

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Warden: Adam Skelton; Treasurer: Meghan Jones; Council Members: David Charpie,
Brian Freas, Jonathan Strand

Bulletin for Sunday, February 7th, 2021

February 7th Sunday New Martyrs of Russia

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

4:00 p.m. Vespers

February 8th Monday Great Martyr Theodore the General

6:00 a.m. Matins

5:00 p.m. Vespers

February 9th Tuesday Leavetaking of the Meeting

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers

February 10th Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Vespers

February 11th Thursday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

4:00 p.m. Vespers

February 12th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

February 13th Saturday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

February 14th Zacchaeus Sunday

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

Jean-Claude Larchet, the Fathers on Gluttony

Through the passion of gluttony food acquires a value in itself and is used for sensual pleasure instead of being considered a gift from God and used to glorify Him who created it herein also lies its diversion from its natural end goal, being to give thanks to God. Christ Himself reveals this end purpose and shows us an example of the normal attitude when he give thanks to the Father (*cont. on p. 3*)

Announcements for February 7

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, and fellowship. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the candle table by the door.

Temple Oil offered for the health and salvation of .

Attendance at Services: attendance remains somewhat limited. Please email or text the priest if you desire to come to Liturgy on Sunday. As there is always room at Vespers, Matins, Vigils, and Liturgies during the week, feel free to attend those services, but it does help the priest to know you plan to attend a Liturgy. Please pray faithfully at home: read Vespers Saturday evening, and the Hours and the Typica Sunday morning if you are not attending church that day, joining thereby with your brethren in spirit.

The Special Offering today will be for alms.

Many Years to the newly illumined servants of God Tabitha Dakak, and Dimitry, Justin, Juliana, and Anastasia Morris and their sponsors.

Church School: The teen class will resume meeting today upstairs after Divine Liturgy. They will initially be reading and discussing the second half of Elder Thaddeus' book *Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives*. All teens welcome.

Classes this Week

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Need for a Prayer Rule

Confession will be heard after Vespers, and Vigil during the week or by appointment. It helps the priest if you let him know ahead of time that you are planning to come, but not required.

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 \$2332.50 in tithes and offerings; in January, we gave \$15,553.34 plus \$8849.31 electronically for a total of \$24,042.65; candles \$145; special offering for St. Elisabeth \$54.27 building fund \$100; our monthly budget is \$17,560; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). May God bless you for your faithful giving! *Please note: we do not report funds given electronically until the end of the month.*

Visit from Belarus: Lay Sister Maria from the St. Elizabeth convent will visit us Wednesday at Vespers and Thursday at Liturgy and will speak to us about the monastery and its various ministries.

Please Pray for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Robert Boguski, Branson Clements, Peter Dimitrov & Haley Smith, and for our inquirers the Dean family, Drew (Andrew), Haydon Grosch, Ethan Peterson, Lance Rawlinson, Vincent Howell, Johnny Jelinek, Delsie Bussell, Dave and Carter Sims. Pray for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, and for all in need.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$322,772.21.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.59 Guard yourself from that mother of vices, self-love, which is mindless love for the body. For it gives birth with specious justification to the three first and most general of the impassioned thoughts. I mean those of gluttony, avarice and self-esteem, which take as their pretext some so-called need of the body. All further vices are generated by these three. You must therefore be on your guard, as we have already said, and fight against self-love with great vigilance. For when this vice is eradicated, all the others are eradicated too..

2.60 The passion of self-love suggests to the monk that he should have pity on his body and in the name of its proper care and governance should take food more often than is fitting; for in this way self-love will lead him on step by step to fall into the pit of self-indulgence. On the other hand, self-love prompts those who are not monks to fulfill the body's desires at once.

2.64 When the body sins through material things, it has the bodily virtues to teach it self-restraint. Similarly, when the intellect sins through impassioned conceptual images, it has the virtues of the soul to instruct it, so that by seeing things in a pure and dispassionate way, it too may learn self-restraint.

(cont. from front) before distributing the bread to those around Him. St. Paul also clearly affirms that God created food so that it might be 'received with thanksgiving' and consequently advises: 'So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, to all to the glory of God.' Gluttony consists of a true perversion of the essential end goal of food, which is to be consumed Eucharistically, since in this passion, man wishes to delight in food in itself apart from God, instead of delighting in food in God and delighting in God through food. By means of food he erects a barrier between God and himself instead of utilizing them as a support in elevating himself to God. *Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses I, p. 153-4.*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 7

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

New Martyrs of Russia, Troparion, tone 4

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passion bearers and pastors, / monks and laymen, ye countless new martyrs and confessors, / men, women, and children, / flowers of the spiritual meadow of Russia, / who blossomed forth wondrously in time of grievous persecutions, / bearing good fruit for Christ in your endurance: / Entreat Him as the One who planted you, / that He deliver His people from godless and evil men, / and that the Church of Russia / be made steadfast through your blood and suffering, // unto the salvation of our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

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.

New Martyrs of Russia, Kontakion, tone 2

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, / who have with you r confession finished the course of this earth, / receiving boldness through your sufferings: / Beseech Christ who strengthened you, / that we also, whenever the hour of trial find us, / may receive the gift of courage from God. / For ye are a model for us who venerate your struggle; / for neither tribulation, prison, nor death / could separate you from the love of God.

“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*
