

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, February 17th, 2019

February 17th Sunday tone 5 Publican & Pharisee

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Church School, Basics 103

February 19th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Reader Matins

February 20th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Reader Matins

7:00 p.m. Reader Vespers

February 21st Thursday

6:00 a.m. Reader Matins

February 22nd Friday

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodox 202 Fasting 2

February 23rd Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 24th Sunday tone 6 Prodigal Son

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Church School, Basics 103

St. Diodochus: 100 Chapters on Spiritual Knowledge & Discrimination

Definition of *Humility*: attentive forgetfulness of what one has accomplished.

3. Evil does not exist by nature, nor is any man naturally evil, for God made nothing that was not good. When in the desire of his heart someone conceives and gives form to what in reality has no existence, then what he desires begins to exist. We should therefore turn our attention away from the inclination to evil and concentrate it on the remembrance of God; for good, which exists by nature, is more powerful than our inclination to evil. The one has existence while the other has not, except when we give it existence through our actions.

4. All men are made in God's image; but to be in His likeness is granted only to those who through great love have brought their own freedom into subjection to God. For only when we do not belong to ourselves do we become like Him who through love has reconciled us to Himself. No one achieves this unless he persuades his soul not to be distracted by the false glitter of this life.

Announcements for February 17th

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 with the priest 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 (within the last month or so).

The Special Offering this week is for the local Loreto House ministry to unwed mothers.

Temple Wine offered for the health and salvation of William and Ashlee and for the blessed repose of Carolyn; **Temple Oil** offered for the health and salvation of Rachel, for the blessed repose of Alexandria

Team Five is cleaning today, last names Skelton through Wells.

Axios, Axios, Axios, to newly-ordained Deacon Michael Rehmet, and many years!

Pastoral Conference: Fr. Justin will attend the Diocese of the South's annual pastoral conference this week, which means he will be gone Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Triodion: Today, the Church opens the Triodion, the book of hymns we use in services during the Great Fast. This Sunday and the next three are preparatory for the Fast.

Children's Bake Sale next Sunday during coffee hour. Young, aspiring bakers are invited to present their goods.

Forgiveness Vespers will be served at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 10, liturgically to mark the start of the Great Fast and to offer forgiveness to one another. All who consider this parish their home should plan to attend. As is our wont, we shall go out to Beth Marie's on the square for ice cream afterwards.

Classes this Week:

Sunday at the bell during coffee hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 103
Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox 202 on Fasting 2

Building Fund Watch

"Establish Thou this holy house, even unto the consummation of the age."

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$201,100.

New goal: \$225,000 by Pascha, \$300,000 by end of year. We probably need to raise \$500,000 before we start building per the current plan. With *everyone* pulling together, we can do this with God's help.

Confessions at Matins: If you wish to confess after Matins on a weekday, please let the priest know the day before that you plan to come.

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). Alms may be placed in the box above the candle table.

Last week, we gave \$3050 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$5039; our monthly budget is \$15,112; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$, Special Offering for Building Fund \$120.36, New Icons \$100, Prison Ministry \$10. Attendance last week: Vigil 91 (record): Sunday Liturgy 150.

Please Pray for our new catechumens Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin, our catechumens Donna Lange, Jonathan Kidd, Katelyn Davis, Chris Day, and the Heitzenrater family: John, Christina, Madeleine, Margaret, Aemelia, John "William", Isabella, Mary Elizabeth, Thomas, Charles, Charlotte; for Esteban Lopez, Brian, Adrienne, and Hannah Freas; for our inquirers the Dean family, Robert Peterson, David & Anita Charpie and their children, for Robert Osborne; for the nun Susannah. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher.

From Saint Maximus 200 Chapters on Knowledge

Having completed the 400 Chapters on love between October 2016 and last Sunday, we'll look at some selections from another of his works for a season.

1.15 God has freed us from bitter slavery to tyrannical demons and has given us humility as a compassionate yoke of devoutness. It is humility which tames every demonic power, produces in those who accept it every kind of sanctity, and keeps that sanctity inviolate.

1.16 He who believes fears; he who fears is humble; he who is humble becomes gentle and renders inactive those impulses of incensiveness and desire which are contrary to nature. A person who is gentle keeps the commandments; he who keeps the commandments is purified; he who is purified is illumined; he who is illumined is made a consort of the divine Bridegroom and Logos in the shrine of the mysteries.

Troparia and Kontakia for February 17th

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.

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.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

St. Maximus, Kontakion, tone 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

Publican and Pharisee, Kontakion, tone 3

As the Publican let us bring cries of sorrow to the Lord, / and let us fall before him as sinners at the Master's feet. / For He desireth the salvation of all men; / He granteth forgiveness unto all that repent, / and He hath for our sake taken flesh, / though He is God // coeternal with the Father.

“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*
