

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton  
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## Bulletin for Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

### Schedule of Services

#### **July 21<sup>st</sup> Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
4:00 p.m. Williams-Bramlett Wedding

#### **July 23<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession  
3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **July 24<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession  
5:30 p.m. Community Meal  
6:00 p.m. Class: Hebrews  
7:15 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **July 25<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

8:00 a.m. Matins  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
6:30 p.m. Compline with Akathist to Theotokos  
7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Divine Liturgy

#### **July 26<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession  
9:00 p.m. Compline with Akathist to Theotokos

#### **July 27<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **July 28<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Happiness in married life is granted only to those who fulfill the Divine Commandments and treat marriage as a mystery of the Christian Church. *St. Nectary of Optina*

Those who enter marriage due to the attraction of the passions are most often unhappy in life. *St. Joseph of Optina*

Married life is a life blessed by God, and monastic life is a holy and angelic life; both of these ways of life are pleasing to God.

*St. Anthony of Optina*

## Announcements for July 21

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee, food, 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.

**Temple wine** is offered for the health and salvation Patrick & Heather on their anniversary.

**Special Offering** this week will be for our building fund.

**Welcome** to the Williams and Bramlett families, here to celebrate the marriage of their children Adam and Lauren this afternoon.

**Wedding Today:** Adam (Andrew) Bramlett and Lauren (Juliana) Williams will be Betrothed and Crowned today at 4:00 p.m.

### Classes this Week:

**Wednesday** 6:00 p.m. Study of the Book of Hebrews

**Thursday**, 7:30 p.m., Basics of Orthodoxy. The class is examining the Divine Liturgy.

**Please Pray:** for catechumen Shannon Goodson, for inquirers Rebecca and Destiny, the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice care, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, and for Joanna (Sherri) Hale.

**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 \$1743.51 in tithes and offerings; in July, we have given \$2918.93; 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 \$61.50; Weatherford, OK, Mission, \$54.51; Renovation (soda) \$3.50, Building Fund \$44. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 34, Liturgy 89.

## From Saint Maximus

When a sparrow tied by the leg tries to fly, it is held back by the string and pulled down to the earth. Similarly, when the intellect that has not yet attained dispassion flies up towards heavenly knowledge, it is held back by the passions and pulled down to the earth.

The intellect, once totally free from passions, proceeds un-distracted to the contemplation of created beings, making its way towards knowledge of the Holy Trinity.

When in a pure state, the intellect, on receiving the conceptual images of things, is moved to contemplate these things spiritually. But when it is sullied through indolence, while its conceptual images may in general be free from passion, those concerned with people produce in it thoughts that are shameful or wicked.

When during prayer no conceptual image of anything worldly disturbs your intellect, then know that you are within the realm of dispassion.

Once the soul starts to feel its own good health, the images in its dreams are also calm and free from passion.

Just as the physical eye is attracted to the beauty of things visible, so the purified intellect is attracted to the knowledge of things invisible. By things invisible, I mean things incorporeal.

*400 Chapters on Love, First Century 85-90*

## Fr. Alexander Elchaninov on Marriage

Neither the man (still less) the woman, possess absolute power over the other partner in the marriage. Coercion exercised over the will of another—even in the name of love—kills love itself. And so the question arises: must one submit to coercion if it threatens that which is most precious? A countless number of unhappy marriages result from precisely this—that each partner considers him or herself as the owner of the loved one. This is the cause of nearly all the difficulties of married life. The highest wisdom in marriage is shown by giving full freedom to the person you love: for our human marriage is the counterpart of the marriage in heaven between Christ and the Church, where there is absolute freedom.

In marriage the festive joy of the first day should last for the whole of life; every day should be feast day; every day husband and wife should appear to each other as new, extraordinary beings. The only way of achieving this: let both deepen their spiritual life, and strive hard in the task of self-development.

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, July 21

### 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.

### St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

#### Ven. Symeon & John, Troparion, tone 4

O God of our fathers, / who ever dealest with us according to Thy gentleness, / withdraw not Thy mercy from us, / but by the entreaties of Symeon and John // govern our life in peace.

#### Prophet Ezekiel, Troparion, tone 2

Celebrating the memory / of Thy prophet Ezekiel, O Lord, / through him do we entreat Thee: // Save Thou our souls!

### Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

### St. Maximus, Kontakion, tone 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

#### Prophet Ezekiel Kontakion, tone 4

Thou hast been shown to be a prophet of God, / O wondrous Ezekiel, / and hast proclaimed unto all the incarnation of the Lord, / the Lamb and Creator, // the Son of God who hath revealed Himself forever.

#### Ven. Symeon & John, Kontakion, tone 2

Let us praise the God-bearing Symeon, / the peer of the angels, / who appeared in the flesh as one incorporeal, / and with him the ever-memorable John: // for with faith and love they entreat the Lord unceasingly in behalf of us all.