

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, September 21, 2008

Schedule of Services

September 21st 14th Sunday Pentecost; Leavetaking of Cross

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Automobiles

3:00 p.m. Women's Meeting & Raina Joines'

September 22nd Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins

September 23rd Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

September 24th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

5:30 p.m. Class: Galatians

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

September 25th Thursday

7:00 a.m. Vigil

September 26th Friday St. John the Theologian

7:30 a.m. Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

8:00 p.m. Class: The Services of the Church

September 27th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

September 28th 15th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

The Law, then, as it was our tutor, and we were kept shut up under it, is not the adversary but the fellow-worker of grace; but if when grace is come, it continues to hold us down, it becomes an adversary; for if it confines those who ought to go forward to grace, then it is the destruction of our salvation. If a candle which gave light by night, kept us, when it became day, from the sun, it would not only not benefit, it would injure us; and so doth the Law, if it stands between us and greater benefits. [On Gal 3:25-6] *St. John Chrysostom, Homily 3 on Galatians*

Christ's death is a plain proof of the inability of the Law to justify us; and if it does justify, then is His death superfluous. {Gal 2:21} *Chrysostom, Homily 2 on Galatians*

Announcements for September 21st

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation and church school for the children. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door. Be aware that shortly after the sermon, the catechumens, i.e., those preparing for Baptism & Chrismation, will be dismissed, but you are invited to stay for the rest of the service.

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 and present from the very beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading—thus, if you arrive later than the Gospel, you should not present yourself at the chalice for Communion, children excepted), and not have missed Sunday Liturgy for three or more weeks in a row.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for Church School room improvements, next week for Abbot Jonah's new St. Isaac's Skete, Dallas.

Opportunities to Give: the old laundry room downstairs will be converted into a Church School room. To make this possible, we had to purchase a shed for storage of things that have been in that room. (Our building has very little storage space.) We owe \$3000 for said shed and must pay by November or we'll be charged interest. Also a case of Orthodox Study Bibles is desired for the church bookstore, cost \$360. We'll be glad either of an outright gift or of someone who is willing to front the money and be repaid as the Bibles sell or when we have sufficient extra funds to pay you off. The church bookstore could use another \$200 to \$500 in capital to help keep in stock various books (such as prayer books) that are often purchased but for which we lack funds to purchase at present. See Fr. Justin

Archbishop Dmitri and newly-consecrated bishop Jonah will pay a pastoral visit Sunday, November 9 and will celebrate the Divine Liturgy with us and present our parish with a relic of St. Raphael of Brooklyn.

Archimandrite Abbot Jonah will be consecrated as auxiliary bishop to Archbishop Dmitri on Saturday, November 1 in Dallas, 9:00 a.m. This is an occasion not to miss!

Parish Email List & Members Only section of the website: If you have email, you should be on the St. Maximus parish email list. See Fr. Justin or Subdeacon Anthony. The bulletins and *Confessor's Tongue* are being posted each week in the Church Members Only

section of the website. It is password protected, so that general viewers cannot see it along with the phone list.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 5:30 Epistle to the Galatians (Fr. Justin)

Friday, 8:00 The Services of the Church (Subdeacon Anthony)

The Parish's Annual Meeting will be held the first Sunday in October; all parishioners are asked to attend.

Church School for our children will meet right after Liturgy today.

Please Pray for our new Catechumen: Thom Anderson, **our inquirers** John Parsons and Adam Betz. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Samantha Stateson, and for Lois Lyda's father James, recently diagnosed with stage-4 cancer.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and an act of obedience to God, a sign that Christ is, for us, Lord of all, including our money—that it all belongs to Him and we are but stewards of it. Your worship of God through giving 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 throughout Denton County and north Texas. Checks should be made out to St. Maximus Orthodox Church. Stamped, addressed envelopes are available on the candle table if you know you will be gone. Last week, we gave \$852.55; in September, we have given \$1455.70; our monthly budget is \$6400. Candles \$38.50; Bookstore \$55; building fund \$81; debt reduction \$32; special gift for church school room \$300. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 16, Liturgy 49.

From Saint Maximus

So long as you do not pursue virtue or study Holy Scripture for the sake of glory, or as a cloak for greed, or from love of flattery and popularity, or for self-display, but do and say and think all things for the sake of God, then you are walking with spiritual knowledge in the way of truth. If, however, you have in some respects 'prepared the way for the Lord', yet have not 'made His paths straight', He will not come to dwell within you.

If you fast and avoid a mode of life which excites the passions, and in general do whatever contributes to your deliverance from evil, then you have 'prepared the way for the Lord'. But if you do these things out of self-esteem, or greed, or love of flattery, or for some similar motive, and not with a desire to perform God's will, then you have not 'made his paths straight'. You have endure the labor of preparing the way but do not have God waling in your paths.

Second Century of Various Texts, 51, 52

Troparia and Kontakia for September 21st



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

Elevation of the Cross, Troparion tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross / preserve Thine estate.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

Elevation of the Cross, Kontakion tone 4

As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, / so grant mercy to those who are called by Thy name; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, / granting them victories over the enemy, / by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.

