

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday of July 15th, 2012

Schedule of Services

July 15th Sixth Sunday After Pentecost, tone 5

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

July 18th Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Reader Vespers

July 20th Friday

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

July 21st Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

July 22nd Seventh Sunday After Pentecost, tone 6

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From Saint Thalassios, the Libyan (*friend of St. Maximus*)

The thoughts of a wise man are devoted to wisdom, and his words enlighten those who hear them.

A virtuous soul cultivates good thoughts; a soul full of evil breeds thoughts of depravity.

An impassioned soul produces evil thoughts: it is a fund of evil.

The virtues possess a fund of goodness from which the holy intellect brings forth blessings.

The intellect energized by divine love cultivates good thoughts about God; but when impelled by self-love, it produces diabolic thoughts.

When the intellect is moved by love for its neighbor, it always thinks well of him; but when it is under diabolic influence it entertains evil thoughts about him.

The virtues generate good thoughts; the commandments lead us to the virtues; the practice of the virtues depends on our own will and resolution.

As virtue and evil come and go, they dispose the soul either to goodness or to malice, prompting in it the corresponding thoughts.

Evil begets evil thoughts; disobedience begets evil; the deceit of the senses gives rise to disobedience; and this deceit derives from the intellect's neglect of its own salvation.

400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 3.75-83

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

Announcements for July 15th

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door.

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 (so as not to distract others) 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.

No Classes this Week

The Assembly of the Diocese of the South takes place in Miami this week. Fr. Justin and Michael Rehmet will be attending to represent our parish. Major items on the agenda include approving bylaws for the diocese and a budget for 2013.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: Philip Smith, Elizabeth Dakak, Sean Chaney, Joel and Mindy Brown and their children Daniel, Anya, and Elijah, Gary & Olivia Reynolds and their children, and for our inquirers James and Lauren. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Sherrie Joanna (Sherrie) Hale, and for the novice Svetlana.

Hall Expansion Update: The initial installation of heating and air conditioning equipment has been accomplished. The electrical rough-in should take place this coming week.

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 in 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 our building fund.

Last week we gave \$1508.16; in July, we have given \$3071.41; our monthly budget is \$8179 (\$2045 per week. (To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$10,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$49, Expansion, \$5, Building Fund \$59, Renovation (soda, special offering) \$5060. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 21, Liturgy 79.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of \$58,215.87 has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

From Saint Maximus

Pleasure and distress, desire and fear, and what follows from them, were not originally created as elements of human nature, for in that case they would form part of the definition of that nature. I follow in this matter St. Gregory of Nyssa, who states that these things were introduced as a result of our fall from perfection, being infiltrated into that part of our nature least endowed with intelligence. Through them the blessed and divine image in man was at the time of our transgression immediately replaced by a clear and obvious likeness to animals. Once the true dignity of the intelligence had been obscured, it was inevitable and just that human nature should be chastised by those witless elements which it had introduced into itself. In this way God in His providence wisely made man conscious of the nobility of his intellect.

Even the passions become good if we wisely and diligently detach them from what is bodily and direct them towards the acquisition of what is heavenly. This happens, for example, when we turn desire into noetic yearning for heavenly blessings; or when we turn pleasure into the gentle delight which the volitive energy of the intellect finds in divine gifts; or when we turn fear into protective concern to escape punishments threatening us because of our sin; or when we turn distress into corrective remorse for present sin. In short, the passions become good if—like wise physicians who use the body of the viper as a remedy against present or expected harm resulting from its bite—we use them to destroy present or expected evil, and in order to acquire and safeguard virtue and spiritual knowledge.

The law of the Old Testament through practical philosophy cleanses human nature of all defilement. The law of the New Testament, through initiation into the mysteries of contemplation, raises the intellect by means of spiritual knowledge from the sight of material things to the vision of spiritual realities.

First Century of Various Texts, 65-67

Troparia and Kontakia for July 15th

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.

Fathers of the First 6 Councils, Troparion, tone 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God, / who hast established our Fathers upon the earth as beacons, / and hast thereby guided us to the true Faith! / O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Thee!

St. Vladimir, Troparion, tone 4

O Holy Prince Vladimir, / thou wast like a merchant in search of fine pearls, / by sending servants to Constantinople for the Orthodox Faith, / thou didst find Christ, the priceless Pearl. / He appointed thee to be another Paul, / washing away in baptism thy physical and spiritual blindness. / We celebrate thy memory, / asking thee to pray for all Orthodox Christians of Russia, // and for us, thy spiritual children.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

Fathers of the First 6 Councils, Kontakion, tone 8

The preaching of the Apostles and the dogmas of the Fathers / sealed the one Faith of the Church; / and clad in the robe of Truth woven of theology from on high, / it setteth aright and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

St. Vladimir, Kontakion, tone 8

Emulating the great Apostle Paul in thy maturity, O most glorious Vladimir, / and putting aside all thy zeal for idols as childish thoughts, / thou hast adorned thyself with the purple robe of divine baptism. / And standing now in gladness before Christ the Savior, / pray thou that Russia thy land be saved, // and that peace and great mercy be granted to the Orthodox people.