

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

Schedule of Services

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday; Paralytic, tone 3**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School, Ambigua

**May 24<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**May 25<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Midfeast Pentecost**

6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:30 a.m. Blessing of Water

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**May 26<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 202: Divine Liturgy I

**May 27<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**May 28<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

3:00 p.m. Baptism/Chrismation of Estefania Dean

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**May 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday; Samaritan Woman, tone 4**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School, Ambigua

Isaac the Solitary on Guarding the Senses, 27 Texts

2. If you find yourself hating your fellow men and resist this hatred, and you see that it grows weak and withdraws, do not rejoice in your heart; for this withdrawal is a trick of the evil spirits. They are preparing a second attack worse than the first; they have left their troops behind the city and ordered them to remain there. If you go out to attack them, they will flee before you in weakness. But if your heart is then elated because you have driven them away, and you leave the city, some of them will attack you from the rear while the rest will stand their ground in front of you; and your wretched soul will be caught between them with no means of escape. The city is prayer. Resistance is rebuttal through Christ Jesus. The foundation is incensive power [the *thymos*, power of the soul for anger against evil]. *Philokalia*

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

## Announcements for May 22

**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).

**The Special Offering** this week will be for Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry.

**Temple Oil** given for the health and salvation of Eudokia Stevenson, of Frieda Gluschenko, of Silouan Lyda, and of Carolyn and William Rodgers; in memory of Antonina Svetlichny.

**Classes This Week** Basics of Orthodoxy 202 will resume with Fr. Justin on Thursday nights from now until mid August. We shall be studying the Divine Liturgy. All are encouraged to participate.

Sunday after Liturgy: Ambigua (St. Maximus) Discussion Group.

Thursday 7:30: Basics of Orthodoxy 202 "Divine Liturgy: Preparation and Fulfillment"

**The Annual Memorial Day Picnic** is coming up in one week, Monday, May 30 from noon until five. Plan on coming, bring good food and drink to share, invite friends.

**The Fifteen-Year Anniversary** of the founding of our parish will be celebrated July 30-31 with Bishop Alexander. As part of that celebration, we seek to gather pictures for a commemorative book. Please see Amy Stokes or Olivia Reynolds if you have pictures to submit for consideration.

**Tithes, Offerings & Attendance:** Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and 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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during service). There are also boxes for alms (those in need) and our building fund.

Last week we gave \$1585.17 in tithes and offerings; in May, we have given about \$3945.17; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$45.50, Special offering for Building Fund \$19, Renovation (Drink Jar) \$14. Attendance: Vigil 34; Liturgy 71.

**Please Pray:** for Estefania Dean preparing for holy illumination, our catechumen Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Wells family, the Dean family, for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for John Roberts and his wife Edith, and for Frieda caring for her mother.

**New Church Update:** matters are proceeding very slowly with our local architect in taking our project to the city for feedback. Your prayers are needed.

**Building a New Church** is more needed than ever. You experienced the 130 we had present on Palm Sunday. The time has come for us to pray seriously and receive gladly the task God has given us of building a permanent church in Denton for generations to come. The Hebrews gave so generously to the construction of the first tabernacle that Moses had to order the to stop giving. May God grant us like abundance as we set out to build a worthy temple to dedicate to the worship of the true God.

### From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

Until you have been completely purified from the passions you should not engage in natural contemplation through the images of sensible things; for until then such images are able to mould your intellect so that it conforms to passion. An intellect which, fed by the senses, dwells in imagination on the visible aspects of sensible things becomes the creator of impure passions, for it is not able to advance through contemplation to those intelligible realities cognate with it. 2.75

When faced with the eruption of the passions, you should courageously close your senses and totally reject the images and memories of sensible things, and in every way restrict the intellect's natural tendency to investigate things in the external world. Then, with God's help, you will abase and overcome the cunning tyrannical power which rises up against you. 2.76

When intelligence is stupefied, the incensive power precipitate, and desire mindless, and when ignorance, a domineering spirit and licentiousness govern the soul, then sin becomes a habit, actively entangling one in the various pleasures of the senses. 2.77

The mature intellect must with spiritual knowledge escape from invisible entanglements. While it is being provoked by evil powers it must not engage in natural contemplation or do anything but pray, tame the body with hardship, diligently bring the earthly will into subjection, and guard the walls of the city, that is, the virtues which protect the soul or the qualities which guard the virtues, namely, self-control and patience. Otherwise he who proffers the soul a foul

potion may deceive the intellect with what seems to be good and secretly turn its desire away from God, drawing its understanding, which seeks what is good, towards what is bad, because it has mistaken the bad for the good. 2.78

### **Paschal Notes**

The prayer “O Heavenly King” is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, May 27. It and the “Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee” that precedes it are replaced with the Paschal Troparion “Christ is risen” thrice.

During the 50 days of Pascha, ending with the Feast of Pentecost on May 27<sup>th</sup>, we do not kneel or make prostrations in church in keeping with the joyful, festal character of the season. We begin to kneel and do prostrations again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost.

For 40 days until the Feast of Ascension (June 9), we greet each other by saying, “Christ is Risen!” “Indeed, He is Risen!”

Through the Leavetaking of Pascha (June 8), we use the Paschal Troparion before and after meals and when setting out on a trip.

### **Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, May 22**

#### **Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3**

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead. / From the womb of hell hath He delivered us, // and hath granted the world great mercy.

#### **Paralytic, Kontakion, Tone 3**

As of old Thou didst raise up the paralytic, / O Lord God, by Thy God-like care and might, raise up my soul / which is palsied by diverse sins and transgressions / and by unseemly deeds and acts, / that saved I may also cry out: / O Compassionate Redeemer, / O Christ God, / glory to Thy dominion and might.

#### **Paschal Kontakion, tone 8**

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the myrrhbearing women, / granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.