

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, May 24, 2009
Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!



Schedule of Services

May 24th Sunday of the Blind Man

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

May 25th Monday

8:30 a.m. Matins

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 p.m. Annual Memorial Day PICNIC

May 26th Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

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

May 27th Wednesday Leavetaking of Pascha

6:30 a.m. Matins

5:30 p.m. Adult Class: First John

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 28th Thursday Holy Ascension

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

May 29th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

May 30th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 31st Sunday of the Fathers of the First Council

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Who is interested today in others? No one. Everyone for himself, nothing for others. For this reason we will have to give account, because God, who is all love, will not forgive this indifference of ours towards our neighbor.

The person who acts only for his own advantage is a useless person...

Elder Paisios, Sayings 17, 23

Announcements for May 24th

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** try to be quiet afterwards while the Prayers of Thanksgiving are being read in the church, or better yet, stay for the prayers so you don't have to read them later at home.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for our Alaskan seminarian, next week for .

Holy Ascension, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, is celebrated this Thursday, preceded on Wednesday by the Leavetaking of Pascha. Ascension will be celebrated with Vigil Wednesday night at 7:00 and the Divine Liturgy Thursday morning at 9:00. Let us make the effort to keep the feast together!

The Memorial Day Picnic is tomorrow. Matins will be served at 8:30, Liturgy at 10:00, and the picnic will begin about noon. There will be organized picnic games, a bounce house, food, fellowship, etc. Invite family and friends, bring your favorite picnic foods and drinks to share, and come for a joyous day of fellowship. We shall start eating no later than 1:00 p.m., so try to come earlier rather than later!

Classes this Week:

Basics of Orthodoxy, Tuesday 7:00 p.m. The Creed "One God ...Maker of Heaven & Earth"; Creator and Creation
First John, Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Please Pray for our Catechumen: Thom Anderson, **our inquirers** John Parsons and Adam & Melanie Betz. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, for Nick Gluschenko recovering from open-heart surgery, Gareth Tikhon Barnard who is working in Kansas, and Nancy Rachel Saito visiting in California. Please remember Met. Jonah in your prayers, our Alaskan Seminarian Methodius Nicori, and for the nun Barbara as she labors to found a new monastery in our area.

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 7. Instead we say the paschal troparion "Christ is risen" three times. From Ascension on (May 28) we use the troparion for Ascension in place of the Paschal Troparion.

We do no prostrations until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost.

For 40 days until the Feast of Ascension (May 28), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!"

Through the Leavetaking of Pascha (May 27), we use the Paschal Troparion before and after meals and when setting out on a trip.

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 \$1135.60 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$3873.60 our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$27; Bookstore \$0; Building fund \$0; Special Offering for Debt Reduction \$32. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vespers 8; Liturgy 49.

From Saint Maximus

The one who has not yet obtained divine knowledge activated by love makes a lot of the religious works he performs. But the one who has been deemed worthy to obtain this says with conviction the words which the patriarch Abraham spoke when he was graced with the divine appearance, "I am but earth and ashes."

The one who fears the Lord always has humility as his companion and through its promptings is led to divine love and thanksgiving. For he recalls his former worldly life and different transgressions and the temptations bedeviling him from his youth, and how the Lord delivered him from all these things and made him pass from this life of passion to divine life. And so with fear he receives love as well, ever thankful with deep humility to the benefactor and pilot of our life.

Do not soil your mind by holding on to thoughts of concupiscence and anger, lest by falling from pure prayer you fall in with the spirit of discouragement.

Troparia and Kontakia for May 24th



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.

Kontakion of the Blind Man, tone 4

Since my soul's noetic eyes are blind and sightless, / I come unto Thee, O Christ, as did the man born blind. / And in repentance I cry to Thee: / Thou art the most radiant Light / of those in darkness.

Paschal Kontakion, tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, "Rejoice!" to the myrrhbearing women, / granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

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Ascension, Troparion, tone 4

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing they were assured / that Thou art the Son of God, / the Redeemer of the world.