

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 21st, 2021

February 21st Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 22nd Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Vespers

February 23rd Tuesday St. Polycarp

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 24th Wednesday No Fast

7:00 p.m. Vespers

February 25th Thursday St. Tarasius

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers

February 26th Friday No Fast

6:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

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

February 27th Saturday St. Raphael of Brooklyn

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

February 28th Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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

Jean-Claude Larchet, The Fathers on Lust

In its normal use, sanctified by the sacrament of marriage and spiritually integrated and transfigured by the love lived by the spouses in God, sexuality—like all other modes of union—is transparent to God. It realizes analogically on its level the union of Christ and the Church, thus attaining a mystical meaning. On the contrary, sexual union in lust becomes an obstacle for man in his meeting with God. It ceases to be the expression of the love anchored in the Spirit on a certain level and hence a spiritual act (since it is spiritualized), thereby becoming a purely carnal (*cont. on p. 3*)

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

Announcements for February 21

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 Ashlee Dean & Richard Rodgers and in memory of Alexandria Dean.

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 today, signalling the beginning of the pre-Lenten season.

Fast-Free Week: This week, we begin preparing for the Great Fast by having a week without fasting.

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 \$1352.63 in tithes and offerings; in February, we have given \$5865.13; candles \$65.50; special offering for St. Gabriel Mission \$0; building fund \$50; 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

2.69 When desire grows strong, the intellect in sleep imagines things that give sensual pleasure; and when the incensive power grows strong, it imagines things that cause fear. For the impure demons, finding an ally in our negligence, strengthen and excite the passions. But holy angels, by inducing us to perform works of virtue, make them weaker.

2.70 When the desiring aspect of the soul is frequently excited, it implants in the soul a habit of self-indulgence which is difficult to break. When the soul's incensive power is constantly stimulated, it becomes in the end cowardly and unmanly. The first of these failings is cured by long exercise in fasting, vigils and prayer; the second by kindness, compassion, love and mercy.

2.71 The demons fight against us either through things themselves or through our impassioned conceptual images of these things. They fight through things against those who are occupied with things and through conceptual images against those who are not attached to things.

2.72 Just as it is easier to sin in the mind than in action, so warfare through our impassioned conceptual images of things is harder than warfare through the things themselves.

(Larchet, cont. from front) act, turned in on itself and opaque to all transcendence. Pleasure taken as an end in itself become an absolute for man that excludes God and takes His place. Through lust, man makes an idol out of his sensual pleasure.

Henceforth man no longer sees the centre of his being in the image of God, which he bears, but rather in his sexual functions. He is in a way reduced to these just as he who is dominated by the passion of gluttony is himself reduced—as we have seen—to his gustative and digestive functions. Many is thus thrown off centre and lives outside himself; he is alienated. When the sexual function is not subordinated to spiritual love, as it should be, it comes to occupy a disproportionate, even exclusive, place in man, substituting brute and instinctive desire for love. *Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses I, p. 162-3*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 21

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting 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 4

My Saviour and Deliverer as God/ hath raised out of the grave the earth-born from their bonds / and He hath shattered the gates of hell / and as Master / He hath risen on the third day.

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.

Publican and Pharisee, Kontakion, tone 3

As the Publican let us bring cries of sorrow to the Lord, / and let us fall before him as sinners at the Master's feet. / For He desireth the salvation of all men; / He granteth forgiveness unto all that repent, / and He hath for our sake taken flesh, / though He is God // coeternal with the Father.

Publican and Pharisee, Kontakion, tone 4 *Not in Slav typicon*

Let us flee from the proud speaking of the Pharisee / and learn the humility of the Publican, / and with groaning let us cry unto the Savior: / Be merciful to us, // for Thou alone art ready to forgive.

“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*
