

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Schedule of Services

**September 26<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

11:30 a.m. Parish Annual Meeting

**September 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: The Nicene Creed 7

**September 30<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**October 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Protection of the Theotokos (Pokrov)**

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

1:00 p.m. Adult Class: Old Testament History: Moses

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

11:45 a.m. Mission Council (New council installed)

Life is blessedness. These words might seem strange. How can one call life 'blessedness' when at every step one encounters failures, disappointments, and grief? How much sorrow people endure. Life, people say, is labor, and often thankless labor—what kind of blessedness is there in this? And all the same I repeat: life is blessedness. Life becomes blessedness for us when we learn to fulfill Christ's commandments and to love Christ. Then it will be a joy to live, a joy to endure the afflictions that come upon us, while before us will glow the ineffable light of the Sun of Righteousness—the Lord. All the Gospel commandments begin with the word 'blessed': blessed are the meek, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the peacemakers.... From this it follows, as a truth, that the fulfilling of the commandments offers people the highest happiness. *St. Barsanunphius of Optina*

## Announcements for September 26<sup>th</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee, 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 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). If we are visiting from another parish, we should know that proper church etiquette is to contact the priest ahead of time if we wish to receive Holy Communion so he doesn't have to question us as to our identity in the Communion line. We should be modestly dressed and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

**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** this week is for Mike Rodgers at seminary.

**The Annual Meeting** will be held today at 11:30. All are welcome to attend, but only eligible members may vote. Eligible members are Orthodox Christians of at least 18 years of age who have indicated a desire to be members, who have received Confession and Communion at least once in the past year, and who help support the parish financially. All who consider this parish their home are invited to attend. Matushka Michelle will be available to look after children outside during the meeting.

**No Church School** today, due to the annual meeting.

**Temple Oil** given for the health and salvation of Galina.

### Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: The Creed 7 "One Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God..."

Friday 1:00 p.m. Old Testament History Session 5 "The Covenant on Sinai" Torah: The Law

**The Parish Phone Book** is being updated. Please make sure we have your current phone numbers, address, email, birthdays and namedays. See Dax Stokes.

**Copies** of the Confessor's Tongue and the weekly Bulletin may be found on our website. So too recordings of some homilies and some of the Basics of Orthodoxy Class lectures.

**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).

Last week we gave \$668.50 in tithes and offerings; in September we have given \$4049.25 our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$52.50; bookstore \$76.25, Seminarian offering \$28. May God bless your giving! Attendance: Sunday Liturgy 76; Vigil 27.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Thom Anderson, Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire; Samuel Vanderburg, Michael, Gina, and Ian Rehmet. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, for Elias Ashley Davis who is in Alaska, for Michael Rodgers at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Please pray for all your fellow parishioners that we all may keep the Faith and be firmly established therein.

### From Saint Maximus

In bringing into existence a rational and intelligent nature, God in His supreme goodness has communicated to it four of the divine attributes by which He maintains, guards, and preserves creatures: being, eternal being, goodness, and wisdom. The first two of these He grants to the essence, the second two to its faculty of will; that is, to the essence He gives being and eternal being, and to the volitive faculty [will] He gives goodness and wisdom in order that what He is by essence the creature might become by participation. For this reason, he [man] is said to be made 'to the image and likeness of God': to the image of His being by our being, to the image of His eternal being by our eternal being (even though not without a beginning, it is yet without end); to the likeness of His goodness by our goodness, to the image of His wisdom by our wisdom. The first is by nature, the second by grace. Every rational nature indeed is made to the image of God; but only those who are good and wise are made to His likeness.

All rational and intelligent nature is divided into two, namely, angelic and human nature. And all angelic nature is again divided into two

general sides or groupings, holy or accursed, that is, into holy powers and impure demons. All human nature is divided as well into only two general sides, religious and irreligious. *400 Chapters on Love, 3.25-6*

‘Insensibility’, petrification, deadness of soul—these are the result of long-established sins which have not been confessed in time. The soul is greatly eased if we immediately confess the sins we have just committed, while we still feel its pang. Confession, if postponed, leads to insensibility. *From The Diary of A Russian Priest*

## Troparia and Kontakia for September 26<sup>th</sup>



### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

### St. John the Theologian, Troparion tone 2

O beloved apostle of Christ God, / haste thou to deliver a defenseless people. / He who permitted thee to recline against His breast / receiveth thee, prostrate in supplication. / Him do thou beseech, O theologian, / that He dispel the gloom of the nations which doth beset us, // asking for us peace and great mercy.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God. / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

### St. John the Theologian, Kontakion, tone 2

Who can recount thy mighty works, / O virgin apostle? / For thou pourest out miracles / and dost cause healings to flow forth; / and thou prayest for our souls // in that thou art a theologian and the friend of Christ.

