

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, March 4th, 2018

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*

March 5th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 6th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 7th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

March 8th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Men's Meeting

March 9th 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 10th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 11th Sunday of the Cross Palamas Tone 7

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

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, SS John the Baptist, Euloss*

St. Isaiah the Solitary 27 Texts on Guarding the Intellect

12. Our teacher Jesus Christ, out of pity for mankind and knowing the utter mercilessness of the demons, severely commands us: 'Be ready at every hour, for you do not know when the thief will come; do not let him come and find you asleep' (cf. Matt. 24:42-43). He also says: 'Take heed, lest your hearts be overwhelmed with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of this life, and the hour come upon you unawares' (cf. Luke 21:34). Stand guard, then, over your heart and keep a watch on your senses; and if the remembrance of God dwells peaceably within you, you will catch the thieves when they try to deprive you of it. When a man has an exact knowledge about the nature of thoughts, he recognizes those which are about to enter and defile him, troubling the intellect with distractions and making it lazy. Those who recognize these evil thoughts for what they are remain undisturbed and continue in prayer to God.

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

Announcements for March 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 Interfaith Ministries, a local Denton charity directed to helping those in need with essentials. This is part of our almsgiving.

Lenten Almsgiving: this Lent, the parish is supporting the ministry of Loreto house and also Interfaith Ministry. An email was sent out February 26 about the latter. A box is placed in the hall to collect the following for Interfaith: diapers sizes 5 & 6, ethnic haircare products, tooth brushes, lip balm, deodorant, pop top canned food, sunscreen, bottled water. We also will take donations of canned goods for our own parish food pantry.

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

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

A Change In Schedule this week is likely, due to the death of Matushka's father Charles and the upcoming funeral, to be determined. Watch for an announcement sent out by email.

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 SS Constantine & Helen Orthodox Church, Carrollton, at 6:00. A meal will follow.

The Fast: Third 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. 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.

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

Eucharistic Fasting for the Liturgies of the Presanctified Gifts should begin no later than 12:30 this week.

Classes This Week

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy.

Friday, 10 a.m. Spiritual Psalter

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$114,550. 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 Azle Mission \$53.05; Building Fund \$610. Attendance: Vigil 27; Sunday Liturgy 137.

Please Pray for Matushka Michelle, 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

3.45 The virtues exist for the sake of the knowledge of creatures; knowledge for the sake of the knower; the knower, for the sake of Him who is known through unknowing and who knows beyond all knowledge.

3.46 God, full beyond all fullness, brought creatures into being not because He had need of anything, but so that they might participate in Him in proportion to their capacity and that He Himself might rejoice in His works (cf. Ps. 104:31), through seeing them joyful and ever filled to overflowing with His inexhaustible gifts.

Troparia and Kontakia for March 4th

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.

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 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 theology, / 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.

“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*