

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, March 29th, A.D. 2020

March 29th Sunday tone 8 St. John of the Ladder

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

March 31st Tuesday St. Innocent

6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

April 1st Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Matins with the Great Canon of St. Andrew

April 2nd Thursday

6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

April 3rd Friday

7:00 p.m. Matins with the Akathist Hymn

April 4th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil

April 5th Sunday tone 1 St. Mary of Egypt

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

How To Conduct Oneself in Illness

5. When the condition of your soul in relation to eternity is secure in this way (points 1-4), turn your attention to its temporal condition. To wit, try quickly to make legal provisions regarding your property. Do not put it off for long, lest you have to spend the precious last minutes of your life, which you should use only for the soul, on temporal matters, and lest, in making your will, you commit some kind of injustice. Do not forget that carelessness in a legal will concerning property very often causes the greatest confusion and frequently hostility among the heirs that lasts their entire lives, and sometimes even after their deaths. Do not be responsible for other people's sins; make a proper will in good time.

6. While doing or after doing this, if you have the opportunity, call a physician and take the medicines that he prescribes. We should not avoid the physician, for *the Lord hath created him* says the wise one (Ecclesiasticus 38:12). But by no means should we think that only the doctor or medicines can do away with your illness. Not the doctor and not medicines, but only the Lord God grants healing. Therefore, at every visit to the doctor, put your hope only on the Lord God, because the Lord God enlightens the doctor and it is He Who gives healing power to the doctor's medicine. *The Lord . . . maketh alive* (I Kings 2:6). From *How to Live a Holy Life*, Met. Gregory

Announcements for March 29

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).

Commemorations: Though you are not present to offer your usual commemorations, please know that the priest commemorates all of you at the Proskomide as a matter of course. All of you are being brought before the Lord.

Livestreaming: We are streaming the service live today.

The Special Offering today is for the local Interfaith Ministries (again), as part of our Lenten almsgiving.

Temple Wine offered for the health and salvation of Dymphna, of Robert Rehmet, and in Memory of Thomas Boguski; **Temple Oil** offered for the health and salvation of William and Richard, and Joy Dobbs.

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.

Special Help: If anyone needs assistance with shopping or any other needs due to current conditions, please let us know. We have people willing to help.

No Class or Coffee Hours will be held this week. Confessions are readily available by appointment.

Lenten Almsgiving: We shall be collecting money and goods to support Interfaith Ministries. The needed goods include diapers (esp sizes 3-6), toilet paper, paper towels, full-sized toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash/soap, toothpaste), laundry detergent pods, deodorant, new socks, single toothbrush packages, copy paper, file folders. We also have our own almsbox and our own food pantry, which accepts canned goods.

Presanctified Liturgy. God willing, will be celebrated Thursday and Friday, and the Great Canon Wednesday. We plan to stream them live.

The Fast: Fifth 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.

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 \$1541.50 in tithes and offerings; in March we have given \$10,592; our monthly budget is \$17,560; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$49.50. *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, Kristen Hatten, Rebekah Kruse, Robert Boguski, Branson, Drew (Andrew), Haydon Grosch, Andrew, and Carter. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher, for Elizabeth Terry, for Thomas Harper who is in South America, and for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$254,900. 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 400 Chapters on Love

- 1.17 Blessed is he who can love all men equally.
- 1.18 Blessed is he who is not attached to anything transitory or corruptible.
- 1.19 Blessed is the intellect that transcends all sensible objects and ceaselessly delights in divine beauty.
- 1.20 If you make provision for the desires of the flesh (cf. Rom. 13:14) and bear a grudge against your neighbor on account of something transitory, you worship the creature instead of the Creator.

1.21 If you keep your body free from disease and sensual pleasure it will help you to serve what is more noble.

Troparia and Kontakia for March 29

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, 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.

Sunday of John Climacus, Troparion tone 1

O John, our father, saint of God, thou was revealed as a citizen of the desert, / an angel in a body and a worker of miracles. / Through fasting, prayer and vigils, / thou hast received heavenly gifts of grace, / and thou healest the sick and the souls of those that turn to thee with faith. / Glory be to Him who gave thee strength; / glory, be to Him who crowned thee / glory be to Him who through thee granteth to all men healing.

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.

John Climacus, Kontakion, tone 4

Truly the Lord hath set thee as fixed star in the firmament of abstinence, / giving light to the ends of the earth / O father John our teacher.

“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*
