

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Schedule of Services during Clean Week

**February 26<sup>th</sup> Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers

12:00 a.m. The Great Fast Begins

**February 27<sup>th</sup> Clean Monday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Canon, Confession

**February 28<sup>th</sup> Clean Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers

6:00 p.m. Great Canon

**February 29<sup>th</sup> Clean Wednesday St. John Cassian**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Great Canon, Confession

**March 1<sup>st</sup> Clean Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers

6:00 p.m. Great Canon, Confession

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> Clean Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**March 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Orthodoxy**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vespers at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Dallas

**From Saint Thalassios, the Libyan**

Spiritual reading and prayer purify the intellect, while love and self-control purify the soul's passible aspect.

*400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 2.84*

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

## Announcements for February 26<sup>th</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door.

**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 (so as not to distract others) and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

**No Church School** today.

**The Special Offering** is for our hall expansion.

**Temple Oil** given in memory of James Anderson Sr.

**Forgiveness Vespers** will be served at 6:00 with the rite of forgiveness; ice cream, in accordance with local tradition, will follow at Beth Marie's on the Square. It is of deep importance to our souls and the health of our parish that everyone who makes St. Maximus his parish home attends this service.

**Lenten Bible Reading:** To assist your spiritual reading during the Fast, a Bible reading plan is available which will take you through the whole New Testament during the forty days. An additional plan takes you through the history of Israel from the Judges to the Babylonian Captivity. Copies are on the candle table.

**No Classes this Week** save the services!

**Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts:** The Presanctified Liturgy will be served on Wednesday and two Friday evenings during the Fast. The customary preparation for Holy Communion is needed: pre-Communion Prayers, recent confession, and fasting. Strictly, this eucharistic fasting is from midnight, but our bishops have blessed beginning the complete abstention from food and drink at noon.

**Church Cleaning:** Help is needed to clean the church. Please sign up for this ministry in the hall.

**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 in 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).

Last week we gave \$2403.76 in tithes and offerings; in February we have given \$6531.72; our monthly budget is \$8179 (\$2045 per week. (To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$10,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$76; building fund \$0, Hall Expansion \$261, Windows \$300. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 24, Liturgy 105.

**Hall Expansion Fund:** A total of \$55,912.17 has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

**Expansion Update:** Please keep an eye on your children in regard to the construction site. Thank you.

### The Fast: Clean Week

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. 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 to make it yield spiritual gain. The daily services should be our priority this week, especially the Great Canon and the Presanctified Liturgy.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** David Eaton who is preparing for Holy Illumination; Sean Chaney, Caleb Rehmet, Elizabeth Dakak, Hunter Bellan, Philip Smith, and Shane and Ashley Gibson; and for our inquirers Joel and Mindy Brown and their children. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Sherrie Joanna Hall, for the novice Svetlana, and for Melanie Betz on bedrest.

### From Saint Maximus

Beguiled from our original state by the deceitfulness of sensual pleasure, we chose death rather than true life. Let us then gladly endure the bodily hardship which puts such pleasure to death. In this way the death of pleasure will destroy the death which came about through pleasure, and we shall receive back, purchased with but slight bodily hardship, the life which we sold for the sake of sensual pleasure.

*First Century of Various Texts, 18*

