

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, March 7, 2010

Schedule of Services

March 7th Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Ss. Constantine & Helen, Dallas

March 8th Monday

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 9th Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

2:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 10th Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

March 11th Thursday

6:30 a.m. Matins

1:00 p.m. Class: St. Theophan, *Path of Salvation*

2:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

March 12th Friday

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

March 13th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil

March 14th Sunday of St. John of the Ladder

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vespers, St. Mary's, Colleyville

Let us humble the passions of the body through abstinence from food and the rejection of pleasures, and let us embrace with faith the Wood of the Cross: for it is exalted before us for our veneration, and it halloweth all men with the grace of God. So let us cry aloud unto the Lord: We thank Thee, O compassionate Master, who through the Cross dost save our souls.

Vespers of Monday of the Fourth Week

Announcements for March 7th

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation and church school for the children. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door. Be aware that shortly after the sermon, the catechumens, i.e., those preparing for Baptism & Chrismation, will be dismissed, but you are invited to stay for the rest of the service.

To All: Please be aware that Holy Communion is open only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves for worthy participation in the Mystery through prayer, fasting, and a recent confession to a priest (within the last month or so). We should be modestly dressed and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading).

Please Move Forward during the Liturgy! **Please be quiet** in the Narthex afterwards while the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion are being read in the church, or better yet, stay for the prayers lest you forget to read them on your own later.

The Special All-Parish Meeting will be held today after the Divine Liturgy to discuss expanding the nave of the church. All are welcome to attend, but only adult members will be issued ballots and permitted to vote.

The Special Offering today will be for our priest; next week for IOCC.

Lenten Almsgiving: As customary, we are collecting items for the local charities Women to Women and Interfaith Ministry and for our own "Care Bundles". See bins and lists of needed items under the bookstore table.

Care Bundles: Throughout Lent we will be collecting items to assemble into "care bundles" for the homeless. Our goal is to assemble 200 bags. The bags can then be kept in the glove compartment or back seat of a parishioner's vehicle, and distributed at will as a need arises. The list for items needed is posted in the coffee hour room, and reflects real needs of real homeless people. Collections can be placed in the black bins under the bookstore table. Contact Ben or Lois Lyda for more information.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.: Basics of Orthodoxy

Thursday, 1:00 p.m., St. Theophan, *Path of Salvation*

Please Pray for our Catechumens: Thom Anderson, Adam & Melanie Betz, Ashley Davis, Mary Moses, Javier Largazspada, and Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha,

Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Jason O'Brien, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston who has suffered a stroke and is in rehab, and for Adam Betz's health.

The Fast: Fourth Week

We abstain from meat, meat products, dairy, fish, wine (alcohol), and oil. If fasting strictly, we take one meal a day M-F after 3 p.m. or after the Presanctified Liturgy. We join increased prayer and almsgiving to our fasting and avoid all things that distract us unnecessarily from Christ. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion at the Presanctified Liturgy keep a Eucharistic fast from noon. Please see your priest if you have problems or questions.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God, which also 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 throughout Denton County and north Texas. Checks should be made out to St. Maximus Orthodox Church and placed in the basket on the candle table, where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for the building fund.

Last week, we gave \$972.46 in tithes and offerings; in February, we gave \$4072.53; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$68; Bookstore \$141; Building fund \$0; special offering for FOCUS North America \$114; special gifts \$422. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 25, Liturgy 92.

From Saint Maximus

Scripture calls material things the world, and worldly people are those who let their mind dwell on them. Against these is the very sharp reproof: "Do not love the world nor the things in the world; the concupiscence of the flesh and the concupiscence of the eyes, and the pride of life are not from God but from the world."

A monk is one who separates his mind from material things and who devotes himself to God by self-mastery, love, psalmody, and prayer.

The active man is allegorically a cattle herder, for moral actions are signified by cattle, as when Jacob said, "Your servants are herders of cattle." But the gnostic is a shepherd, for the thought which are tended by the mind on the mountains of contemplation are signified by sheep, as again, "All shepherds are an abomination to the Egyptian," that is, to the powerful enemies.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.53-55

Troparia and Kontakia for March 7th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

Sunday of the Cross, Troparion, tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross // preserve Thine estate.

Kontakion of the Third Sunday of Lent, tone 7

The fiery sword no longer guardeth the gate of Eden, / for in a strange and glorious way / the wood of the Cross hath quenched its flames. / The sting of death and the victory of hell are now destroyed, / for Thou art come, O my Savior, / crying unto those in hell: // “Return again to Paradise.”

