

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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**Bulletin for Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**

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**Schedule of Services**

**May 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Paralytic**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Church School  
12:00 p.m. Mission Council

**May 27<sup>th</sup> Monday**

12:00 p.m. Molieben to St. Maximus, Pannikhida, Picnic

**May 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

4:00 p.m. Vespers for Mid-Pentecost, Confession

**May 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Feast of Mid Pentecost**

8:00 a.m. Matins  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Water  
5:30 p.m. Community Meal  
6:00 p.m. Class: Hebrews  
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**May 30<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession  
6:30 p.m. Vespers  
7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Divine Liturgy

**May 31<sup>st</sup> Friday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession  
5:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida

**June 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

7:00 a.m. Matins  
8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Paralytic**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

**From the Pentecostarion**

As of old Thou didst raise up the paralytic, O Lord God, by Thy god-like care and might, raise up my soul which is palsied by diverse sins and transgressions and by unseemly deeds and acts, that saved I may also cry out: O Compassionate Redeemer, O Christ God, glory to Thy dominion and might. *Troparion of the Paralytic*

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

## Announcements for May 26

**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.

**The Special Offering** will go for our building fund.

**The Memorial Day Picnic** is coming, Monday, May 27. We'll sing a Molieben to St. Maximus for the Parish at noon, followed by a Pannikhida, bless the food at 1:00, and then picnic through the afternoon. Please bring a picnic food and a drink (don't forget water). If anyone would like to organize games or other activities for children or youth, please let Fr. Justin know.

### Classes this Week:

**Wednesday** 6:00 p.m. we begin a study of the Book of Hebrews that will go on until the middle of August. It would be good for those who will attend to read through Hebrews before then, jotting down some notes and questions. We have ordered some copies of Vladyka Dmitri's commentary on the epistle for those who may be interested in using it.

**Thursday**, 7:30 p.m., Basics of Orthodoxy. The class will examine the Divine Liturgy—its place in Orthodox Christian life, what it means, going through it line by line—between now and August 15. Those recently baptized who have not been through this part of the Basics Class are strongly encouraged to attend, as are high school or college students or anyone else who has never taken this class.

**Please Pray:** for inquirers Rebecca and Rebecca, the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice care, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga.

**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) and a box for our building fund.

Last week we gave \$2486.81; in May, we have given \$6099.61; our monthly budget is \$9187 (\$2297 per week. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$49, Building Fund \$120, Soda (renovation) \$4.25; SS Joachim & Anna ROCOR mission in San Antonio \$142. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 40, Liturgy 98.

### Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 23. Instead we say or sing the Paschal Troparion, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death..." three times.

During the 50 days from Pascha to the Feast of Pentecost on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we do not kneel or make prostrations in church in keeping with the joyful, festal character of the season. We begin to kneel and do prostrations again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost.

For 40 days until the Feast of Ascension (June 13), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!"

Through the Leavetaking of Pascha (June 12), we use the Paschal Troparion before and after meals and when setting out on a trip.

### From Saint Maximus

Stop defiling your flesh with shameful deeds and polluting your soul with wicked thoughts; then the peace of God will descend upon you and bring you love.

Afflict your flesh with hunger and vigils and apply yourself tirelessly to psalmody and prayer; then the sanctifying gift of self-restraint will descend upon you and bring you love.

He who has been granted divine knowledge and has through love acquired its illumination will never be swept hither and thither by the demon of self-esteem. But he who has not yet been granted such knowledge will readily succumb to this demon. However, if in all that he does he keeps his gaze fixed on God, doing everything for His sake, he will with God's help soon escape.

He who has not yet attained divine knowledge energized by love is proud of his spiritual progress. But he who has been granted such knowledge repeats with deep conviction the words uttered by the patriarch Abraham when he was granted the manifestation of God: 'I am dust and ashes' (Gen. 18:27).

The person who fears the Lord has humility as his constant companion and, through the thoughts which humility inspires, reaches a state of divine love and thankfulness. For he recalls his former worldly way of life, the various sins he has committed and the temptations which have befallen him since his youth; and he recalls, too, how the Lord delivered him from all this, and how He led him away from a passion-dominated life to a life ruled by God. Then, together with fear, he also receives love, and in deep humility continually gives thanks to the Benefactor and Helmsman of our lives.

Do not befoul your intellect by clinging to thoughts filled with anger and sensual desire. Otherwise you will lose your capacity for pure prayer and fall victim to the demon of listlessness.

When the intellect associates with evil and sordid thoughts it loses its intimate communion with God.

*400 Chapters on Love, First Century 44-50*

## **Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, May 26**

### **Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3**

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead. / From the womb of hell hath He delivered us, // and hath granted the world great mercy.

### **Paralytic, Kontakion, Tone 3**

As of old Thou didst raise up the paralytic, / O Lord God, by Thy God-like care and might, raise up my soul / which is palsied by diverse sins and transgressions / and by unseemly deeds and acts, / that saved I may also cry out: / O Compassionate Redeemer, / O Christ God, / glory to Thy dominion and might.

### **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.