

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday September 15th, 2013

Schedule of Services

September 15th Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

September 17th Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

September 18th Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

September 19th Thursday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. New Session Begins: Basics of Orthodoxy

September 20th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. *Russian Vespers, Confession, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

September 21st Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

September 22nd 13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

The Optina Elders on the Jesus Prayer

One can retain the prayer mentally during sickness, when infirm, when with people, and during work. Only sometimes the head aches, but what can you do? After that one comes to like it. A thousand times over comes to like it. Try to hold the thought with Jesus not only in the head, but direct it a little toward the chest. Then, of course, the chest will hurt, but without this it is impossible. Our God is a consuming fire, And where it impure—there it hurts. Such pain is sent because of our unworthiness. But in time, it will pass. *St. Anatoly*

Announcements for September 15

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.

Special Offering this week will be for debt reduction.

The Mission Council will meet today at noon.

The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, September 29. Please plan to attend. All adults who attend St. Maximus and consider it their parish are urged to attend whether or not they are eligible to vote. According to the parish bylaws, voting members of the parish 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 annual meeting has so far 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 can be a member of the parish without being a voting member. The main business of an annual meeting is to approve an annual budget, to make major decisions about the acquisition or construction of property, and to hear reports from the priest and parish officers about the condition and direction of the parish.

The Elevation of the Cross, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, is celebrated through the Feast's Leavetaking on September 21. We use the troparion and kontakion of the Feast in our daily prayers and at meals (see back of bulletin).

Classes this Week

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: A new Session of this class begins this week. This class is suitable for those investigating the Orthodox Christian Faith, for those preparing to enter the Church, and for teens, college students, and others who desire a firm grounding in the basics of our Christian faith.

Coming Classes: The Wednesday evening class will resume in a week or two. We are considering offering a combination of some basic Russian for those who are interested and a reading and

discussion of portions of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago* along with selected lives of saints to gain an understanding of how Christians may stand firm in their faith and remain faithful to Christ in the face of persecution, torture, and death. As many of our brethren around the world are suffering for their faith, we, too, may profit from a consideration of this theme. Also, a class on the Liturgical Theology of the Church will be taught by your priest this fall every other Friday evening at 8:00 at St. Seraphim's in Dallas. This class is the fourth of the OCA Late Vocations classes but will be open to anyone interested. Finally, the priest is considering a daytime class during the week which will most likely study the commandments of Christ. The date and time of this class have yet to be determined. Please see the priest if you have interest in any of these classes or have input for him.

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.

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.

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.) No attendance or current financial figures are available at this time.

From Saint Maximus

The effect of observing the commandments is to free from passion our conceptual images of things. The effect of spiritual reading and contemplation is to detach the intellect from form and matter. It is this which gives rise to undistracted prayer.

Unless various successive spiritual contemplations also occupy the intellect, the practice of virtues by itself cannot free it so entirely from passions that it is able to pray undistractedly. Practice of the virtues frees the intellect only from dissipation and hatred; spiritual contemplation releases it also from forgetfulness and ignorance. In this way the intellect can pray as it should.

400 Chapters on Love, Second Century 4-5

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, September 15

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.
/ From the womb of hell hath He delivered us, // and hath granted the world great mercy.

Elevation of the Cross, Troparion tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross / preserve Thine estate.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit . . .

Martyr Nicetas, Troparion, tone 4

Taking up the Cross of Christ ardently, as it were a sword, / thou didst make hast to do battle with the enemy, / and, having later suffered by fire for Christ, / thou didst commit thy sacred soul to the Lord, / and hence thou hast been vouchsafed to receive from Him gifts of healing, / O greatmartyr Nicetas. // Entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

Let us the faithful praise with fitting hymns . . .

Great Martyr Nicetas, Kontakion, tone 2

Having cut down the dominion of deception by thy resistance / and recieved a crown of victory in thy sufferings / thou dost rejoice, with the angels / O Nicetas, namesake of victory // unceasingly praying with them to Christ God in behalf of us all.

Elevation of the Cross, Kontakion tone 4

As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, / so grant mercy, O Christ God, to those who are called by Thy name; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, / granting them victories over the enemy, / by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.