

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, September 28, 2008

Schedule of Services

September 28th 15th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

September 29th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins

September 30th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

October 1st Wednesday Protection of the Theotokos

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:30 p.m. Class: Galatians

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

October 3rd Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Reader's Vespers

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

October 4th Saturday

9:00 a.m. Consecration of Holy Apostles in Tulsa

7:30 p.m. Vespers or Vigil, Confession

October 5th 16th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:15 a.m. Annual Parish Meeting

For the bonds of the Law are broken, and I say this is not that our standard may be lowered, but that it may be exalted. For both he who commits fornication and he who leads a virgin life pass the bounds of the Law, but not in the same direction; the one is led away to the worse, the other is elevated to the better; the one transgresses the Law, the other transcends it. Thus Paul says that Christ has removed the yoke from you, not that ye may prance and kick, but that, though without the yoke, ye may proceed at a well-measured pace.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 5 on Galatians

Announcements for September 28th

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 Abbot Jonah's new St. Isaac's Skete, Dallas; next week for our priest.

Opportunities to Give: \$3000 for shed; a case of Orthodox Study Bibles for the church bookstore \$360; \$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.

Tulsa Consecration: Holy Apostle's Mission in Tulsa will be consecrating their chapel this coming Friday and Saturday, October 3-4. Great Vespers with Litia Friday at 6:30 followed by a reception. Entrance of the Bishop Saturday at 9:00 followed by consecration and Divine Liturgy with meal to follow. The parish is on the south side of Tulsa in Bixby. There is a Best Western two miles away in Glenpool. Call (918) 638-9854 for more information.

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!

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. Please read the materials published in the *Confessor's Tongue* before the meeting.

Parish Membership: One of the conditions for parish membership is regular participation in the Mysteries. As a bare minimum, we must confess and receive the Eucharist once a year. Those who meet the other membership requirements (see *Confessor's Tongue*) but have not been to Confession/Communion in the past year should prepare themselves for both before next Sunday. See Fr. Justin w/ questions.

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 Lois Lyda's father James, recently diagnosed with stage-4 cancer, and for Frieda Glusheknko's mother Galina diagnosed with 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 \$1554.50; in September, we have given \$3010.10; our monthly budget is \$6400. Candles \$57; Building Fund \$70; Special Offering church school room \$301. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 13, Liturgy 51.

From Saint Maximus

'Every valley shall be filled'—yet not 'every' without qualification, or 'everybody's valley', for the text does not refer to the valley of those who have not prepared the way of the Lord and made His paths straight. By a valley is meant the flesh or soul of those who have prepared the way of the Lord and made His paths straight in the manner I have explained. When such a valley has been filled with spiritual knowledge and virtue by the divine Logos who, present in His commandments, walks in its paths, then all the spirits of false knowledge and evil are 'abased'; for the Logos treads them down and brings them into subjection. He overthrows that cunning power which has raised itself up against human nature; He levels it as if it were high and massive mountains and hills which He uses to fill in the valleys. For the rejection of passions which are contrary to nature, and the reception of virtues which are in accordance with nature, fills up the valley-like soul and abases the exalted lordship of the evil spirits (Isaiah 40:4, LXX) *Second Century of Various Texts*, 53

Troparia and Kontakia for September 28th



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.

St. Chariton the Confessor, Troparion, tone 8

With the streams of thy tears thou didst cultivate the barrenness of the desert, / and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst bring forth the fruit of thy labors a hundredfold; / and thou wast a beacon for the whole world, shining with miracles. / O Chariton our father, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

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 race /, for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8

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.

St. Chariton the Confessor, Kontakion, tone 2

Having delighted in abstinence, / and bridled the desires of thy flesh, O divinely wise one, / thou wast shown to increase in faith / and didst flourish like the tree of life in the midst of paradise, / O most blessed and sacred Chariton.