

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Bulletin for Sunday July 28th, 2013

Schedule of Services

July 28th Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

July 31st Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Community Meal

6:00 p.m. Class with Subdeacon Anthony Stokes

7:15 p.m. Reader's Vespers

August 1st Thursday Dormition Fast Begins

August 3rd Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

August 4th Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

August 5th Monday

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

August 6th Tuesday Holy Transfiguration

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

The Optina Elders on the Jesus Prayer

How can one see Christ? The way to make this possible: the unceasing prayer of Jesus, which alone is able to bring Christ to dwell in our souls. *St. Barsanuphius*

The acquisition of inner prayer is essential. Without it you cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Outward mental prayer is insufficient, for it can be present even in a person in whom the passions dwell. Some even say, "What is the sense in praying? What benefit is it?" A great benefit! For the Lord, *Who gives to those who prayer (I Kings 2:9)*, will give prayer to a person either before his death or even after death...Only, you should not stop praying. *St. Barsanuphius*

In the beginning, the Prayer of Jesus is always difficult and not pure, but later it is pleasant. *St. Anatoly*

Announcements for July 28

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 of Carolyn, William, and Jessica, and in memory of Charles David.

Special Offering this week will be for our alms.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. The Liturgical Year

Diocesan Assembly: The diocese gathers for its annual meeting at St. Justin Martyr Church in Jacksonville, Florida, this week to approve a budget for the next year, to consider bylaws for the diocese (which we've never had!), and to gather with Archbishop Nikon for worship together and edification. There will be no nomination of a new bishop, however. The agenda, financial reports, and the proposed bylaws may be found online at <http://www.dosoca.org/2013da.html>

The Dormition Fast begins Thursday, August 1 and runs until Thursday, August 15. The norms the Church has given us for the fast call us to devote ourselves to prayer, almsgiving, fasting (abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil, marital relations—see wall calendar for modifications), and reading the Scriptures and other Orthodox spiritual literature, and to reduce or eliminate secular entertainments and elective social engagements. *In prayer*, we try to pray more and more often, perhaps coming more frequently to services than usual, with greater attention and compunction, often adding prostrations to humble ourselves before God. *In almsgiving*, we make an offering to God by giving to those in need (in theory, the money saved from not eating more expensive foods and eating less overall is given; we can go about it in other ways, though). *In fasting*, we abstain from evil and from lesser goods and even necessary things in order to seek our ultimate Good: Christ Himself. *In reading*, we especially seek to know Christ's commandments and will and to submit ourselves more fully to Him. We do all this by God's grace, to cultivate a spirit of humility and repentance and to put aside distractions so that we can draw near

to God. We should pray that God will give us strength for the fast and that we may find much profit in it. We fast most profitably when we always keep in mind the goal: turning away from sin so that we can draw near to God. It is God Himself we seek, for it is God Himself that we need. We need to be filled anew with His Spirit. Since we often fail to seek God diligently and attentively due to the busyness of our lives in the world, the fast is given to us for refreshment and renewal in the Lord. All the faithful should prepare themselves for Confession and Holy Communion during the Fast.

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 \$2611.42 in tithes and offerings; in July, we have given \$5530.35; 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 \$68; Renovation (soda) \$14, Building Fund \$299.25. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 45, Liturgy 93.

From Saint Maximus

It is already much not to be roused to any passion by material things. It is even more to remain dispassionate when presented with mental images of such things. For the war which the demons wage against us by means of thoughts is more severe than the war they wage by means of material things.

He who has succeeded in attaining the virtues and is enriched with spiritual knowledge sees things clearly in their true nature. Consequently, he both acts and speaks with regard to all things in a manner which is fitting, and he is never deluded. For according to whether we use things rightly or wrongly we become either good or bad.

If the conceptual images that continually rise up in the heart are free from passion whether the body is awake or asleep, then we may know that we have attained the highest state of dispassion.

Through fulfilling the commandments the intellect strips itself of the passions. Through spiritual contemplation of things visible it casts off impassioned conceptions of such things. Through knowledge of things invisible it discards the contemplation of things visible. Finally it denudes itself even of this through knowledge of the Holy Trinity.

When the sun rises and casts its light on the world, it reveals both itself and the things it illumines. Similarly, when the Sun of righteousness rises in the pure intellect. He reveals both Himself and the inner principles of all that has been and will be brought into existence by Him.

400 Chapters on Love, First Century 91-95

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, July 28

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

Apostles Nicanor, Timon, Prochorus, Parmenus, Troparion, tone 3
O ye holy apostles, / intercede with the merciful God, / that He grant unto our souls // forgiveness of our transgressions.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 4

My Saviour and Deliverer as God/ hath raised out of the grave the earth-born from their bonds / and He hath shattered the gates of hell / and as Master / He hath risen on the third day.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

Let us the faithful praise with fitting hymns / that lover of the Holy Trinity, great Maximus, / who clearly taught the divinely-given Faith: / that we should give glory unto Christ our God, / Who, but one person, hath in very truth / two natures, wills, and energies. / Let us cry to him: // Rejoice, divine herald of the Faith.

Apostles Nicanor, Timon, Prochorus, Parmenus, Kontakion, tone 1
The glorious Nicanor, Prochorus, Parmenus, and Timon, / the honored deacons and eye-witnesses to the Word, / have been shown to be chosen vessels of the Faith. / Wherefore, we celebrate you sacred memory today, blessing you in gladness of heart.