

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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## Bulletin for Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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### Schedule of Services

#### **March 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Tone 6 Veneration of the Cross**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 Choir Rehearsal

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

#### **March 21<sup>st</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **March 22<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:30 p.m. Supper, Class: St. Dorotheos of Gaza

#### **March 23<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **March 24<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

2:00 p.m. Class NT Survey

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7:00 p.m. Vigil for Annunciation

#### **March 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday Annunciation**

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **March 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Tone 7 St. John of the Ladder**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Pan Orthodox Vespers. St. Demetrios, FW

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

32. 'Wine makes glad the heart of man' (Ps. 104:15). But you who have professed sorrow and grief should turn away from such gladness and rejoice in spiritual gifts. If you rejoice in wine, you will live with shameful thoughts and distress will overwhelm you.

## Announcements for March 19

**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 also invite you to go first through the food line.

**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).

**Temple Oil** offered for the blessed repose of William Frederick;  
**Temple Wine** offered for the health and salvation of Maria, Elias, Ian, Connor.

**The Special Offering** this week will be for Archangel Michael Monastery in New Mexico.

**Veneration of the Cross:** though the Cross was brought out formally for veneration last night at Vigil, it remains out throughout this week. It is formally venerated at the end of each service. We do prostrations each time "Before Thy Cross" is sung. When we venerate, we prostrate twice, kiss Christ's feet, and prostrate a third time. This Sunday is one exception to the rule that we do no prostrations on Sunday, at the singing of "Before Thy Cross". We prostrate in worship of Christ our risen Lord, and we get up recalling His resurrection and ours to come.

**Annunciation:** This week, we celebrate the Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel to the Theotokos, one of the Twelve Great Feasts. The Vigil for the Feast will be served Friday evening at 7:00 consisting of Great Compline and Matins. The Vespers of the Feast is sung as part of the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts at 4:00. Divine Liturgy for the Feast will be Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

**Seating:** The chairs in the church are primarily for the aged and the injured or ill. Out of respect for the elderly, children and youth should not be using the chairs during Sunday Liturgy.

**Lenten Almsgiving:** Please remember our alms box and our food pantry in your almsgiving. Particularly welcome are canned staples, especially hearty foods such as chili, soups, beans, along with fruits and vegetables. We are also collecting goods and cash for Loreto House, a local ministry to pregnant women.

### Classes This Week.

Wednesday: Dorotheos of Gaza; we will read and discuss a bit of this basic spiritual work during the meal following the Presanctified Liturgy. Possibly the same on Friday.

Friday: NT Survey 2:00 p.m.

**Commemorations:** Please try to submit your Sunday commemorations Saturday night (or earlier) whenever you can.

**Fasting for Presanctified Liturgy:** If you desire to commune at a Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts this week, the Eucharistic fast begins at noon on Wednesday, at 10:00 on Friday.

### The Fast: Fourth 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. We join increased prayer and almsgiving to our fasting and cut back on (or cut out) all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ.

**The Front Door** should not be used during the Sunday Liturgy.

**Confession:** Everyone who wishes to receive Holy Communion at Pascha and beyond should make a Confession some time during the Fast. Please do not wait until the last minute. The priest has a good number of life confessions to hear during Holy Week and will not be available for routine Confessions except in the most dire of situations. Please plan to make your Confession during the next three weeks. Fr. Justin plans to be gone to the Monastery Monday April 2 until Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday, so plan ahead.

**Tithes, Offerings & Attendance:** Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and 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 the slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during service). There are also boxes for alms (those in need) and our building fund.

Last week we gave about \$1750.11 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$4092.30 our monthly budget is \$11,250. Special Offering Loreto House \$342; Candles \$63.50; Building Fund \$20; Paschal Flowers \$40; Alms \$265. Attendance: Liturgy 120, Vigil 61 (record); Second Week Presanctifieds Wed 36, Fri 15.

**Please Pray:** for Cassian and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for our catechumens Frank, Cathy, Joy, Charity, Patience, and Gabriel Wells, Meghann, Caleb, True, Noble, Pearl, Primrose, and Valor Jones, and Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Dean family; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Albina Gashushina, and for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, and for Eugene and Rachel.

**Gospel Readings on Pascha:** We desire to read the Paschal Gospel, John 1:1-17, at the Paschal Liturgy in as many languages as we can with reasonable competence. If you think you may like to read, start practicing. We usually read verses 1-5, and 14 except for English and Greek, but practice them all: we will probably read 1-5 and 11-14.

### From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

1.99 When the intellect is absorbed in the contemplation of things invisible, it seeks their natural principles, the cause of their generation and whatever follows from this, as well as the providential order and judgment which relates to them.

1.100 When the intellect is established in God, it at first ardently longs to discover the principles of His essence. But God's inmost nature does not admit of such investigation, which is indeed beyond the capacity of everything created. The qualities that appertain to His nature, however, are accessible to the intellect's longing: I mean the qualities of eternity, infinity, indeterminateness, goodness, wisdom, and the power of creating, preserving and judging creatures. Yet of these, only infinity may be grasped fully; and the very fact of knowing nothing is knowledge surpassing the intellect, as the theologians Gregory of Nazianzos and Dionysios have said.

### Troparia and Kontakia for March 19<sup>th</sup>



#### 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.

#### Sunday of the Cross, Troparion, tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross / preserve Thine estate.

#### Kontakion of the Third Sunday of Lent, tone 7

The fiery sword no longer guardeth the gate of Eden, / for in a strange and glorious way / the wood of the Cross hath quenched its flames. / The sting of death and the victory of hell are now destroyed, / for Thou art come, O my Savior, / crying unto those in hell: / "Return again to Paradise."