

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday October 27th, 2013

Schedule of Services

October 27th 18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

October 29th Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

October 30th Wednesday

4:30 p.m. Vespers at St. Seraphim Cathedral, Dallas

7:00 p.m. Lecture by Fr. John Erickson at St. Seraphim's

October 31st Thursday

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim Cathedral, Dallas

6:00 p.m. All Saints Festival

November 1st Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

8:00 p.m. Liturgical Theology Class, St. Seraphim, Dallas

November 2nd Saturday

11:00 a.m. Colias Baptism

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 3rd 19th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

The Optina Elders on the Path of Life

We must live on the earth like a wheel that is rolling—only one part touches the earth, while the rest is always moving upwards. But we, being bound to the earth, cannot even stand up. *St. Ambrose*

Those who expect and seek comforts and a peaceful life are mistaken: sorrows, deprivations, and difficulties are essential for salvation. If life is so changeable and transient, why become attached to it? *St. Nikon*

We live in a vale of tears. Therefore, we must pass the times sometimes weeping, sometimes leaping. Let us comfort ourselves with the thought that this vale of tears is temporary. Everything will quickly pass by, will flash by like a shadow, like an echo, and eternity will begin, permanent, unchanging, unending, and hopefully for us, blessed and radiant! Let us hope that the Lord, according to his limitless mercy, will not deprive us of His grace. *St. Ambrose.*

Announcements for October 27

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.

Special Offering this week will be for debt reduction.

Mission Council will meet after Liturgy today.

Temple Wine offered for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn.

Baptism: Sofia Colias, daughter of Reader Vasilios and Nadia, will be baptized Saturday at 11:00. All are invited.

Public Lecture: Fr. John Erickson, former Dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary, will give a public lecture Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at St. Seraphim's Cathedral, Dallas, on the topic "Christian Tradition in a Postmodern World." Vespers will be served at 4:30.

All Saints Night, a time for children to come dressed as a saint with clues for others to guess, will be held the evening of October 31 at 6:00 p.m., so start planning now.

Classes this Week

The Wednesday and Thursday classes will not meet this week due to Fr. Justin being in Dallas for the Deanery Meeting.

Friday, 8:00 p.m. Liturgical Theology: Baptism 2 (at St. Seraphim's in Dallas)

The Nativity Fast will begin in two and a half weeks. It is not too early to beginning planning how we may keep the fast to the benefit of our souls in strengthening our practice of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, spiritual reading, and the keeping of Christ's commandments.

Please Pray: for catechumen Shannon Goodson, for inquirers Rebecca and Destiny, Holly, Kathy, Amber; the novice Svetlana, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale. **Eternal Memory** to the nun Elizabeth.

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 \$1190.04; this month we have given \$5032.29; Our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$61, Alaskan Seminarian \$25, IOCC \$226.25. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 31, Sunday Liturgy 70.

From Saint Maximus

He who anoints his intellect for spiritual contest and drives all impassioned thoughts out of it has the quality of a deacon. He who illuminates his intellect with the knowledge of created beings and utterly destroys false knowledge has the quality of a priest. And he who perfects his intellect with the holy myrrh of the knowledge and worship of the Holy Trinity has the quality of a bishop.

The demons are weakened when the passions in us decrease through our keeping the commandments; and they are defeated totally when they are routed by dispassion, for then they no longer find anything through which they can enter the soul and fight against it. This is what is meant by 'they will be weakened and defeated before Thy face' (Ps. 9:3).

Some men abstain from the passions because of human fear, others because of self-esteem, and others through self-control. Some, however, are delivered from the passions by divine providence.

All the discourses of our Lord contain these four elements: commandments, doctrines, threats and promises. With the help of these we patiently accept every kind of hardship, such as fasting, vigils, sleeping on the ground, toil and labor in acts of service, insults, dishonor, torture, death and so on. 'Helped by the words of Thy lips,' says the psalmist, I have kept to difficult paths' (Ps. 17:4. LXX).

The reward of self-control is dispassion, and the reward of faith is spiritual knowledge. Dispassion engenders discrimination, and spiritual knowledge engenders love for God.

400 Chapters on Love, Second Century 21-25

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, October 27

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit / thou didst pour forth Christ's sacred teachings, / thou didst expound with Divine authority / the self-emptying of God the Word / and wast radiant in thy confession of the True Faith: / O, Glorious Father Maximus / pray to Christ our God / to grant us His great mercy.

Martyr Nestor, tone 4

In his sufferings, O Lord, / Thy Martyr Nestor received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God. / For possessed of Thy might, / he cast down the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

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.

Martyr Nestor, Kontakion, tone 2

Having fought the good fight, thou hast now inherited immortal glory / for thou becamest an excellent warrior of the Master / through the supplications of the martyr Demetrios. // Wherefore, cease not to pray for us all, O wise Nestor.