

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Warden: Adam Skelton; Treasurer: Meghan Jones; Council Members: David Charpie,
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Bulletin for Sunday, February 28th, 2021

February 28th Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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

March 1st Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Mission Council

March 2nd Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

March 3rd Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Vespers

March 4th Thursday Ven. Gerasimus

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers

March 5th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

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

March 6th Memorial Saturday

9:00 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

March 7th Sunday of the Last Judgement

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

Jean-Claude Larchet, The Fathers on Lust

It thus appears that under the influence of lust, man sees his neighbour as he is not, and does not see him as he is. In other words, he acquires a delirious vision of those whom his passion has him encounter. Henceforth, all his relations with them are completely perverted. The pathological and pathogenic character of lust is sufficiently apparent to us on different levels so that we may understand well that the Fathers frequently qualify it as an illness and see in it a form of madness. . . . (cont. on p. 3)

Announcements for February 28

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.

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 our seminarians.

Many Years to Morwenna Jessica Prickett being baptized this afternoon in preparation for her marriage to Benedict Patrick next Sunday.

Commemorative Prospora: Please remember to pick up your prosporon and your commemorative book or sheet. If you submit a list of names to be commemorated, you will have a prosporon from which particles were taken for the names on your list. Many are being left at church these days. If you wish names to be commemorated at the Proskomide (the secret part of Liturgy) but do not want a prosporon, or will not be there at Liturgy to pick it up, please write "no prosporon."

Classes this Week

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

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 \$3532.43 in tithes and offerings; in February, we have given \$9397.55; candles \$20; special offering for St. Gabriel Mission \$35; building fund \$850; 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.*

Confession will be heard after Vespers (except Friday), and Vigil during the week or by appointment. Please try to let the priest you intend to come.

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: \$323,537.21.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.73 Things are outside the intellect, but the conceptual images of these things are formed within it. It is consequently in the intellect's power to make good or bad use of these conceptual images. Their wrong use is followed by the misuse of the things themselves.

2.74 The intellect receives impassioned conceptual images in three ways: through the senses, through the body's condition and through the memory. It receives them through the senses when the senses themselves receive impressions from things in relation to which we have acquired passion, and when these things stir up impassioned thoughts in the intellect; through the body's condition when, as a result either of an undisciplined way of life, or of the activity of demons, or of some illness, the balance of elements in the body is disturbed and again the intellect is stirred to impassioned thoughts or to thoughts contrary to providence; through the memory when the memory recalls the conceptual images of things in relation to which we were once made passionate, and so stirs up impassioned thoughts in a similar way.

(Larchet, cont. from front) The patristic teaching on lust, as we have already been able to observe in the extracts presented above, show three main outstanding pathological effects of this passion: "A disturbance and agitation of the soul, which accompany the exercise of the passion from the birth of the desire until its assuagement.

A restlessness accompanying the passion from the beginning, in the search for its object and in the elaboration of the means permitting its attainment (along with all this implies—particularly uncertainty, the anxious awaiting of this or the fear of lacking it". Likewise, a restlessness that follows the satisfaction of the desire. The pleasure disappears almost as soon as it appears, leaving behind in the soul a taste all the more bitter, since man had made of it an absolute and expected a full and complete satisfaction. From that point on, the impassioned person experience a feeling of frustration accompanied by anxiety and sometimes, even anguish. Under the influence of his passion, he believes he can remedy his state of suffering by the renewal of pleasure. Thus the desire, barely satisfied, is

born anew with all its anxieties. This restlessness increasingly grows as the exercise of the passion maintains and reinforces the power of the desire expressing it. At the same time, desire increases the importance given to pleasure, which only makes more painful the difficulties that are inevitably encountered in renewing the satisfaction of desire as often as the passion demands, as well as the disappointment resulting from the discrepancy between the impassioned person's expectation of pleasure and what is actually attained. *Larchet, Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses, vol. I p. 168-9*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, February 28

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

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 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

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.

Prodigal Son, Kontakion, tone 3

Foolishly have I run away from Thy glory, O Father,/ wasting in sin the wealth that Thou gavest me. / Therefore with the words of the Prodigal I cry unto Thee: /I have sinned before Thee, compassionate Father. /Accept me in repentance and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

“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*
