

Let us now set out with joy upon the second week of the Fast; and like Elijah the Tishbite let us fashion for ourselves from day to day, O brethren, a fiery chariot from the four great virtues; let us exalt our minds through freedom from the passions; let us arm our flesh with purity and our hands with acts of compassion; let us make our feet beautiful with the preaching of the Gospel; and let us put the enemy to flight and gain the victory.

Triodion, Sunday Vespers

Announcements for March 20

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 a new censer.

The Liturgy of St. Basil will be served today and the next four Sundays in place of the usual Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom as is appointed during this season.

Pan-Orthodox Vespers will be served tonight at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas on Hillcrest at 6:00. We shall also serve Vespers here at 1:00 for those who want to attend Vespers but don't want to go to Dallas.

Annunciation, one of the twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this Friday with Vigil Thursday night at 7:00 and a Vespertal Divine Liturgy Friday evening at 5:30. Fish, wine, and oil are permitted to help celebrate the feast. We do well to keep the feast by participating in the cycle of services by which it is celebrated.

Eucharistic Fasting for the Presanctified Liturgy Wednesday and the Vespertal Liturgy Friday should begin by noon at the latest.

Classes This Week

Tuesday 8:00 Basics of Orthodoxy 201 "Almsgiving"

A New Bishop: The Holy Synod will take up the question at their spring meeting at the end of the month. Metropolitan Tikhon's letter informing us of this may be seen on the bulletin board.

The Fast: Second Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), oil. If fasting fully according to the norm, we take one meal a day M-F after 3 p.m. or after the Presanctified Liturgy (five meals instead of the two of last week). We join increased prayer and almsgiving to our fasting and cut back on (or cut out) all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ.

Crafts Fair: It has been proposed that some of our children who like to make things be given an opportunity to sell some of their handiwork at church. The council has accepted this. If anyone is

interested, please see Fr. Justin. The first fair will not happen until mid May at the earliest.

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, candles \$86. No other data available at present.
Attendance: Sat Vigil 24 Sun Liturgy 83.

Please Pray: for those preparing for holy illumination and Adam and Jenilee Skelton, our catechumens Estephania Dean and Marsha Northam, our inquirers 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 500 Various Texts

The Logos of God is at the same time both a lamp and a light (cf. Ps. 119:105; Prov. 6:23). For he illuminates those thoughts of the faithful which are in accordance with nature, but burns those which are contrary to nature; He dispels the darkness of sensory life for those who press forward by means of the commandments towards the life that they hope for, but punishes with the fire of judgment those who willfully cleave to the dark night of this present life because of their love for the flesh. 2.39

It is said that he who does not first reintegrate himself with his own being by rejecting those passions which are contrary to nature will not be reintegrated with the Cause of his being - that is, with God - by acquiring supranatural blessings through grace. For he who would truly unite himself with God must first separate himself mentally from created things. 2.40

The function of the written Law is to deliver men from passions; that of the natural law is to grant equal rights to all men in accordance

with natural justice. The fulfillment of the spiritual law is to attain similitude to God, in so far as this is possible for man. 2.40

The intellect has by nature the capacity to receive a spiritual knowledge of corporeal and incorporeal things; but by grace alone does it receive revelations of the Holy Trinity. While believing that the Trinity exists, the human intellect can never presume to grasp what the Trinity is in Its essence, in the way that this is known to the divine Intellect. The person without spiritual knowledge is completely ignorant of the way in which sin is purged by virtue. 2.42

He who loves falsehood is handed over to be harrowed by it, so that by suffering he may come to know what it is he willingly pursued, and may learn by experience that he mistakenly embraced death instead of life. 2.43

God has knowledge only of what is good, because He is in essence the nature and the knowledge of what is good. He is ignorant of evil because He has no capacity for evil. Only of those things for which by nature He possesses the capacity does He also possess the essential knowledge. 2.44

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, March 20

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

Sunday of Orthodoxy, Troparion, tone 2

We venerate Thine immaculate icon, O Good One, / asking pardon of our offenses, O Christ God. / For Thou wast pleased of thy good will to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / to deliver those whom Thou hadst fashioned from bondage to the enemy. / Wherefore, in thanksgiving, we cry out to Thee: / Thou hast filled all things with joy, O our Savior, having come to save the world.

Sunday of Orthodoxy, Kontakion, tone 8

The uncircumscribed Word of the Father became circumscribed, / taking flesh from thee, O Theotokos, / and He hath restored the sullied image to its ancient glory, filling it with the divine beauty. / This our salvation we confess in deed and word, and we depict it in the holy icons.