

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday July 26th, 2015

Schedule of Services

July 26th Sunday Eighth After Pentecost St. Jacob of Sitka 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
July 27th Monday 6:30 a.m. Akathist to St. Panteleimon, Anointing, Confession
July 29th Wednesday 6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession 7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession
July 30th Thursday 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
July 31st Friday 6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession 7:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession
August 1st Saturday Procession of the Cross; Dormition Fast 9:00 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession
August 2nd Sunday Ninth After Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From Saint Maximus on the Lord's Prayer

Let us therefore shun the love of matter and our attachment to matter with all the strength we have, as if washing dust from our spiritual eyes; and let us be satisfied simply with what sustains our present life, not with what pampers it. Let us pray to God for (his, as we have been taught, so that we may keep our souls unenslaved and absolutely free from domination by any of the visible things loved for the sake of the body. Let us show that we eat for the sake of living, and not be guilty of living for the sake of eating. The first is a sign of intelligence, the second proof of its absence. And let us be exact in the way we observe this prayer, thereby showing through our actions that we cleave fast to the one life lived in the spirit alone, and that we use our present life to acquire this spiritual life. We use it, that is to say, only in so far as we do not refuse to sustain our body with bread and to keep it as far as possible in its natural state of *(continued page 3)*

Announcements for July 26

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 his 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, please see the posting on the door to the nave) 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 the IOCC to help with relief for Syrian Christians.

An Akathist will be served Monday morning at 6:30 in honor of the Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon whose feast falls that day. An anointing with oil from his relics for healing will follow.

No Classes this Week

All American Council of the OCA convened in Atlanta last week. Roughly 300 clergy, 300 lay delegates, and 100 observers attended. The council is convened every three years to hear reports from the officers and ministries of the Church, to gather in worship, to be renewed in faith and fellowship, to elect church-wide representatives for the Metropolitan Council and the Pension Board and to propose, discuss, and vote on resolutions. This year a revised statute for the OCA was adopted. A resolution that removes the per capita assessment (or "head tax") as the means of funding the church administration and adopts a percentage of diocesan budgets as the new method was passed. A resolution expressing solidarity with suffering Christians in Syria was adopted. An impromptu collection for the IOCC to help Syrians raised \$11,400. The spirit was positive. All in all, it was the best AAC your priest has attended.

Church School teachers and helpers are needed for the fall. Please see Fr. Justin if you are willing to teach or help (we want two adults with each class).

The Dormition Fast begins Saturday and runs for two weeks until after Liturgy, August 15. Prepare now to keep the fast by planning how you may increase your prayer, what spiritual reading you will adopt, the menu you will follow, and what alms you will give. The Fast is the time to prepare yourself to make a good Confession if you

do not make them regularly each month and for all to recalibrate spiritually for the new Church Year.

Please Pray: for our catechumens, Adam and Jenilee, for the inquirer Rebecca, for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin, and for our diocesan administrator, Fr. Gerasim. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest field here in Denton and North Texas. Remember always to pray for your priest.

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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during Liturgy), where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for our building fund.

So far this month, we have given about \$5478 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$?; Building Fund \$35, Drink Jar (Renovation) \$1.15; Special Offering for Prison Ministry \$134.85. Remaining Mortgage: \$610.56. Attendance: Vigil 27, Liturgy 86.

From Saint Maximus on the Lord's Prayer, (*continued*)

good health, our aim being not just to live but to live for God. For we make the body, rendered intelligent by the virtues, a messenger of the soul, and the soul, once it is firmly established in the good, a herald of God; and on the natural plane we restrict our prayer for this bread to one day only, not daring to extend our petition for it to a second day because of Him who gave us the prayer. When we have thus conformed ourselves to the sense of the prayer, we can proceed, in purity to the next petition, saying, 'And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors' (Matt. 6:12).

According to the first interpretation proposed for the preceding section of the prayer, the words 'this day' symbolize the present age; and the person who prays in this age for the incorruptible bread of wisdom, from which we were cut off by the original transgression, delights in one thing only: the attainment of divine blessings. It is God who by nature bestows these blessings, but it is the recipient's free will that safeguards them. Similarly, such a person knows only one pain: the failure to attain these blessings. It is the devil who prompts this failure, but it is the person himself who makes it an

actuality, because of his weakness of will with regard to the divine, and because he does not hold fast to the precious gift for which he has prayed. But if someone is not in the least concerned with anything in the visible world, and consequently is not overcome by any bodily affliction, then such a person truly and dispassionately forgives those who sin against him; for no one can rob him of the good to which he aspires and which by nature is unassailable.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, July 26

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

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.

Righteous Priest Jacob of Sitka (+1864), tone 4

Enlightener and Baptizer of the native people of Alaska, / adornment of the Orthodox Church in Atka, Russian Mission, and Sitka, / true example of Christian piety, love, and unity, / O holy righteous father Jacob, pastor and teacher, / pray to Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

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.

St. Jacob of Sitka Kontakion, tone 3

O Holy Father Jacob, / teacher of the knowledge of God, / thou didst reveal thy love for thy people, / taking up thy cross and following Christ, / enduring hardships like the Apostle Paul. / Pray on our behalf to Christ our God // to grant us great mercy!