

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Palamas Sunday March 27th, 2016

Schedule of Services

March 27th Sunday tone 2 St. Gregory Palamas

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

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Mary's, Colleyville

March 28th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

2:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 29th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 201 "Creed 1"

March 30th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

March 31st Thursday St. Innocent of Alaska

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers

April 1st Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

April 2nd Saturday

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

April 3rd Sunday tone 3 Veneration of the Cross

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

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. John's, Euless

As we start upon the third week of the Fast, O ye faithful, let us glorify the Holy Trinity, and joyfully pass through the time that still remains. Causing passions of the flesh to wither from our souls, let us gather divine flowers, weaving garlands for the queen of days, that with crowns upon our heads we may sing in praise of Christ the Victor.

Triodion, Sunday Vespers

Announcements for March 27

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 International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).

The Liturgy of St. Basil will be served today and the next three 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 St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church in Colleyville at 3801 Glade Road at 6:00.

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

A Russian Liturgy will be celebrated this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Confession will be available from 8:30 a.m.

Classes This Week

Tuesday 8:00 Basics of Orthodoxy 201 "Creed I"

A New Bishop: The Holy Synod meets this week to address the matter, March 29-April 1. Please pray for God's will to be done.

The Fast: Third 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, we gave \$1212.16 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$6140.36; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$104, special offering for censer \$68, renovation \$1, Building Fund \$1.20. Attendance: Sat Vigil 40 Sun Liturgy 86.

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

So long as you do not pursue virtue or study Holy Scripture for the sake of glory, or as a cloak for greed (cf. 1 Thess. 2:5), or from love of flattery and popularity, or for self-display, but do and say and think all things for the sake of God, then you are walking with spiritual knowledge in the way of truth. If, however, you have in some respects 'prepared the way for the Lord', yet have not 'made His paths straight', He will not come to dwell within you (cf. Isa. 40:3. LXX; Mark 1:3). 2.51

If you fast and avoid a mode of life which excites the passions, and in general do whatever contributes to your deliverance from evil, then you have 'prepared the way for the Lord'. But if you do these things out of self-esteem, or greed, or love of flattery, or for some similar motive, and not with a desire to perform God's will, then you have not 'made His paths straight'. You have endured the labor of preparing the way but do not have God walking in your paths. 2.52

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, March 27

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!'

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.

Gregory Palamas, Troparion, tone 8

O Gregory the Wonderworker, light of Orthodoxy, / support and teacher of the Church, / glory of monks and invincible protector of the theologians, / pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, / pray without ceasing for the salvation of our souls.

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.

Gregory Palamas, Kontakion, tone 8

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of the ology, / with one accord we sing thy praises, O Gregory inspired by God. / But since thou standest now in mind and spirit before the Original Mind, / guide our minds to Him, O father that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, preacher of grace.

Second Sunday of Lent, Kontakion, tone 4

The season of the virtues now hath come, / and the Judge is at the door. / Let us not hold back with darkened face, / but let us keep the Fast, / offering tears, contrition, and almsgiving; / and let us cry out: / our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea, / but Deliverer of all, forgive each one of us, // that we may receive an incorruptible crown.