

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, October 5, 2008

Schedule of Services

**October 5<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:15 a.m. Annual Parish Meeting

**October 6<sup>th</sup> Monday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

**October 7<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**October 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

5:30 p.m. Class: Galatians

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**October 9<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**October 10<sup>th</sup> Friday Optina Elders**

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

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

**October 11<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**October 12<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

For what did not they of old [under the Old Covenant] do? They gave tithes, and tithes again upon tithes for orphans, widows, and strangers [and the Priests and Levites]; whereas some one was saying to me in astonishment at another, "Why, such a one gives tithes." What a load of disgrace doth this expression imply, since what was not a matter of wonder with the Jews has come to be so in the case of the Christians? If there was danger then in omitting tithes, think how great it must be now....

*St. John Chrysostom, Homily 4 on Ephesians*

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

## Announcements for October 5<sup>h</sup>

**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 our priest, next week for debt reduction.

**The Parish's Annual Meeting** will be held today as soon after Liturgy as possible, probably 11:15. If you are Orthodox and consider this your parish home, please attend.

**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 Weekday Liturgy** this week will be on Friday at 7:30 and will commemorate the 12 elders of the Optina Monastery of Russia between 1820 and 1920. The lives of more than half of them are available in English and are well worth our time to read as they well express the essence of 'Orthodoxy of the heart', to use Fr. Seraphim Rose's phrase. Their lives breathe with the breath of the Holy Spirit and serve well to inspire us to seek Christ with our whole hearts and not be conformed to the world but transformed by the renewing of our minds.

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

**Please Pray for our 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 \$508.45; in September, we gave \$3518.55; our monthly budget is \$6400. Candles \$27.50; Building Fund \$22; Special Offering Abbot Jonah \$62. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 11, Liturgy 40.

### From Saint Maximus

The 'rough places' – that is to say, the attacks of trials and temptations suffered against our will – shall be made 'smooth', above all when the intellect, rejoicing and delighting in weakness, affliction, and calamity, through its unsought sufferings deprives of all their lordship the passions in which we deliberately indulge. For by 'rough places' Scripture means those experiences of unsought trials and temptations which change to smooth ways when endure with patience and thankfulness (Isaiah 40:4, LXX)

He who longs for the true life knows that all suffering, whether sought or unsought, brings death to sensual pleasure, the mother of death; and so he gladly accepts the harsh attacks and temptations suffered against his will. By patiently enduring them, he turns afflictions into smooth untroubled paths, unerringly leading whoever devoutly runs the divine race along them towards the prize of the high calling' (Philippians 3:14). For sensual pleasure is the mother of death, and the death of such pleasure is suffering, whether freely chosen or not.  
*Second Century of Various Texts, 54, 55*

The brothers surrounded Abba John Cassian who was at the point of death and ready to depart eagerly and joyously to God. They asked him to leave them a concise and salutary saying as their inheritance, which would enable them to become perfect in Christ. Groaning, he said to them: 'I have never done my own will, nor taught anything which I had not previously carried out.' *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

## Troparia and Kontakia for October 5<sup>th</sup>



### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

### 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 Charitina, Troparion, tone 4

Thy ewe-lamb Charitina / crieth out to Thee with a loud voice, O Jesus: / "I love Thee, O my Bridegroom, / and, seeking Thee, I pass through many struggles: / I am crucified and buried with Thee in Thy baptism, / and suffer for Thy sake that I may reign with Thee; / I die for Thee that I may live with Thee. / As an unblemished sacrifice accept me who sacrifice myself with love for Thee!" / By her supplications save Thou our souls, in that Thou art merciful.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

### 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.

### Martyr Charitina, Kontakion, tone 2

Rendering thy soul steadfast with mighty understanding, / O most blessed Charitina, / arrayed in a robe dyed purple in thy blood / thou didst manifestly put to shame the adverse foe; // and thou dost ever rejoice with the angels. Pray thou for us, O athlete.