

philosophers, ignorant as they are of that all-powerful goodness and its effective wisdom and knowledge, transcending the human intellect.

God is the Creator from all eternity, and He creates when He wills, in His infinite goodness, through His coessential Logos and Spirit. Do not raise the objection: 'Why did He create at a particular moment since He is good from all eternity?' For I reply that the unsearchable wisdom of the infinite essence does not come within the compass of human knowledge.

When the Creator willed, He gave being to and manifested that knowledge of created things which already existed in Him from all eternity. For in the case of almighty God it is ridiculous to doubt that He can give being to anything when He so wills.

400 Chapters on Love, 4.1-4

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 2

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.

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 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.

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.

Announcements for November 2

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. We invite you to go first through the food line and join the priest at the table.

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 if we are communing), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

The Special Offering this week will be for debt reduction.

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of the Colias family and William and Carolyn. and William and Carolyn. **Temple Wine** given in memory of Herbert and Audrey.

Classes this Week

Sunday, noon: Basics of Orthodoxy, Creed, "And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life".

Next Sunday, noon: Subdeacon Anthony's Choir and Reading Class.

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Writings of St. Athanasius of Alexandria: *On the Incarnation*

College-Age Dinner will be held tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Rectory. Food, fellowship, Compline.

Today, we honor the Unmercenary Healers of the Church at Vigil and Liturgy. Their ranks include the Evangelist Luke, and Saints Antipas, Haralambus, Blaise, Spyridon, Modestus, Cosmas & Damian (3), Cyrus & John, Panteleimon, Hermolaus, Diomedes, Sampson, Mocius, Photius, Anicetus, Artemius, Thalaleus, Tryphon. O Holy Unmercenary Healers and Wonderworkers, pray to God for us!

Please Note: Vigil next Saturday will be served at 7:00 p.m. rather than 5:00 in honor of the Resurrection and St. Nectarios. This is to accommodate those of us who will be attending the patronal feast of Holy Archangels Monastery this Friday and Saturday.

The Nativity Fast begins in two weeks on November 15. Now is a good time to start preparing and considering how we may strengthen our prayer, reading, repentance, and love and to draw near to Christ.

The Incarnation of the eternal Son and Word of the Father is the focus both of the Nativity season fast approaching and the work we

shall be studying in our Wednesday night class, *On the Incarnation*, by St. Athanasius the Great. Our reading of it together coinciding with the Fast leading to the Feast offers a convenient means of preparing for the Feast and deepening our appreciation of what God has done for us through the Person of His Son, the God-man Jesus Christ. Come and partake between now and Nativity on Wednesday nights! If you don't have a text, Father Justin has copies. You may also find it online: <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf204.html>

Many thanks to the Lydas and to all who worked to help make the All Saints party Friday night a success.

Please Pray: for catechumens Holly Bellan, Seth Williams, and Rick Hollembeak, the postulant Elias, the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon.

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 \$2519.86 in tithes and offerings; in October we received \$1715 in electronic contributions; thus we gave \$8379.42 for the month; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$66.50; Building Fund \$2, IOCC Special Offering \$149; Soda Jar (Renovation) \$2.85. Attendance: Liturgy 84, Vigil 34.

From Saint Maximus

First the intellect marvels when it reflects on the absolute infinity of God, that boundless sea for which it longs so much. Then it is amazed at how God has brought things into existence out of nothing. But just as 'His magnificence is without limit' (Ps. 145:3. LXX), so 'there is no penetrating His purposes' (Isa. 40:28).

How can the intellect not marvel when it contemplates that immense and more than astonishing sea of goodness? Or how is it not astounded when it reflects on how and from what source there have come into being both nature endowed with intelligence and intellect, and the four elements which compose physical bodies, although no matter existed before their generation? What kind of potentiality was it which, once actualized, brought these things into being? But all this is not accepted by those who follow the pagan Greek

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Bulletin for Sunday November 2nd, 2014

Schedule of Services

November 2nd Sunday Unmercenary Healers

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
noon Basics of Orthodox Class: Creed, Article 8 Holy Spirit
7:00 p.m. College-Age Dinner, Rectory

November 4th Tuesday

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

November 5th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:00 Confession
7:00 p.m. Vespers
8:00 p.m. Class: St. Athanasius of Alexandria, *On The Incarnation*

November 6th Thursday

8:45 a.m. Hours
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 8th Saturday St. Michael the Archangel

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 9th Sunday St. Nektarios

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
noon Basics of Orthodox Class: Creed, Article 9 One Church
7:00 p.m. College-Age Dinner, Rectory

In our former book we dealt fully enough with a few of the chief points about the heathen worship of idols, and how those false fears originally arose. We also, by God's grace, briefly indicated that the Word of the Father is Himself divine, that all things that are owe their being to His will and power, and that it is through Him that the Father gives order to creation, by Him that all things are moved, and through Him that they receive their being. Now, Macarius, true lover of Christ, we must take a step further in the faith of our holy religion, and consider also the Word's becoming Man and His divine Appearing in our midst. That mystery the Jews traduce, the Greeks deride, but we adore; and your own love and devotion to the Word also will be the greater, because in His Manhood He seems so little worth. For it is a fact that the more unbelievers pour scorn on Him, so much the more does He make His Godhead evident. The things which they, as men, rule out as impossible, He plainly shows to be possible; that which they deride as unfitting, His goodness makes most fit; and things which these wisecracks laugh at as "human" He by His inherent might declares divine. Thus by what seems His utter poverty and weakness on the cross He overturns the pomp and parade of idols, and quietly and hiddenly wins over the mockers and unbelievers to recognize Him as God.

St. Athanasius the Great, On the Incarnation, ¶1

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America