

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday November 3rd, 2013

Schedule of Services

November 3rd 19th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 4th Monday

7:30 a.m. Matins

November 5th Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 6th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Russian Class

7:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 9th Saturday St. Nectarios

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 10th 20th Sunday after Pentecost

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

The Optina Elders on Thoughts

The thoughts that vex and annoy us have many distinctions: a provocation, or an attack of a thought, is not a sin but is a test of our free will, to what it is inclined—to the thought or to opposition to it. However, when there is agreement and communion with these passions, it is considered to be a sin and repentance is needed. He who does not have the strength to oppose them himself must hasten to God, cast down his infirmity, and implore His help and the help of the Mother of God. When someone is conquered by thoughts, it is a sign that pride preceded them, and therefore he must humble himself more. *St. Macarius*

When having thoughts of self-praised, we must look at our sins and remember that without the help of God we can do nothing good and beneficial; we have only sins and infirmities. *St. Hilarion*

The Lord will deliver you from all improper thoughts; just humble yourself. *St. Ambrose*

Announcements for November 3

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 St. Nectarios Mission, Waxahachie, Texas.

Mission Council will meet next Sunday.

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

Many Years to the newly-illuminated Sofia Colias, daughter of Reader Vasilios and Elizabeth, and to her sponsors Callum and Sophia Lyda.

St. Nectarios Mission, Waxahachie, will celebrate its patronal feast this Friday with Vespers at 6:30 and Saturday with Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. followed by a celebratory meal at 208 W. Franklin St., Waxahachie, TX 75165.

Classes this Week

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Russian Class.

Thursday: the Basics Class will not meet this week due to Fr. Justin attending the Feastday at Holy Archangels Monastery. Class will resume next week.

The Nativity Fast will begin in eleven days. 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. Usually to strengthen our spiritual lives requires cutting back on less important entertainments, diversions, and distractions such as movies, television, parties, internet, music, etc. May God grant all of us to be people after God's own heart like the Prophet David.

Please Pray: for catechumen Shannon Goodson, for inquirers Rebecca and Destiny, Holly, Kathy and her family, 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.

Reading Psalms during Confession is a practice that the priest would like to establish at St. Maximus. As it provides cover for the person confessing, it allows everyone waiting for Confession to remain in the church, prayerful and preparing, rather than getting caught in idle conversation outside. Please let Father know you are willing, and he'll see that a stand is set up in the back.

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 \$2677.52; in October, we gave \$7705.81; Our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$60, Debt Reduction \$23.02. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 39, Sunday Liturgy 95.
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From Saint Maximus

When the intellect practices the virtues correctly, it advances in moral understanding. When it practices contemplation, it advances in spiritual knowledge. The first leads the spiritual contestant to discriminate between virtue and vice; the second leads the participant to the inner qualities of incorporeal and corporeal things. Finally, the intellect is granted the grace of theology when, carried on wings of love beyond these two former stages, it is taken up into God and with the help of the Holy Spirit discerns—as far as this is possible for the human intellect—the qualities of God.

If you are about to enter the realm of theology, do not seek to descry God's inmost nature, for neither the human intellect nor that of any other being under God can experience this; but try to discern, as far as possible, the qualities that appertain to His nature—qualities of eternity, infinity, indeterminateness, goodness, wisdom, and the power of creating, preserving and judging creatures, and so on. For he who discovers these qualities, to however small an extent, is a great theologian.

He who combines the practice of the virtues with spiritual knowledge is a man of power. For with the first he withers his desire and tames his incensiveness, and with the second he gives wings to his intellect and goes out of himself to God. *400 Chapters on Love, Second Century 26-28*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 3

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / ‘O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!’

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.

Unmercenary Healers, Troparion, tone 8

O holy unmercenary physicians and wonderworkers, / visit our infirmities. // Freely have ye received; freely give unto us.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 2

Thou didst rise from the grave, all –powerful Saviour; / and Hades, seeing the wonder, was affrighted; / and the dead arose; and creation, beholding, rejoiceth with Thee; / and with Thee Adam also is glad; / and the world, O my Saviour, hymneth Thee forever.

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.

Unmercenary Healers, Kontakion, tone 2

Having received the grace of healings, / ye extend health to those in need, / O all-glorious physicians and wonderworkers. / By your visitation cast down the audacity of the enemy, // healing the world through your miracles.