

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, August 2, 2009

Schedule of Services

August 2nd Sunday

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

August 3rd Monday Fast

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

August 4th Tuesday Fast

7:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Molieben, Family Gathering

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Class Basics of Orthodoxy

August 5th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

12:00 p.m. Bible Study: First John

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

August 6th Thursday Holy Transfiguration

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

August 7th Friday Fast

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

August 8th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

August 9th Sunday St. Herman of Alaska

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Speak more to God about your children, rather than to your children about God.

For the correct, Christian upbringing of your children: few words, much example, and more prayer are necessary.

Elder Epiphanius of Greece (+1989)

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

Announcements for August 2nd

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 to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading).

Please Move Forward during the Liturgy! **Please be quiet** in the Narthex afterwards while the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion are being read in the church, or better yet, stay for the prayers so you don't have to read them later at home.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for our priest, next week for debt reduction.

Holy Transfiguration, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this Wednesday evening with Vigil at 7:00 p.m. and Divine Liturgy Thursday morning at 9:00. We do well to keep the Feast by attending as much of the cycle of services as we can. Transfiguration points us to the glory that will be ours when we are transformed in Christ's Kingdom.

A Financial Management Class is being considered for this fall lasting ten weeks at \$55 for a couple, \$45 for a single (for materials), and would be limited to five couples (or ten persons). The class will give couples and singles Christian principles to guide their finances and many practical worksheets to help them carry them out. Please see Fr. Justin if you are interested.

Classes this Week

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox, Creed Article 9: The One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church.

Wednesday, noon: First John, line by line through chapter 2.

The Dormition Fast runs through the until Saturday, August 15. We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil, and marital relations in order to give ourselves more fully to prayer, seeking God, almsgiving, spiritual reading, and repentance. See your priest if you have any questions about the fast. Let us with God's help make this a time of seeking renewal from above and refreshment in our Faith.

Please Pray for our Catechumen: Thom Anderson, for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Adam & Melanie Betz, and Robert & Elisabeth Terry. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, for Nick Gluschenko, and Nancy Rachel Saito visiting in California. Please remember Met. Jonah in your prayers, our Alaskan Seminarian Methodius Nicori, and the nun Barbara as she labors to found a new monastery in our area.

The Men's Retreat at Holy Archangels' Monastery is coming up August 16-19. The theme will be how to be a Christian man in an increasingly un-Christian world. Please let Father Justin know if you plan to attend.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God, which also 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 and placed in the basket on the candle table, where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for the building fund.

Last week, we gave \$794.57 in tithes and offerings; in July we gave \$3132.21; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$28.50; Bookstore \$32; Building fund \$75; building fund debt repayment \$200; Library \$5. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 14, Liturgy 61. Sunday July avg 45.5, year ago 32; Vigil avg. 10.5, year ago 12.

From Saint Maximus

As a little sparrow whose foot is tied tries to fly but is pulled to earth by the cord to which it is bound, so does the mind which does not yet possess detachment get pulled down and dragged to earth when it flies to the knowledge of heavenly things.

When the mind is completely freed from the passions, it journeys straight ahead to the contemplation of created things and makes its way to the knowledge of the Holy Trinity.

When the mind is pure and takes on ideas of things, it is moved to a spiritual contemplation. But when it has become impure by carelessness, it imagines mere ideas of other things, so that receiving human ideas it turns back to shameful and evil thoughts.

When in time of prayer no ideas of the world ever disturb the mind, then know that you are not outside the limits of detachment.

400 Chapters on Love, 1.85-88

Troparia and Kontakia for August 2nd



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.

Protomartyr Stephen, Troparion, tone 4

For the sufferings which thou didst endure for Christ God, / thy head hath been crowned with a royal diadem, / O Stephen, first among those who have suffered; / for, having denounced the insanity of the Jews, / thou didst behold thy Savior at the right hand of the Father. / Him do thou therefore entreat // in behalf of our souls.

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 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

Protomartyr Stephen, Kontakion, tone 6

Thou wast the first to be sown on the earth / by the heavenly Husbandmen, O most laudable Stephen, / and thou, O blest one, wast the first on earth to shed thy blood for Christ; / first hast thou been to be crowned with the wreath of victory in the heavens, / O first among athletes, crown-bearer, // who wast first among martyrs.