

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, March 3rd, 2019

March 3rd Sunday tone 7 Last Judgment; Meatfare

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

March 5th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 6th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 7th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

March 8th Friday

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

March 9th Saturday 40 Martyrs of Sebaste

6:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

8:00 a.m. Men's Meeting

12:00 p.m. Baptism of Alexei Sidorenko

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

March 10th Sunday tone 8 Adam's Expulsion from Paradise; Cheesefare

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

6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers, Ice Cream at Beth Marie's

St. Diodochus: 100 Chapters on Spiritual Knowledge & Discrimination

Definition of *Love*: growing affection for those who abuse us.

6. 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.

Announcements for March 3rd

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 for the blessed repose of Carolyn.

Team Two is cleaning today, last names Dean through Kidd.

Children's Bake Sale will be held *today*. Take some time to sample their wares.

The Monthly Men's Meeting will be held next Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Please bring a meat-free dish to share.

Baptism of Alexei Sidorenko, next Saturday at noon.

Meatfare: Today is Meatfare Sunday, when we say goodbye to meat and animal products until Pascha. This upcoming week, we fast from meat *only* in preparation for the Fast.

Forgiveness Vespers will be served at 6:00 p.m. next 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 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.

The Council will request a certificate of appropriateness to build in front of our current building from the Denton Historical

Landmark Committee at their meeting April 8. Please pray that God's will be done for our parish

The New Icons will be shipped in a couple weeks. The iconographer is awaiting the construction of kiots to hold and protect the icons.

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 \$3608.47 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$8647; our monthly budget is \$15,112; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$62, Special Offering for Seminarian \$536. Attendance last week: Vigil 67; Sunday Liturgy 128.

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, Sumat, Makenna, 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.

1.19 Those who seek spiritual knowledge with much labor, but do not succeed in finding it, fail either through lack of faith or perhaps because in their stupidity and jealousy they have it in mind to attack those who possess knowledge, just as the people of old once attacked Moses. We can rightly apply to them the passage in Scripture which says that when some men tried to force their way up the mountain, the Amorites dwelling in that mountain came out and wounded them (cf. Deut. 1:43-44). For inevitably those who put on a show of holiness for the sake of self-display not only fail to achieve anything through their false piety, but also are wounded by their conscience.

1.20 He who pursues spiritual knowledge for the sake of display and fails to attain it should not envy his neighbor or be cast down. On the contrary, as commanded, let him observe the preparation for the Sabbath in some nearby place: through the practice of the virtues, by working hard with his body, he will prepare his soul for that knowledge.

Troparia and Kontakia for March 3rd

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.

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 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

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.

Last Judgment, Kontakion, tone 1

When Thou comest, O God, upon the earth with glory, / the whole world will tremble. / The river of fire will bring men before Thy judgment seat, / the books will be opened and the secrets disclosed. / Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, / and count me worthy to stand on Thy right hand, O most righteous Judge.

“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*
