

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, March 11th, 2018

March 11th Sunday of the Cross Tone 7

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

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

March 12th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 13th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 14th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

March 15th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 16th 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 17th Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 18th Sunday St. John of the Ladder Tone 8

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

6:00 p.m. *Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Demetrios, Fort Worth*

St. Isaiah the Solitary 27 Texts on Guarding the Intellect

15. I entreat you not to leave your heart unguarded, so long as you are in the body. Just as a farmer cannot feel confident about the crop growing in his fields, because he does not know what will happen to it before it is stored away in his granary, so a man should not leave his heart unguarded so long as he still has breath in his nostrils. Up to his last breath he cannot know what passion will attack him; so long as he breathes, therefore, he must not leave his heart unguarded, but should at every moment pray to God for His help and mercy.

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

Announcements for March 11th

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 Seminarian Dn. Daniel Greeson.

Lenten Almsgiving: this Lent, the parish is supporting the ministry of Loreto house and also Interfaith Ministries. 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 and Oil given in thanksgiving by Eudokia Stevenson.

Mission Council will meet today.

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 St. John the Baptist, Eules, at 6:00. A meal will follow. Next week Fr. Justin will speak at the Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Demetrios in Fort Worth.

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: \$117,508.28. Our goal is \$130,000 by Pascha.

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

During Liturgy, the Hall should be empty except for parents who have taken small children out to calm or correct them and catechumens who have left following the dismissal of the catechumens. We do not do well to leave the Liturgy to linger in the hall and talk to others. If you must leave the Liturgy for some good reason, remain prayerful by saying the Jesus Prayer, take care of business with dispatch, and come back into the church. Parents, children should not be permitted to wander in and out on their own. They should not be getting water, and they should have no need to go repeatedly to the bathroom. This is to maintain good order in the church, to keep us focused on Christ and keep us from distracting others, and to protect our children.

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 \$1806.72 in tithes and offerings; in February, we gave \$13,941.92; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$79.50, Special Offering for Interfaith Ministries \$112.50; Building Fund \$109.01. Attendance: Vigil 41; Sunday Liturgy 123.

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

3.47 There are many people in the world who are poor in spirit, but not in the way that they should be; there are many who mourn, but for some financial loss or the death of their children; many are

gentle, but towards unclean passions; many hunger and thirst, but only to seize what does not belong to them and to profit from injustice ; many are merciful, but towards their bodies and the things that serve the body; many are pure in heart, but for the sake of self-esteem; many are peacemakers, but by making the soul submit to the flesh; many are persecuted, but as wrongdoers; many are reviled, but for shameful sins. Only those are blessed who do or suffer these things for the sake of Christ and after His example. Why? Because theirs is the kingdom of heaven, and they shall see God (cf. Matt. 5:3-12). It is not because they do or suffer these things that they are blessed, for those of whom we have spoken above do the same; it is because they do them and suffer them for the sake of Christ and after His example.

3.48 As has been said many times, in everything we do God examines our motive, to see whether we are doing it for His sake or for some other purpose. Thus when we desire to do something good, we should not do it for the sake of popularity; we should have God as our goal, so that, with our gaze always fixed on Him, we may do everything for His sake. Otherwise we shall undergo all the trouble of performing the act and yet lose the reward.

Troparia and Kontakia for March 11th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

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.”

“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*