

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, February 24th, 2019

February 24th Sunday tone 6 Prodigal Son

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

February 26th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

2:30 p.m. Class: Sermon on the Mount

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 27th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Class: *400 Chapters on Love*

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 28th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

March 1st Friday

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodox 202 Almsgiving 1

March 2nd Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 3rd Sunday tone 7 Last Judgment

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

St. Diodochus: 100 Chapters on Spiritual Knowledge & Discrimination

Definition of *Purity*: unwavering perception of God.

4. Free will is the power of a deiform soul to direct itself by deliberate choice towards whatever it decides. Let us make sure that our soul directs itself deliberately only towards what is good, so that we always consume our remembrance of evil with good thoughts.

5. The light of true knowledge is the power to discriminate without error between good and evil. Then the path of righteousness leads the intellect upward towards the Sun of Righteousness and brings it into the boundless illumination of spiritual knowledge, so that henceforward it will grow more and more confident in its quest for love. With an incensive power free from anger we should snatch righteousness from the hands of those who dare to outrage it, since the aspiration for holiness triumphs not by hating others, but by convincing them of their faults.

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

Announcements for February 24th

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 our seminarian fund.

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 One is cleaning today, last names A through Davis.

Children's Bake Sale will be held *next* Sunday, God willing.

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

Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:20-29

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. *400 Chapters on Love, 4.1-25*

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox 202 on Almsgiving 1

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 39; Sunday Liturgy 138.

Please Pray for our catechumens Donna Lange, Jonathan Kidd, Katelyn Davis, Chris Day, the Heitzenrater family: John, Christina, Madeleine, Margaret, Aemelia, John "William", Isabella, Mary Elizabeth, Thomas, Charles, Charlotte, Nicholas; for Esteban Lopez, Brian, Adrienne, and Hannah Freas, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin; 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.

1.17 Sometimes when a farmer is looking for a suitable spot to which to transplant a tree, he unexpectedly comes across a treasure. Something similar may happen to the seeker after God. If he is humble and unaffected, and if his soul, after the example of the blessed Jacob (cf. Gen. 27:11), is sleek, and not hirsute with materiality, then God may grant him the contemplation of divine wisdom even though he has not labored for it. But if the Father then asks him how he came by this knowledge, saying to him 'What is this you have found so quickly, My son?' he should reply, as Jacob did, 'It is what the Lord God has granted to me' (Gen. 27:20. LXX). We should realize in such a case that what he has found is a spiritual treasure; for the devoted seeker after God is a spiritual farmer who transplants, as if it were a tree, his contemplation of visible and sensory things to the field of noetic realities; and in so doing he find a treasure - the revelation by grace of the wisdom in created things.

1.18 Although in his humility he has not expected it, the seeker after God may suddenly receive spiritual knowledge of divine contemplation. But this may so devastate the mind of someone else who is unsuccessfully toiling to acquire such knowledge for the sake of self-display that, mad with jealousy, he plots to murder his brother and grows sick with resentment because he does not experience the elation that comes from being praised.

Troparia and Kontakia for February 24th

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.

Head of Forerunner, Troparion, tone 4

The head of the Forerunner, which hath shone forth from the earth, / doth shed rays of incorruption and healing upon the faithful. / On high it assembleth a multitude of angels, / and below it calleth upon the human race // to send up with one voice glory to Christ God.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human dough, / for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

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.

Head of Forerunner, Kontakion, tone 2

O prophet of God and Forerunner of grace, / having obtained thy head from the earth like a most sacred rose, / we ever receive healings, // for again, as of old, thou dost preach repentance to the world.

Prodigal Son, Kontakion, tone 3

Foolishly have I run away from Thy glory, O Father, / wasting in sin the wealth that Thou gavest me. / Therefore with the words of the Prodigal I cry unto Thee: / I have sinned before Thee, compassionate Father. / Accept me in repentance and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

“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*
