

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, May 9th, 2010

Christ Is Risen! Indeed, He Is Risen!

Schedule of Services

May 9th 6th Sunday of Pascha Blind Man

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

May 11th Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Paschal Vespers for Leavetaking, Confession

May 12th Wednesday Leavetaking of Pascha

6:30 a.m. Paschal Matins

7:00 p.m. Vigil for Ascension, Confession

May 13th Thursday Ascension of Our Lord

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

1:00 p.m. Class: St. Theophan, *Path of Salvation*

2:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

May 14th Friday

12:00 p.m. Catechumens preparing for Holy Illumination

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

May 15th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 16th 7th Sunday Father's of the First Ecumenical Council

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

All the obstacles to spiritual progress are within us—only in us! If anything from without acts as an obstacle, it merely convicts and exposes our feeble will, our duplicity, our corruption by sin.

Let us hasten to perfect ourselves in humility, which consists in a specially blessed state of the heart and makes its appearance in the heart as a result of doing the commandments of the Gospel. Humility is that single altar on which it is allowed us by spiritual law to offer the sacrifice of prayer and on which the offered sacrifice of prayer ascends to God and appears before His face. Humility is that single vessel into which the gifts of grace are put by the finger of God.

St. Ignatius Branchaninov, from On the Prayer of Jeuss

Announcements for May 9th

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.

The Special Offering today will be for debt reduction.

Parents: Please watch children closely today. The fence between us and the neighbor is down, meaning that access to their pool is possible for small children. We don't want any accidents!

Classes this Week

No Basics of Orthodoxy class this week due to the Vigil for Ascension.

Thursday, 1:00 p.m., St. Theophan, *Path of Salvation*

Friday, noon: Catechumens preparing for Illumination.

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, May 23.

During the 50 days from Pascha to the Feast of Pentecost on May 23rd, we do not kneel or make prostrations at home or in church in keeping with the joyful, festal character of the season. We begin to kneel and do prostrations again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost.

For 40 days until the Feast of Ascension (May 13), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!"

During the same period, we replace "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal..." with the paschal troparion said thrice.

Through the Leavetaking of Pascha (May 12), we use the Paschal Troparion before and after meals and when setting out on a trip.

Crawfish Boil & Catfish Children's Fishing Tournament to benefit the new women's monastery, Sunday, May 23, 1 to 6 p.m. at

Indian Oaks HOA Park on Lake Tawakoni with Zydeco band. Sponsored by a parishioner of St. Seraphim's Cathedral. Cost \$20 per adult, \$5 for children under 12. Register by May 10 online at <http://www.mainlandchinatrading.com/crawfish/>

A Spiritual Retreat sponsored by The Nativity of Our Lord Monastery will be held this Friday and Saturday May 14-15) at St. Seraphim's Cathedral with guest speaker the Hieromonk James, who is pastor of the "Old Cathedral" in San Francisco. Friday night at 7:30, after Vespers at 6:00, he will be speaking on Divine Foriveness. This talk is open free of charge to all youth. Saturday he will be reflecting on the life of St. John of San Francisco. Cost \$30 for adults, \$20 for students. Call Dan Rudder for more info: (972) 242-7301.

Memorial Day this year falls on the beginning of the Apostles' Fast. We plan to have a more modest picnic/cookout the afternoon of Sunday, May 30, in its place, at 3:00 p.m.

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 \$1520,73 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$30.50; Bookstore \$80; Building fund \$20; special gifts \$76. May God bless your faithful giving! Expansion fund \$15 (\$2443.28 total collected; min. goal \$2500). Attendance: Sunday Liturgy 67, Saturday Vigil 25.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: for those preparing for Holy Illumination at Pentecost: Adam, Melanie, Olive Betz, Ashley Davis, and Mary Moses; for our **catechumens** Thom Anderson, Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston. Thanks be to God that little Thomas Jackson is home and doing well.

From Saint Maximus

The demons mount their attacks either with things or with the passionate thoughts connected with them: with things, those who are concerned for them; with thoughts, those who have withdrawn from things

As much as it is easier to sin in thought than in deed, so is a war with thoughts more exacting than one with things.

Things exist outside the mind while thoughts about them are put together inside [the mind]. Therefore on it depends either their proper or improper use, for the abuse of things follows on the mistaken use of thoughts.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.71-73

Troparia and Kontakia for May 9th



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.

Kontakion of the Blind Man, tone 4

Since my soul's noetic eyes are blind and sightless, / I come unto Thee, O Christ, as did the man born blind. / And in repentance I cry to Thee: / Thou art the most radiant Light / of those in darkness.

Paschal Kontakion, tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, "Rejoice!" to the myrrhbearing women, / granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

