

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Bulletin for Sunday, March 14th, 2021

March 14th Forgiveness Sunday; Cheesefare; Expulsion

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

5:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers, Ice Cream Social

March 15th Clean Monday—Fast Begins

7:30 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Great Canon

March 16th Clean Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Great Canon

March 17th Clean Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

7:00 p.m. Great Canon

March 18th Clean Thursday

7:30 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Great Canon

March 19th Clean Friday

6:30 a.m. Matins

6:30 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Meal

March 20th Clean Saturday`

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

March 21st Sunday of Orthodoxy

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

1:00 p.m. Vespers

Let us set out with joy upon the season of the Fast, and prepare ourselves for spiritual combat. Let us purify our soul and cleanse our flesh; and, as we fast from food, let us abstain also from every passion. *Tridion, Forgiveness Vespers*

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

Announcements for March 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.

Attendance at Sunday Liturgy: remains somewhat limited. You may attend Vigil, Vespers, Matins, or Weekday Liturgies at will.

The Special Offering today will be for alms.

Many years to the newlywed Benedict and Morwenna! Many years to the newly-illuminated Evangeline Heitzenrater and her sponsors!

Forgiveness Vespers followed by the rite of forgiveness will be held today at 5:00. Ice cream and fellowship will follow.

Temple Wine offered for the health and salvation of Mary Rodgers.

Today is Cheesefare Sunday, on which we say farewell to dairy products and eggs until Pascha. The Fast begins tonight at midnight, as we begin Clean Week, the first week of the Fast. Strive to keep this week as clean from unnecessary distractions as possible and try to spend as much time in the services for a concentrated spiritual advance at the start of the Fast.

The Fast: Clean Week

In this strictest week of fasting for the year, we abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and marital relations. Those with the strength eat only one uncooked meal on Wednesday and one on Friday in the evening. Others eat similar meals on Tuesday and Thursday and so keep only Monday as a day of complete abstinence from food. Some may not be able even to do this. On weekends, two meals each day, at noon and in the evening, are permitted. Whatever level of fasting we do manage, we should keep this week as strictly as we possibly can with God's help. The rules of fasting are relaxed for the elderly, the very young, and those in poor health. As always, see your priest if you have questions how you should fast. To fasting we join prayer and almsgiving for spiritual gain. The daily services should be our priority this week, especially the Great Canon and the Presanctified Liturgy.

The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts will be served this week Wednesday at 4:00 and Friday at 6:30. Strictly, the Eucharistic Fast begins at midnight, but the bishops have blessed beginning it at noon for evening Presanctifieds. In general start the Eucharistic Fast six hours before the service is scheduled to start. In closer keeping with the logic of the Fast, some will not eat until after the Liturgy but will drink until the six-hour cutoff. Talk to your priest if you have questions or concerns.

Confessions will be heard after Vigil, weekday Vespers, and Matins. It helps the priest if you let him know you'd like to come, but it isn't a prerequisite for confessing. Everyone should plan on making a good Confession during the Fast *before* Holy Week. As Fr. Justin will be attending an Orthodox homeschool conference March 13-19, it is important that you not wait to the last minute.

No Basics Class this Week. The services serve as classes. The teen class on Sunday will meet.

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 \$3891.62 in tithes and offerings; candles \$124; special offering for seminarians \$54.64; building fund \$450; 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 & Molly Sims, Reid Jones. 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: \$293,000. We paid our civil engineer.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.78 Do not misuse your conceptual images of things, lest you are forced to make a wrong use of the things themselves. For if a man does not first sin in his mind, he will never sin in action..

2.79 The principal vices - stupidity, cowardice, licentiousness, injustice - are the 'image' of the 'earthly' man. The principal virtues - intelligence, courage, self-restraint, justice - are the 'image' of the 'heavenly' man. As we have borne the image of the earthly, let us also bear the image of the heavenly (cf. 1 Cor. 15:49).

2.80 If you wish to find the way that leads to life, look for it in the Way who says, 'I am the way, the door, the truth and the life' (John 10:7; 14:6), and there you will find it. Only let your search be diligent and painstaking, for 'few there are that find it' (Matt. 7:14) and if you are not among the few you will find yourself with the many.

2.81 Five things make a soul cut itself off from sin: fear of men, fear of judgment, hope of future reward, love of God and, lastly, the prompting of conscience.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, March 14

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto 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. 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.

Forgiveness Sunday, Kontakion, tone 6

O Master, Guide to wisdom, / Giver of prudent counsel, Instructor of the foolish and Champion of the poor, / make firm my heart and grant it understanding. / O Word of the Father, give me words, / for see, I shall not stop my lips / from crying out to Thee: I am fallen, / in Thy compassion have mercy on me.

"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*
