

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

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

Bulletin for Sunday, February 14th, 2021

February 14th Zacchaeus Sunday

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

February 15th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Vespers

February 16th Tuesday St. Nicholas of Japan

6:00 a.m. Matins

February 17th Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Vespers

February 18th Thursday St. Leo the Great

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers

February 19th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

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

February 20th Saturday

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

February 21st Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

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

Jean-Claude Larchet, The Fathers on Lust

Abuse—or to be more exact, a misuse—exists when man makes use of his sexuality by thinking only of the accompanying pleasure and when he makes pleasure the end goal of his activity in this domain.

Love constitutes the first end goal of sexual union, as well as the many spiritual benefits man can gain from this within marriage in conjunction with the other modes of conjugal union. However, we must make clear that conjugal love is seen from the Christian perspective as the union of two persons—that is, two beings thought of in their (*cont. on p. 3*)

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

Announcements for February 14

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 Wine offered for the health and salvation of Richard Rodgers and Mykola Tokaryev; **Temple Oil** offered in memory of Nina Tokaryeva.

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 St. Gabriel Mission, Azle.

The Lenten Triodion is opened next Sunday, signalling the beginning of the pre-Lenten season.

Classes this Week

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: A Rule of Prayer

Confession will be heard after Vespers (except Friday), 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 \$4513.50 in tithes and offerings; candles \$123; special offering for Alms \$132; building fund \$420; 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.*

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 & Melissa & 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

2.65 Just as night follows day and winter summer, so distress and pain follow self-esteem and sensual pleasure, either in this life or after death.

2.66 No sinner can escape future judgment without experiencing in this life either voluntary hardships or afflictions he has not chosen.

2.67 There are said to be five reasons why God allows us to be assailed by demons. The first is so that, by attacking and counterattacking, we should learn to discriminate between virtue and vice. The second is so that, having acquired virtue through conflict and toil, we should keep it secure and immutable. The third is so that, when making progress in virtue, we should not become haughty but learn humility. The fourth is so that, having gained some experience of evil, we should 'hate it with perfect hatred' (cf. Ps. 139:22). The fifth and most important is so that, having achieved dispassion, we should forget neither our own weakness nor the power of Him who has helped us.

2.68 Just as the intellect of a hungry man imagines bread and that of a thirsty man water, so the intellect of a glutton imagines a profusion of foods, that of a sensualist the forms of women, that of a vain man worldly honor, that of an avaricious man financial gain, that of a rancorous man revenge on whoever has offended him, that of an envious man how to harm the object of his envy, and so on with all the other passions. For an intellect agitated by passions is beset by impassioned conceptual images whether the body is awake or asleep.

(Larchet, cont. from front) wholeness, on the one hand, and in their spiritual nature on the other—in Christ and with the Kingdom in mind; a union sealed as to its nature and purpose by the grace of the Spirit conferred in the sacrament of marriage. This conception subordinates sexual union, along with all other modes of spousal union, to the spiritual dimension of their being and love. Sexual union must thus be preceded ontologically by the spiritual union that confers meaning and value on the physical one only on these grounds can the end goal of sexual union be respected as well as that of the nature of the beings brought into relation by it.

When the sexual union is lived independently of its spiritual context, being exercised only with the aim of the sensual pleasure that it procures, it inevitably mutilates man by profoundly perverting the normal order of his relationship to God, himself, and his neighbor. *Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses I, p. 160, 161, 162*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 14

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. Auxentius, Troparion, tone 1

A dweller in the desert, an angel in the flesh / and a wonder-worker wast thou shown to be, O our God-bearing father Auxentius. /
Receiving heavenly gifts through fasting, vigils, and prayers, / thou healest the infirm and the souls of those who with faith have recourse to thee. / Glory to Him who hath given thee strength. / Glory to Him who hath crowned thee! // Glory to Him who worketh healings for all through thee!

Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

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.

St. Auxentius, Kontakion, tone

Delighting in abstinence / and restraining the desires of the flesh, / O divinely wise and sacred father, Auxentius, / thou wast shown forth, shining with faith, / and didst blossom like a plant in the midst of paradise.

“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*
