

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

Bulletin for Sunday of September 2nd, 2012

Schedule of Services

September 2nd 13th Sunday After Pentecost, tone 4
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Teachers & Students
5:30 p.m. *Wedding of Patrick St. Jean & Heather Roper, St. Mary's*

September 3rd Monday
12:00 p.m. Annual Labor Day Picnic

September 5th Wednesday
7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
7:00 p.m. Vespers
8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Creed Article 4: Cross

September 6th Thursday
7:00 a.m. Matins
3:00 p.m. Vespers
4:00 p.m. Class: *The Arena*

September 7th Friday
7:00 a.m. Matins
7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

September 8th Saturday Nativity of the Theotokos
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

September 9th 14th Sunday After Pentecost, tone 5
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

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

Use the senses and sense objects as a means to spiritual contemplation but, on the contrary, do not use what provokes the desire of the flesh as food for the senses.

You have been commanded to mortify the acts of the body (cf. Col. 3:5) so that when the soul has been made dead to pleasure you may bring it back to life through your ascetic labors.

Be ruled by God and rule over your senses; and, being on a higher level, do not give authority to what is inferior to you.

400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 4.6-8

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

Announcements for September 2nd

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.

The Special Offering today will go for Debt Reduction.

Wedding: We shall celebrate the Crowning of Patrick St. Jean and Heather Roper this evening at 5:30 at St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church in Colleyville. May the Lord bless and preserve their union!

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy, Creed Article 4:
"And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate" The Cross
Thursday, 4:00 p.m. *The Arena*

The Nativity of the Theotokos, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with Vigil Friday night at 7:00 and Divine Liturgy Saturday morning at 9:00. We do well to love the feasts of the Church and to demonstrate it by participating in the cycle of services celebrating the feast.

The Mission Council will meet next Sunday.

The Annual Meeting will be held September 30. Please plan now to attend. Voting members are Orthodox Christians age 18 and older who have been to Confession and Communion in the past year and have fulfilled their financial obligation to the parish, a condition which the parish has left to the priest to determine. If you have any question as to whether you are a voting member of the parish, please see Fr. Justin. Please note that you may be a member of the parish without being a voting member.

Ministry to Shut-ins: We currently have two shut-ins who would welcome visits from parishioners. To visit Nina Johnston at 5892 Mills Road in Denton, call her son Richard to set up a visit at (972) 900-0201. Sherrie Joanna Hall, living at 400 East University Drive, #1103, may be reached at (817) 925-4183. She is also looking for a ride to church.

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: A gas line needs to be run for the new furnace in the all, and some additions to the framing need to be done before we can move ahead with more visible work.

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 \$1871.50; in August, we gave \$6292.14; 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 \$23.50, Expansion, \$4, Building Fund \$51, Renovation (soda,) \$3, special offering for alms, \$27.27. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 13, Liturgy 78.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of \$58,248.87 has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

From Saint Maximus

The principle of active accomplishment is one thing and that of passive suffering is another. The principle of active accomplishment signifies the natural capacity for actualizing the virtues. The principle of passive suffering signifies experiencing either the grace of what is beyond nature or the occurrence of what is contrary to nature. For just as we do not have a natural capacity for what is above being, so we do not by nature have a capacity for what lacks being. Thus we passively experience deification by grace as something which is above nature, but we do not actively accomplish it; for by nature we do not have the capacity to attain deification. Again, we suffer evil as something contrary to nature which occurs in the will; for we do not have a natural capacity for generating evil. Thus while we are in our present state we can actively accomplish the virtues by nature, since we have a natural capacity for accomplishing them. But, when raised to a higher level, we experience deification passively, receiving this experience as a free gift of grace. *Various Texts*, 75

Troparia and Kontakia for September 2nd

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

St. Mamas, Troparion, tone 4

In his sufferings, O Lord, / Thy martyr Mamas received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God; / for possessed of Thy might, / he set at nought the tyrants and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls.

St. John the Faster, Troparion, tone 4

Thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence, / because of thy lowliness, the heights were opened to thee, / because of thy poverty, riches were granted to thee. / O holy Hierarch, Father John, / intercede with Christ our God // that our souls be saved.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 4

My Saviour and Deliverer as God/ hath raised out of the grave the earth-born from their bonds / and He hath shattered the gates of hell / and as Master / He hath risen on the third day.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

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.

St. Mamas, Kontakion, tone 3

With the staff given thee by God, O holy one, / thou didst shepherd thy people in life-bearing pastures; / and thou didst crush the invisible and untamed wild beasts / beneath the feast of those who hymn thee. / For all who find themselves amid misfortunes // have thee as their fervent intercessor, O Mamas.