

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday June 16th, 2013

Schedule of Services

June 16th Sunday Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

June 17th Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

June 19th Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:30 p.m. Community Meal

6:00 p.m. Class: Hebrews

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

June 20th 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

June 21st Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:30 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Compline with Akathist to the Theotokos

June 22nd Memorial Saturday

8:00 a.m. Matins for the Departed

9:00 a.m. Liturgy for the Departed

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

June 23rd Trinity Sunday Holy Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vespers of Pentecost with Kneeling Prayers

From the Pentecostarion

O ye assemblies of the Orthodox, let us celebrate today with faith and piety the annual memorial of the God-bearing Fathers who, in the illustrious city of Nicaea, came together from the whole inhabited world. For with pious mind they refuted the godless dogma of the grievous Arius, and by synodal decree banished him from the Catholic Church. And they instructed all to openly confess the consubstantial and co-eternal Son of God, who existed before the ages. This, in exactness and piety, did they set forth in the Symbol of Faith. *Vespers of the Seventh Sunday of Pascha*

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

Announcements for June 16

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 to show our love and appreciation to Metropolitan Jonah for his service.

Memorial Saturday: This coming Saturday is a Memorial Saturday, one of the official days the Church sets aside for remembering the departed in prayer. We have not often celebrated these services here, but we are gradually attempting to do so more frequently and will do so this Saturday. Friday evening Vespers and Saturday morning Matins will both have special hymns for the departed as will Liturgy. These services are not on the monthly calendar.

Metropolitan Jonah will be with us at St. Maximus for the Feast of Pentecost, both for the Vigil and the Liturgy. It is likely that we shall have larger than usual attendance next weekend. You may wish to come a little earlier than usual, and we'll need everyone to pitch in to make sure we have a robust offering of food for coffee hour.

An All-Night Vigil will be held for the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, from 10:00 p.m. Friday, June 28 until about 4:00 a.m. Saturday, June 29. Make plans to keep vigil through the night with us!

Classes this Week:

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Study of the Book of Hebrews

Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Basics of Orthodoxy. The class is examining the Divine Liturgy. This week we'll look at the Antiphons and the Little Litany.

Please Pray: for inquirers Rebecca, Rebecca, Destiny, Shannon, the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice care, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. 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 about \$1200; this month we have given about \$3200 in tithes and offerings; 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 \$, Building Fund. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 35, Liturgy 82.

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 23. Instead, during the Feast of Ascension, we say or sing the Troparion for the Feast "Thou hast ascended in glory..." once.

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.

From Saint Maximus

'But I say to you,' says the Lord, 'love your enemies ... do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you' (Matt. 5:44). Why did He command this? To free you from hatred, irritation, anger and rancor, and to make you worthy of the supreme gift of perfect love. And you cannot attain such love if you do not imitate God and love all men equally. For God loves all men equally and wishes them 'to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth' (1 Tim. 2:4).

'But I say to you, do not resist evil; but if someone hits you on the right cheek, turn to him the other cheek as well. And if anyone sues you in the courts, and takes away your coat, let him have your cloak also. And if anyone forces you to go a mile, go with him for two miles' (Matt. 5:39-41). Why did He say this? Both to keep you free from anger and irritation, and to correct the other person by means of your forbearance, so that like a good Father He might bring the two of you under the yoke of love

We carry about with us impassioned images of the things we have experienced. If we can overcome these images we shall be indifferent to the things which they represent. For fighting against the thoughts of things is much harder than fighting against the things themselves, just as to sin in the mind is easier than to sin through outward action.

Some passions pertain to the body, others to the soul. The first are occasioned by the body, the second by external objects. Love and self-control overcome both kinds, the first curbing the passions of the soul and the second those of the body.

Some passions pertain to the soul's incensive power, and others to its desiring aspect. Both kinds are aroused through the senses. They are aroused when the soul lacks love and self-control.

The passions of the soul's incensive power are more difficult to combat than those of its desiring aspect. Consequently our Lord has given a stronger remedy against them; the commandment of love.

While passions such as forgetfulness and ignorance affect but one of the soul's three aspects—the incensive, the desiring or the intelligent—listlessness alone seizes control of all the soul's powers and rouses almost all the passions together. That is why this passion is more serious than all the others. Hence our Lord has given us an excellent remedy against it, saying: "You will gain possession of your souls through your patient endurance" (Luke 21:19).

400 Chapters on Love, First Century 61-67

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, June 16

Ascension, Troparion, tone 4

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing they were assured / that Thou art the Son of God, / the Redeemer of the world.

Fathers, Troparion, tone 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God! / Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! / Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith! / O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Fathers, Kontakion, tone 8

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology; / great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

Ascension, Kontakion, tone 6

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake, / and unite earth to heaven; / Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, / not being parted from those who love Thee, / but remaining with them and crying: / I am with you and no one will be against you!