

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Bulletin for Sunday, February 4th, 2018

February 4th Sunday Tone 2 Prodigal Son

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

February 6th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

February 7th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: Jude

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession, Byzantine Choir Rehearsal

February 8th Thursday Great Martyr Theodore the General

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 9th Friday Leavetaking of Meeting

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

February 10th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 11th Sunday Tone 3 Last Judgment. Meatfare

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Mission Council

St. Isaiah the Solitary 27 Texts on Guarding the Intellect

4. If God sees that the intellect has entirely submitted to Him and puts its hope in Him alone. He strengthens it, saying: 'Have no fear Jacob my son, my little Israel' (Isa. 41:14. LXX), and: 'Have no fear: for I have delivered you, I have called you by My name; you are Mine. If you pass through water, I shall be with you, and the rivers will not drown you. If you go through fire, you will not be burnt, and the names will not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, who saves you' (cf. Isa. 43:1-3. LXX).

5. When the intellect hears these words of reassurance, it says boldly to its enemies: 'Who would fight with me? Let him stand against me. And who would accuse me? Let him draw near to me. Behold, the Lord is my helper; who will harm me? Behold, all of you are like an old moth-eaten garment' (cf. Isa. 50:8-9. LXX).

Announcements for February 4th

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 line at Coffee Hour.

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 is for Loreto House, the crisis pregnancy ministry around the corner.

Temple Wine given for the health and salvation of Elias, Connor, and Ian.

Triodion: Today, we observe the second of the preparatory Sundays for Great Lent, that of the Prodigal Son. You are encouraged to attend Vigil now and during Lent—especially those of you who don't usually attend Vigil, for that is when the bulk of the distinctive Lenten hymns are sung. If you make it a point to come to Vigil from at least 6:00 to 7:00 each week, you will gain a good entrance into the spirit of the fast.

Meatfare Sunday is next Sunday. This is the last day we eat meat until Pascha.

Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare) is February 18. Everyone who makes this his parish home should plan on attending the Forgiveness Vespers that Sunday evening at 5:00 and having ice cream at Beth Marie's after.

Many Thanks to our faithful bakers of prospora and litia bread, Melanie Betz and Andrea Rovny, to those who clean the church and clean up after coffee hour, and to our church school teachers, Becki Stevenson, Shane Gibson, Olivia Reynolds, and Melanie Betz, and to those who help them.

Classes This Week

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy.

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, General Epistle of Jude

Friday 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Psalter due to Feast

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox 301

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$113,936.11. Our goal is \$130,000 by Pascha.

House Blessings: If you desire to have your house blessed, please email the priest to arrange it.

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

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 and our building fund.

Last Sunday, we gave \$1382 in tithes and offerings; we also gave \$5357 electronically; in January, we gave \$14,087.59; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$95, Special Offering for St Vladimir's Seminary \$36.92; Building Fund \$13.70. Attendance: Vigil 63; Sunday Liturgy 123.

Please Pray for Andrea (Elizabeth) Rovny, recovering from gall bladder surgery and Robert Osborne recovering from heart surgery, for Ruth, Daniel, Anna, & Elijah Brown in their time of mourning; for our catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, Joel and Alta Morris and their children Solomon, Shilah, Gideon, Benjamin; Brandon and Lanie Veazey and their baby Silouan; our inquirers Donna Lange, the Dean family, Jason Matthes, Chris; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, for Eugene and Rachel, for Jeremy Gleb Rovny, working in Georgia, and Ian Rehmet in Greece. Pray for those you haven't seen at church for awhile.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.28 The ancient Greek philosophers say that the being of created things has coexisted with God from all eternity and that God has only given it its qualities. They say that this being itself has no opposite, and that opposition lies only in the qualities. But we maintain that only the divine essence has no opposite, since it is eternal and infinite and bestows eternity on other things. The being of created things, on the other hand, has non-being as its opposite. Whether or not it exists eternally depends on the power of Him who alone exists in a substantive sense. But since 'the gifts of God are irrevocable' (Rom. 11:29), the being of created things always is and always will be sustained by His almighty power, even though it has, as we said, an opposite; for it has been brought into being from non-being, and whether or not it exists depends on the will of God.

3.29 Just as evil is a privation of good, and ignorance a privation of knowledge, so non-being is a privation of being - not of being in a

substantive sense, for that does not have any opposite, but of being that exists by participation in substantive being. The first two privations mentioned depend on the will of creatures; the third lies in the will of the Maker, who in His goodness wills beings always to exist and always to receive His blessings.

3.30 All creatures are either endowed with intelligence and intellect, and thus possess a capacity for opposites such as virtue and vice, knowledge and ignorance; or else they are physical bodies of various kinds made up of opposites, that is, of earth, air, fire and water. The former are altogether incorporeal and immaterial, although some of them are joined to bodies; the latter are composed of matter and form.

Troparia and Kontakia for February 4th

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.
/ He hath delivered us from the womb of hell, / and hath granted the world / great mercy.

Meeting of the Lord, Troparion, tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos full of grace, / for from thee hath shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / who doth illumine those in darkness. / Be glad also, thou righteous elder, / for thou hast received in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, // who bestoweth upon us Resurrection.

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.

Meeting of the Lord, Kontakion, tone 1

Thou who hast sanctified by Thy birth a virgin womb / and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon, / art come, O Christ our God, and on this day hast saved us. / Give peace to thy commonwealth in time of battle / and strengthen the Orthodox people whom Thou hast loved, // O Thou who alone lovest mankind.