

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton


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Bulletin for Sunday May 19th, 2013

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!



Schedule of Services

May 19th Sunday of the Myrrhbearers

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

May 22nd Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Reader's Vespers,

May 23rd Thursday

8:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Divine Liturgy

May 24th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

8:00 p.m. Compline w/Akathist to Theotokos, Confession

May 25th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 26th Sunday of the Paralytic

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

12:00 p.m. Mission Council

May 27th Monday

12:00 p.m. Molieben to St. Maximus, Memorial Day Picnic

May 28th Tuesday

4:00 p.m. Vespers for Mid-Pentecost, Confession

From the Pentecostarion

Why do ye mingle tears with the myrrh-oils, O ye women disciples? The stone hath been rolled away, the sepulchre is empty. Behold corruption trodden under by Life, the seals bearing clear witness, the guards of the disobedient fast asleep. Mortal nature is saved by the flesh of God, Hades is lamenting. Hasten ye with joy and say unto the Apostles: "Christ, the firstborn of the dead, who caused death to die, goeth before you into Galilee." *Vespers for Sunday of the Myrrhbearers*

Announcements for May 19

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 will go for the Fr. Christopher Allen's mission in San Antonio.

Classes this Week:

No Wednesday class this week. The following week, we shall begin a study of the Book of Hebrews that will go on until the middle of August. It would be good for those who will attend to read through Hebrews before then, jotting down some notes and questions. We have ordered some copies of Vladyka Dmitri's commentary on the epistle for those who may be interested in using it.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Basics of Orthodoxy resumes. The class will examine the Divine Liturgy—its place in Orthodox Christian life, what it means, going through it line by line—between now and August 15. Those recently baptized who have not been through this part of the Basics Class are strongly encouraged to attend, as are high school or college students or anyone else who has never taken this class.

The Memorial Day Picnic is coming, Monday, May 27. We'll sing a Molieben to St. Maximus for the Parish at noon and then picnic through the afternoon. Please bring a picnic food and a drink (don't forget water). If anyone would like to organize games or other activities for children or youth, please let me know.

Please Pray: for inquirers Rebecca and Rebecca, the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice care, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga.

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 \$1751.37; in May, we have given \$3612.80; our monthly budget is \$9187 (\$2297 per week. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$86, Building Fund \$120, Soda (renovation) \$2.75. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 41, Liturgy 95.

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 23. Instead we say or sing the Paschal Troparion, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death..." three times.

During the 50 days from Pascha to the Feast of Pentecost on June 23rd, we do not kneel or make prostrations 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 (June 13), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!"

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

From Saint Maximus

A man who has been assiduous in acquiring the fruits of love will not cease loving even if he suffers a thousand calamities. Let Stephen, the disciple of Christ, and others like him persuade you of the truth of this (cf. Acts 7:60). Our Lord Himself prayed for His murderers and asked the Father to forgive them because they did not know what they were doing (cf. Luke 23:34).

If love is long-suffering and kind (cf. 1 Cor. 13:4), a man who is contentious and malicious clearly alienates himself from love. And he who is alienated from love is alienated from God, for God is love.

Do not say that you are the temple of the Lord, writes Jeremiah (cf. Jer. 7:4); nor should you say that faith alone in our Lord Jesus Christ can save you, for this is impossible unless you also acquire love for Him through your works. As for faith by itself, 'the devils also believe, and tremble' (James 2:19).

We actively manifest love in forbearance and patience towards our neighbor, in genuinely desiring his good, and in the right use of material things.

He who loves God neither distresses nor is distressed with anyone on account of transitory things. There is only one kind of distress which he both suffers and inflicts on others: that salutary distress which the blessed Paul suffered and which he inflicted on the Corinthians (cf. 2 Cor. 7:8-11).

He who loves God lives the angelic life on earth, fasting and keeping vigils, praying and singing psalms and always thinking good of every man.

If a man desires something, he makes every effort to attain it. But of all things which are good and desirable the divine is incomparably the best and the most desirable. How assiduous, then, we should be in order to attain what is of its very nature good and desirable.

400 Chapters on Love, First Century 37-43

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, May 19

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: // ‘O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!’

Myrrh-bearing Women, Troparion, tone 2

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thine immaculate Body from the tree, / wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, / and placed it in a new tomb. / But Thou didst rise on third day, O Lord, // granting the world great mercy.

Myrrh-bearing Women, Kontakion, tone 2

The Angel came to the myrrbearing women at the tomb / and said: “Myrrh is meet for the dead; / but Christ hath shown Himself a stranger to corruption! / So proclaim: the Lord is risen, / granting the world great mercy.”

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 myrrbearing women, / granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.