

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, November 27th, 2016

Schedule of Services

November 27th Sunday, 23rd after Pentecost, tone 6

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 103

November 28th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 29th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 30th Wednesday Apostle Andrew

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:45 p.m. Class: New Testament Survey: Galatians

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 1st Thursday St. Philaret the Merciful

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 2nd Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:30 p.m. Vespers (*Confession before Vespers by appointment*)

December 3rd Saturday

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 4th Sunday, 24th after Pentecost, tone 7 St. Barbara

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 103

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

8. The Fathers define prayer as a spiritual weapon. Unless we are armed with it we cannot engage in warfare, but are carried off as prisoners to the enemy's country. Nor can we acquire pure prayer unless we cleave to God with an upright heart. For it is God who gives prayer to him who prays and who teaches man spiritual knowledge.

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

Announcements for November 27

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 Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry.

Temple Oil offered in memory of William Frederick.

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 Galatians.

Mission Council will meet next Sunday.

The Nativity Fast, the 40-day period of preparation for the Nativity of our Lord, has begun 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 from 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.

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

Holy Unction, for the healing of soul and body will be offered Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. Any Orthodox Christian in communion with the Church who has had a recent confession may partake.

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 \$2441.21 in tithes and offerings. Our monthly budget is \$11,250. Candles \$93.50, Building Fund \$16,335, Special Offering for St. Michael's Monastery \$78.01. Attendance: Liturgy 108, Vigil 30.

Please Pray: for our newly received catechumens the Wells family, catechumen Marsha Northam, our inquirers 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.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

1.32 Just as the light of the sun attracts a healthy eye, so through love knowledge of God naturally draws to itself the pure intellect.

1.33 A pure intellect is one divorced from ignorance and illumined by divine light.

1.34 A pure soul is one freed from passions and constantly delighted by divine love.

1.35 A culpable passion is an impulse of the soul that is contrary to nature.

1.36 Dispassion is a peaceful condition of the soul in which the soul is not easily moved to evil.

1.37 A man who has been assiduous in acquiring the fruits of love will not cease loving even if he suffers a thousand calamities. Let Stephen, the disciple of Christ, and others like him persuade you of the truth of this (cf. Acts 7:60). Our Lord Himself prayed for His murderers and asked the Father to forgive them because they did not know what they were doing (cf. Luke 23:34).

Troparia and Kontakia for November 27th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / 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.

Martyr James the Persian, Troparion, tone 4

Thou hast astonished all by thy terrifying torments / and the valor of thine endurance, O much suffering one, / most wondrously uttering prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord / as each one of thy members was severed from thy body. / Wherefore, receiving a crown amid thy suffering, / thou hast ascended to the throne of Christ God, the King of heaven. // Entreat Him, O James, that He save our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human dough, / for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

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.

Martyr James the Persian, Kontakion, tone 2

Persuaded by thy good spouse, O James, who wast patient of soul, / and fearing rather the dread tribunal, / thou didst spit upon the Persian's command and the fear of them, / and didst show thyself to be an honorable martyr / whose body was pruned like a vine.