

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday, November 13th, 2016



Schedule of Services

November 13th Sunday, 21st after Pentecost, tone 4

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 103
3:00 p.m. Parish Thanksgiving Meal

November 15th Tuesday Nativity Fast Begins

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 16th Wednesday Apostle Matthew

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
5:45 p.m. Class: New Testament Survey: I, II Corinthians
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 17th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 18th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 19th Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 20th Sunday, 22nd after Pentecost, tone 5

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 103

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

5. Let us bind ourselves with all our strength to fulfill the Lord's commandments, lest we ourselves should be held by the unbreakable cords of our evil desires and soul-corrupting pleasures (cf. Prov. 5:22), and lest the sentence passed on the barren fig tree should be passed on us as well; 'Cut it down, so that it does not clutter up the ground' (Luke 13:7). For, as Christ says, whatever 'does not produce good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire' (Matt. 3:10).

Announcements for November 13

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 also invite you to go first through the food line.

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 Orthodox Christian Mission Center to support Orthodox mission priests in Africa.

Temple Oil offered for the health and salvation of Galina Gluschenko and of William and Carolyn Rogers, and in memory of Galina F. and William Frederick.

Parish Thanksgiving: Our first annual Thanksgiving meal will be held today at 3:00 p.m. to celebrate together before the fast and have some fun besides. We'll have a fire out back if anyone wants to bring instruments or marshmallows.

Classes This Week

Sunday 11:30: Basics of Orthodoxy 103 is reading and discussing the Longer Catechism of the Eastern Orthodox Church, written by St. Philaret of Moscow. Reader Michael Rehmet conducts the class. The text may be found at http://www.pravoslavieto.com/docs/eng/Orthodox_Catechism_of_Philaret.htm

Wednesday 5:45: A Survey of the Epistles of the New Testament. This week we'll examine First & Second Corinthians.

New Processional Cross: You may have noticed the new wooden processional cross in the altar. It was made for us by Reader Dan Rudder of the Cathedral.

Commemorations: Please try to submit your Sunday commemorations Saturday night (or earlier) whenever you can.

The Nativity Fast, the 40-day period of preparation for the Nativity of our Lord, begins Tuesday, November 15 and lasts until the Liturgy the morning of the Nativity of Our Lord, December 25. We keep the Fast by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for our spiritual benefit: for repentance, healing, cleansing, growth, and, ultimately— or knowing Christ more intimately and being filled afresh with His Spirit. We abstain from meat, dairy products, fish, wine, and oil (see wall calendar for when fish, wine, and oil are permitted) and marital relations so that we can give ourselves to prayer and spiritual reading and have extra means for almsgiving. The wholistic effort of the fast implies that we reduce or abstain

form secular entertainments in order to fill our souls with what is good, honorable, pure, lovely, and true. Please see your priest if you have any questions.

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.

No complete figures for last week. Our monthly budget is \$11,250. Candles \$99, Building Fund \$568, Special Offering for Seminarian \$59. Attendance: Liturgy 93, Vigil 24.

Please Pray: for our catechumen Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Wells family, the Dean family, for David & Sally Roberts, and for the Jones family; for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph.

Civil Strife: Because our land is still suffering from division and civil strife, we shall continue to pray as we did before the election.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

1.24 He who gives alms in imitation of God does not discriminate between the wicked and the virtuous, the just and the unjust, when providing for men's bodily needs. He gives equally to all according to their need, even though he prefers the virtuous man to the bad man because of the probity of his intention.

1.25 God, who is by nature good and dispassionate, loves all men equally as His handiwork. But He glorifies the virtuous man because in his will he is united to God. At the same time, in His goodness He is merciful to the sinner and by chastising him in this life brings him back to the path of virtue. Similarly, a man of good and dispassionate judgment also loves all men equally. He loves the virtuous man because of his nature and the probity of his intention; and he loves the sinner, too, because of his nature and because in his compassion he pities him for foolishly stumbling in darkness.

1.26 The state of love may be recognized in the giving of money, and still more in the giving of spiritual counsel and in looking after people in their physical needs.

1.27 He who has genuinely renounced worldly things, and lovingly and sincerely serves his neighbor, is soon set free from every passion and made a partaker of God's love and knowledge.

