

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday July 7th, 2013

Schedule of Services

July 7th Second Sunday after Pentecost All Saints N. America

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

July 9th Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

July 10th Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:30 p.m. Community Meal

6:00 p.m. Class: Hebrews

7:15 p.m. Vespers, Confession

July 11th Thursday

8:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Compline with Akathist to Theotokos

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

July 12th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

9:00 p.m. Compline with Akathist to Theotokos, Confession

July 13th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

July 14th Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

Do not forget prayer—it is the life of the soul. *St. Nikon of Optina*

Prayer is food for the soul. Do not starve the soul, it is better to let the body go hungry. Do not judge anyone, forgive everyone. Consider yourself worse than everyone in the world and you will be saved. As much as possible, be more quiet. *St. Joseph of Optina*

When you do not have much time for prayer, be satisfied with the time that you do have, and God will accept your good desire. Remember that the feeling of the Publican in prayer is pleasing to God, and beware of evaluating your prayer: that is the work of God, not us. *St. Macarius of Optina*

Announcements for July 7

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, 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.

Temple oil is offered for the health and salvation of William, Carolyn, and Jessica, and in memory of David.

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.

Please Pray: for catechumen Shannon Goodson, for inquirers Rebecca and Destiny, the novice Svetlana, the Nun Elizabeth in hospice care, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, and for Joanna (Sherri) Hale.

Please Remember to be sure the children stay out of the parking lot after church for their safety and everyone's peace of mind.

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 \$1710.09 in tithes and offerings; in June we gave \$10,073.81 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 \$64.50; debt reduction, \$64; Special Offering for Met. Jonah \$50; Building Fund, \$58. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 42, Liturgy 92. Average June attendance: Vigil 45, Liturgy 88 (76 for June 2012).

Salutations to the Theotokos: The combination of Little Compline with the Akathist to the Theotokos is known as the Salutations to the Theotokos in Greek practice. Not only is it served on four Fridays in Great Lent, but it is also the pious practice of many of the faithful to read this service daily after supper as part of their prayer rule. It is also a regular part of Athosite practice. We are serving this service on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. before the Basics class and also this week on Friday at 9:00 p.m. The service may either be chanted (read) or sung.

From Saint Theophan

When greeting each other, the ancient Holy Fathers did not ask about health or anything else, but rather about prayer, saying "How is your prayer?" The activity of prayer was considered by them to be a sign of the spiritual life, and they called it the breath of the spirit. If the body has breath, it lives; if breathing stops, life comes to an end. So it is with the spirit. If there is prayer, the soul lives; without prayer, there is no spiritual life.

From Saint Maximus

Listen now to what they say about love for our neighbor: 'I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience also bears me witness in the Holy Spirit: I have great distress and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were severed from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites' (Rom. 9:1-3). Moses and the other saints speak in a similar manner.

He who is not indifferent to fame and pleasure, as well as to the love of riches that exists because of them and increases them, cannot cut off occasions for anger. And he who does not cut these off cannot attain perfect love.

Humility and ascetic hardship free a man from all sin, for the one cuts out the passions of the soul, the other those of the body. This is what the blessed David indicates when he prays to God, saying, 'Look on my humility and my toil, and forgive all my sins' (Ps. 25:18).

It is through our fulfilling of the commandments that the Lord makes us dispassionate; and it is through His divine teachings that He gives us the light of spiritual knowledge.

All such teachings are concerned either with God, or with things visible and invisible, or with the providence and judgment relating to them.

Almsgiving heals the soul's incensive power; fasting withers sensual desire; prayer purifies the intellect and prepares it for the

contemplation of created beings. For the Lord has given us commandments which correspond to the powers of the soul.

Learn from Me', He said 'for I am gentle and humble in heart' (Matt. 11:29). Gentleness keeps the soul's incisive power in a calm state; humility frees the intellect from conceit and self-esteem.

400 Chapters on Love, First Century 74-79

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, July 7

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.

All Saints of North America, Troparion, Feast, tone 8

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation, / the lands of North America offer to Thee, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. / By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace/through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One.

Glory... Now and ever...

All Saints of North America, Kontakion, tone 3

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God / in the lands of North America / now stand before us in the Church / and invisibly pray to God for us. / With them the Angels glorify Him, / and all the Saints of the Church of Christ / keep festival with them; // and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.