

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday, February 23rd, A.D. 2020

February 23rd Sunday tone 3 Last Judgement; St. Polycarp
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Basics of Orthodoxy 101

February 25th Tuesday
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 26th Wednesday
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:00 p.m. Class: *The Field: Commands of Christ, Beatitudes*
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 27th Thursday St. Raphael of Brooklyn, St. Procopius
6:00 a.m. Matins
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession
6:00 p.m. College-Age Dinner and Discussion

February 28th Friday
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:00 p.m. Vespers
7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 301: Baptism

February 29th Saturday St. John Cassian
7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 23rd Sunday tone 4 Expulsion from Paradise; Forgiveness
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Basics of Orthodoxy 101
5:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers, Rite of Forgiveness

55 Maxims for Life, Fr. Thomas Hopko

32. Never bring attention to yourself.
33. Listen when people talk to you.
34. Be awake and be attentive.
35. Think and talk about things no more than necessary.
36. When we speak, speak simply, clearly, firmly and directly.
37. Flee imagination, analysis, figuring things out.
38. Flee carnal, sexual things at their first appearance.

Announcements for February 23

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 candle 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 today is for our building fund.

Many Years to the newly-illumined Euphemia Bramlett and her sponsor Melania Betz.

Meatfare: Today we say farewell to meat until Pascha. This week, we fast only in abstaining from animal flesh in preparation for the Fast.

Campus Ministry: There will be a dinner and discussion this Thursday evening at 6:00 at the church for college students.

Forgiveness Sunday is next Sunday. Forgiveness Vespers will be served at 5:00 p.m. We ask that everyone who makes this their home parish attend, as we begin the Fast by asking forgiveness of one another for our sins of commission and omission. Afterwards, as is our wont, we shall go to Beth Marie's for our last ice cream until Pascha.

Great Lent begins in one week. Please plan on keeping the first week known as Clean Week (March 3-7) as free from travel and other elective activities that you may begin the fast in church with the Canon of St. Andrew and in the proper spirit. The same goes for Holy Week, April 13-18. Plan and prepare now for keeping the fast for your spiritual benefit. Everyone should plan on making a good confession during it.

Classes this Week:

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 301 The Creed: Baptism
Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy 101

Pastoral Care: If you have a health emergency, are hospitalized, or having surgery (or know someone who is) and desire visitation; please contact Fr. Justin at (940) 293-3032 for prayer and anointing.

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 week, we gave \$1218.04 in tithes and offerings; in February, we have given \$6999.43; our monthly budget is \$17,560; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$71. Special Offering for St. Herman's Seminary \$98; the Building Fund \$0; Myrrhbearers \$403.36. Attendance last week: Vigil 61, Liturgy 136. *Please note: we do not report funds given electronically until the end of the month.*

Please Pray for our catechumens for our catechumens Robert Peterson, Makenna Baldwin, Mark Robertson, Mark Jones, Elizabeth Dakak, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin, and for our inquirers the Dean family, Robert Osborne, and. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher, who is seriously ill, for Elizabeth Terry, for Anna Pascale, and Thomas Harper who is in South America.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$254,720. Goal: \$300,000 by June 1. We may 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 and provision.

From Saint Maximus Commentary on the Lord's Prayer

He who prays to receive this daily bread [the Logos Himself], however, does not automatically receive it all as it is in itself: he receives it in accordance with his receptive capacity. For the Bread of Life in His love gives Himself to all who ask, but He does not give to all in the same way. He gives liberally to those who have done great things, and more sparingly to those who have achieved less. Thus He gives to each person in accordance with the receptive capacity of his or her intellect.

(Hopko, Maxims, continued from front)

39. Don't complain, mumble, murmur or whine.
40. Don't compare yourself with anyone.
41. Don't seek or expect praise or pity from anyone.
42. We don't judge anyone for anything.
43. Don't try to convince anyone of anything.
44. Don't defend or justify yourself.
45. Be defined and bound by God alone.
46. Accept criticism gratefully but test it critically.
47. Give advice to others only when asked or obligated to do so.
48. Do nothing for anyone that they can and should do for themselves.
49. Have a daily schedule of activities, avoiding whim and caprice.

50. Be merciful with yourself and with others.
51. Have no expectations except to be fiercely tempted to your last breath.
52. Focus exclusively on God and light, not on sin and darkness.
53. Endure the trial of yourself and your own faults and sins peacefully, serenely, because you know that God's mercy is greater than your wretchedness.
54. When we fall, get up immediately and start over.
55. Get help when you need it, without fear and without shame.

Troparia and Kontakia for February 23

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.
 / He hath delivered us from the womb of hell, / and hath granted 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.

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.

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*