

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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**Bulletin for Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

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

**Schedule of Services**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Blind Man**

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

**June 11<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**June 12<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Leavetaking of Pascha**

8:00 a.m. Paschal Matins

9:00 a.m. Paschal Divine Liturgy

5:30 p.m. Community Meal

6:00 p.m. Class: Hebrews

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**June 13<sup>th</sup> Thursday Holy Ascension**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Divine Liturgy

**June 14<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. *Russian Vespers, Confession, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

**June 15<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**June 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**From the Pentecostarion**

O Christ God, Thou spiritual Sun of Righteousness, who by Thine immaculate touch didst bestow a two fold enlightenment upon him who from his mother's womb was deprived of sight, also illumine Thou the eyes of our souls, and prove us to be sons of the day, that we may cry to Thee with faith: Great and ineffable is Thy compassion toward us, O Friend of man; glory be to Thee.

## Announcements for June 9

**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 Mission Council** will meet today at noon.

**Leavetaking:** This week, we celebrate the Leavetaking of Pascha, Tuesday afternoon with Vespers and Wednesday morning with Matins and Divine Liturgy. The services will be served in Paschal fashion as they were during Bright Week. This is the time we conclude our celebration of Pascha this year and say goodbye until next year.

**Ascension:** This week we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, with Vigil Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and Liturgy Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. We do well to keep the feast by attending as much of the cycle of services for it as we can.

**An All-Night Vigil** will be held for the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, from 10:00 p.m. Friday, June 28 until about 4:00 a.m. Saturday, June 29. Make plans to keep vigil through the night with us!

### Classes this Week:

**Wednesday** 6:00 p.m. we continue our study of the Book of Hebrews

**Thursday**, 7:30 p.m., Basics of Orthodoxy. The class is examining the Divine Liturgy. This week we'll look at the Antiphons and the Little Litany.

**Please Pray:** for inquirers Rebecca, Rebecca, Destiny, Shannon, the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice care, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga., and for Mary (Gina) Rehmet and family who recently lost her mother.

**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 \$2081.15; 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 \$77.50, Building Fund \$40, debt reduction \$9.25. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 42, Liturgy 77.

### 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

St Paul says that, if we have all the gifts of the Spirit but do not have love, we are no further forward (cf. 1 Cor. 13:2). How assiduous, then, we ought to be in our efforts to acquire this love.

If 'love prevents us from harming our neighbor' (Rom. 13:10), he who is jealous of his brother or irritated by his reputation, and damages his good name with cheap jibes or in any way spitefully plots against him, is surely alienating himself from love and is guilty in the face of eternal judgment.

If love is the fulfilling of the law' (Rom. 13:10), he who is full of rancor towards his neighbor and lays traps for him and curses him, exulting in his fall, must surely be a transgressor deserving eternal punishment.

If 'he who speaks evil of his brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law' (Jas. 4:11), and the law of Christ is love, surely he who speaks evil of Christ's love falls away from it and is the cause of his own perdition.

Do not listen gleefully to gossip at your neighbor's expense or chatter to a person who likes finding fault. Otherwise you will fall away from divine love and find yourself cut off from eternal life.

Do not permit any abuse of your spiritual father or encourage anyone who dishonors him. Otherwise the Lord will be angry with your conduct and will obliterate you from the land of the living (cf. Deut. 6:15).

Silence the man who utters slander in your hearing. Otherwise you sin twice over: first, you accustom yourself to this deadly passion and, second you fail to prevent him from gossiping against his neighbor.

*400 Chapters on Love, First Century 54-60*

### **Many Mansions in the Father's House**

+ "...there is this distinction between the habitation of those who produce an hundred-fold, and that of those who produce sixty-fold, and that of those who produce thirty-fold: for the first will be taken up into the heavens, the second will dwell in paradise, the last will inhabit the city; and that was on this account the Lord declared, "In My Father's house are many mansions." For all things belong to God, who supplies all with a suitable dwelling-place; even as His Word says, that a share is allotted to all by the Father, according as each person is or shall be worthy. And this is the couch on which the guests shall recline, having been invited to the wedding." *St Irenaeus, Against Heresies, V.36 (ANF 1, pp566ff)*

## **Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, June 9**

### **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.