

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday, June 18th, 2017



Schedule of Services

June 18th Sunday of All Saints of North America

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

June 21st Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Class: Ephesians

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

June 22nd Thursday

5:30 a.m. Midnight Office, Matins, Confession

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

June 23rd Friday

5:30 a.m. Midnight Office, Matins, Confession

10:00 a.m. Class: Ephesians

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

7:00 p.m. Compline

June 24th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

June 25th Sunday of All Saints of the Turkish Yoke

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

66. I wonder if a man who sates himself with food is able to acquire dispassion. By dispassion I do not mean abstinence from actual sin — for this is called self-control. I mean the abstinence that uproots passionate thoughts from the mind and is also called purity of heart.

67. It is less difficult to cleanse an impure soul than to restore to health a soul which was once cleansed but has been wounded anew. For it is less difficult for those who have recently renounced the confusion of the world to attain dispassion, whatever faults they may previously have committed, than it is for those who have tasted the blessed words of God and walked in the path of salvation and then gone back to sin. This is due partly to the influence of bad habit and partly to the fact that the demon of dejection is always dangling the image of sin before them. But, with the co-operation of divine grace, a diligent and assiduous soul; may readily achieve even this difficult feat of regaining its dispassion; for, long-suffering and compassionate, grace invites us to repentance, and with inexpressible mercy accepts those who return, as we have been taught in the Gospels through the parable of the prodigal son (cf. Luke 15: 11-32).

Announcements for June 18th

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).

Temple Wine offered in Memory of Daniel Holland; **Temple Oil** offered for the health and salvation of Mary Grace and the blessed repose of William Frederick.

The Special Offering this week will be for Fr. Seraphim Holland in memory of his newly-departed son Daniel.

Monastery Visit: Fr. Justin and family will visit Holy Archangels Monastery the first part of this week. He will be back for class on Wednesday.

The All-Night Vigil announced for this Friday night to Saturday morning will not take place.

The Apostles' Fast lasts until the Feast of SS Peter & Paul, June 29. We fast completely from meat and dairy products and from fish, alcohol, and oil unless indicated on the wall calendar. We use this time to seek God and his presence more diligently through prayer, repentance, Confession, Communion, spiritual reading, almsgiving, abstaining from sin, and cutting back on things that distract us from Christ and His Kingdom. Plan now to make a good use of the fast unto spiritual benefit.

Classes This Week. In the Bible Study Friday afternoons and Wednesday evenings, we shall study the epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians, which has been called "the Queen of Epistles." We will try to keep the classes in synchronicity with one another so if you miss one, you may attend the other.

Friday Afternoon Bible Study at 2:30 Ephesians

Wednesday at 6:00 to 6:50 before Vespers Ephesians

Basics of Orthodoxy will resume the week of June 25 if there is interest: Tuesday evenings at 8, or Sundays at 11:45.

Basics of Orthodoxy: If you are interested in this series of classes covering the basic beliefs and practices of the Orthodox Church, please let Fr. Justin know.

The Front Door should not be used during the Sunday Liturgy as we are using the narthex as part of the nave. It is fine, however, to use it for all other services.

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

Building Update: We are praying and weighing options, whether to go ahead with long-standing plans to build on this property or to try to acquire something nearby that will offer more space. In either case, the more money we have in hand, the better. Let's see how quickly we can bring our building fund to \$100k. Can we do it before the Church New Year, Sept 1?

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 Sunday, we gave \$1406 in tithes and offerings; in June we have given \$3747.54; our monthly budget is \$11,250; candles \$92.50, special offering for Loreto House \$69.28; building fund \$10,010. Attendance: Vigil last Saturday 34; Sunday Liturgy 104. Building fund balance: \$91,964.20
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Please Pray: for Cassian and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for our catechumen Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Dean family; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Albina Gashushina, and for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, for Eugene and Rachel, and for Jeremy Gleb Rovny, travelling in India.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.32 There are three things that impel us towards what is holy: natural instincts, angelic powers and probity of intention. Natural instincts impel us when, for example, we do to others what we would wish them to do to us (cf. Luke 6:31), or when we see someone suffering deprivation or in need and naturally feel compassion. Angelic powers impel us when, being ourselves impelled to something worthwhile, we find we are provisionally helped and guided. We are impelled by probity of intention when, discriminating between good and evil, we choose the good.

2.33 There are also three things that impel us towards evil: passions, demons and sinfulness of intention. Passions impel us when, for example, we desire something beyond what is reasonable, such as food which is unnecessary or untimely, or a woman who is not our wife or for a purpose other than procreation, or else when we are

excessively angered or irritated by, for instance, someone who has dishonored or injured us. Demons impel us when, for example, they catch us off our guard and suddenly launch a violent attack upon us, stirring up the passions already mentioned and others of a similar nature. We are impelled by sinfulness of intention when, knowing the good, we choose evil instead.

Troparia and Kontakia for June 18th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

All Saints of North America, Troparion, Feast, tone 8

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation, / the lands of North America offer to Thee, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. / By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace/through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

All Saints of North America, Kontakion, tone 3

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God / in the lands of North America / now stand before us in the Church / and invisibly pray to God for us. / With them the Angels glorify Him, / and all the Saints of the Church of Christ / keep festival with them; // and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.