

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, February 25th, 2018

February 25th Sunday of Orthodoxy Tone 5 Second Week

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

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

February 26th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 27th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 28th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

March 1st Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 2nd Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

10:00 a.m. Class: Spiritual Psalter

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

March 3rd Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 4th Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas Tone 6

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

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, SS Constantine & Helen*

St. Isaiah the Solitary 27 Texts on Guarding the Intellect

II. The demons cunningly withdraw for a time in the hope that we will cease to guard our heart, thinking we have now attained peace; then they suddenly attack our unhappy soul and seize it like a sparrow. Gaining possession of it, they drag it down mercilessly into all kinds of sin, worse than those which we have already committed and for which we have asked forgiveness. Let us stand, therefore, with fear of God and keep guard over our heart, practicing the virtues which check the wickedness of our enemies.

Announcements for February 25th

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 the Azle Mission.

Temple Wine in thanksgiving for Elizabeth Terry's recovery of health; for the health and salvation of Subdeacon Michael, Maria, Elias, Connor, and Ian.

Congratulations to Reader Vasilios and Elizabeth Colias on the birth of their daughter Kyranna on Clean Monday.

Liturgy of St. Basil is served the five Sundays of Great Lent, of which our usual Liturgy of St. John is an abbreviation. Listen carefully to the anaphora (the long prayer surrounding the offering of the gifts). It is rich and recounts all that God has done for us.

Sunday of Orthodoxy today will feature the Molieben inside the church in place of the procession around the church with icons after the Liturgy.

Confessions: Everyone should plan on coming to Confession during the Fast. Please plan to make yours before Holy Week.

Pan-Orthodox Vespers: Per local custom in DFW, Vespers will be served each of the five Sunday evenings of the fast at one of the local Orthodox churches. Tonight, it will be at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas at 6:00. A meal will follow.

The Fast: Second Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), oil, and marital relations. 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 take two meals a day on Saturday and Sunday. We join increased prayer and almsgiving to our fasting and cut back on (or cut out) all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ.

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.

The Next Men's Meeting will be Thursday, March 8 at the church at 7:00 p.m. We meet for food, fellowship, and to focus on one or two of Christ's commandments.

Classes This Week

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy.

Friday, 10 a.m. Spiritual Psalter

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$114,000. Our goal is \$130,000 by Pascha.

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 \$1900 in tithes and offerings; in February, we have given \$7761; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$?, Special Offering for Seminarian \$15; IOCC \$25; Building Fund \$80.41. 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 for awhile.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.38 It is a great achievement not to be attracted by things. But it is a far greater achievement to remain dispassionate in the face both of things and of the conceptual images we derive from them.

3.39 Love and self-control keep the intellect dispassionate in the face both of things and of the conceptual images we form of them.

3.40 The intellect of a man who enjoys the love of God does not fight against things or against conceptual images of them. It battles against the passions which are linked with these images. It does not, for example, fight against a woman, or against a man who has

offended it, or even against the images it forms of them; but it fights against the passions which are linked with the images.

3.41 The whole purpose of the monk's warfare against the demons is to separate the passions from conceptual images. Otherwise he will not be able to look on things dispassionately.

3.42 A thing, a conceptual image and a passion are all quite different one from the other. For example, a man, a woman, gold and so forth are things; a conceptual image is a passion-free thought of one of these things; a passion is mindless affection or indiscriminate hatred for one of these same things. The monk's battle is therefore against passion.

3.43 An impassioned conceptual image is a thought compounded of passion and a conceptual image. If we separate the passion from the conceptual image, what remains is the passion-free thought. We can make this separation by means of spiritual love and self-control, if only we have the will.

3.44 The virtues separate the intellect from the passions; spiritual contemplation separates it from its passion-free conceptual images of things; pure prayer brings it into the presence of God Himself.

Troparia and Kontakia for February 18th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

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.

“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*