

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, February 18th, 2018

February 18th Sunday Tone 4 Forgiveness, Cheesefare

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

5:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers

February 19th Clean Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Great Canon

February 20th Clean Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Great Canon

February 21st Clean Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Potluck Meal

7:00 p.m. Great Canon

February 22nd Clean Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Great Canon

February 23rd Clean Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts. Potluck Meal

February 24th Clean Saturday

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy and 40-Day Memorial, Nativity Monastery

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 25th Sunday of Orthodoxy Tone 5

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

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers, Holy Trinity, Dallas

St. Isaiah the Solitary 27 Texts on Guarding the Intellect

8. If your intellect is freed from all hope in things visible, this is a sign that sin has died in you.

9. If your intellect is freed, the breach between it and God is eliminated.

10. If your intellect is freed from all its enemies and attains the Sabbath rest, it lives in another age, a new age in which it contemplates things new and undecaying. For 'wherever the dead body is, there will the eagles be gathered together' (Matt. 24: 28).

Announcements for February 18th

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 International Orthodox Christian Charities.

Temple Wine in thanksgiving for Elizabeth Terry's recovery of health.

Cheesefare Sunday is today. This is the last day we eat dairy products and eggs until Pascha.

Forgiveness Vespers: 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. This will be the last day we eat dairy products, including eggs, until Pascha.

The Forty-Day Memorial for Joel Cassian Brown will be celebrated this Saturday at Nativity Monastery in Kemp. Hours at 9:00, Divine Liturgy at 9:30 with the Pannikhida, most likely graveside, to follow. Please bring food for a meal afterwards.

Sunday of Orthodoxy next week will feature a procession with icons after the Liturgy. You may bring icons to carry during the procession. Please secure them during the Liturgy so that they are not being dropped.

The Fast: Clean Week

In this strictest week of fasting for the year, we abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and marital relations. Those with the strength eat only one uncooked meal on Wednesday and one on Friday in the evening. Others eat similar meals on Tuesday and Thursday and so keep only Monday as a day of complete abstinence from food. Some may not be able even to do this. On weekends, two meals each day, at noon and in the evening, are permitted. Whatever level of fasting we do manage, we should keep this week as strictly as we possibly can with God's help. The rules of fasting are relaxed for the elderly, the very young, and those in poor health. As always, see your priest if you have questions how you should fast. To fasting we join prayer and almsgiving to make it yield spiritual gain. The daily services should be our priority this week, especially the Great Canon and the Presanctified Liturgy.

Vigil: You are encouraged to attend Vigil during Lent—especially those of you who don't usually attend—for that is when the bulk of the distinctive Lenten hymns are sung. Even if you come only for a portion of the service you will benefit.

Classes This Week

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy.

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

House Blessings may be done throughout the year. They will not be done during Clean Week, however.

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 \$2600 in tithes and offerings; in February, we have given \$5861; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$?, Special Offering for Seminarian \$31; Building Fund \$66.60. Attendance: Vigil 47; Sunday Liturgy 129.

Please Pray 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

3:34 Impurity of intellect consists first in having false knowledge; secondly in being ignorant of any of the universals (I refer to the human intellect, for it is a property of the angelic intellect not to be ignorant even of particulars); thirdly in having impassioned thoughts; and fourthly in assenting to sin.

3.35 Impurity of soul lies in its not functioning in accordance with nature. It is because of this that impassioned thoughts are produced in the intellect. The soul functions in accordance with nature when its passible aspects - that is, its incensive power and its desire - remain dispassionate in the face of provocations both from things and from the conceptual images of these things.

3.36 Impurity of body consists in the actual committing of sin.

3.37 He who is not attracted by worldly things cherishes stillness. He who loves nothing merely human loves all men. And he who takes no offence at anyone either on account of their faults, or on account of his own suspicious thoughts, has knowledge of God and of things divine.

Troparia and Kontakia for February 18th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting 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.

Forgiveness Sunday, Kontakion, tone 6

O Master, Guide to wisdom, / Giver of prudent counsel, Instructor of the foolish and Champion of the poor, / make firm my heart and grant it understanding. / O Word of the Father, give me words, / for see, I shall not stop my lips / from crying out to Thee: I am fallen, / in Thy compassion have mercy on me.

“It is not he who begins well who is perfect. It is he who ends well who is approved in God’s sight.” *St. Basil the Great*