

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday September 22nd, 2013

Schedule of Services

September 22nd 13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

September 24th Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

September 25th Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Russian Class

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

September 26th Thursday

7:45 a.m. Matins, Confession

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Introductory Session 2

September 27th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

9:00 p.m. Compline with Akathist

September 28th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

September 29th 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

The Optina Elders on the Jesus Prayer

Prayer can cease only because of serious sins, or if someone does not repent and is not watchful over himself. But if someone repents, he needs this prayer. You only need to keep yourself in depth of humility and worthlessness. But in order for prayer to be firmly established, the very best means is to endure sorrows and scorn.

Say the Jesus Prayer more often—it will gladden the heart. Only strive to pluck out the rotten stuff from the heart, i.e., do not be attracted by unchaste thoughts. *St. Anatoly*

Announcements for September 22

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 Fr. Christopher Allen's Mission Parish in San Antonio.

The Annual Meeting will be held next 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.

Life Chain, an annual national demonstration against abortion, will be held Sunday afternoon October 6 in Denton at University and Carroll from 2:00 to 3:30. Park at the Kroger shopping center, get a sign, stand 30 feet apart, remain silent in prayer for the duration of the event.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Russian Language and Preparation for Martyrdom will offer instruction in the Russian alphabet for the first thirty minutes. Then there will be a brief reading or presentation for the writings of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn or the Lives of the Saints to help us consider how we may stand true to Christ if faced by unjust persecution.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Introductory Session 2: The Church and Jesus Christ.

Coming Classes: A class on the Liturgical Theology of the Church will be taught by your priest this fall three Fridays a month in October, November, and December at St. Seraphim's in Dallas. This class is the fourth of the OCA Late Vocations classes but will be open to anyone interested. The priest is also considering a daytime class during the week for the study of Scripture or a classic Orthodox spiritual text. 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 (Sherry) 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.

Last week, we gave \$2000 in tithes and offerings; in September, we have given \$7879.20; our monthly budget is \$9187 (\$2297 per week.) In August we gave \$7521.55. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Liturgy 81, Vigil 39.

From Saint Maximus

Two states of pure prayer are exalted above all others. One is to be found in those who have not advanced beyond the practice of the virtues, the other in those leading the contemplative life. The first is engendered in the soul by fear of God and a firm hope in Him, the second by an intense longing for God and by total purification. The sign of the first is that the intellect, abandoning all conceptual images of the world, concentrates itself and prays without distraction or disturbance as if God Himself were present, as indeed He is. The sign of the second is that at the very onset of prayer the intellect is so ravished by the divine and infinite light that it is aware neither of itself nor of any other created thing, but only of Him who through love has activated such radiance in it. It is then that, being made aware of God's qualities, it receives clear and distinct reflections of Him. *400 Chapters on Love, Second Century 6*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, September 22

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

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit / thou didst pour forth Christ's sacred teachings, / thou didst expound with Divine authority / the self-emptying of God the Word / and wast radiant in thy confession of the True Faith: / O, Glorious Father Maximus / pray to Christ our God / to grant us His great mercy.

Apostle Quadratus, Troparion, tone 3

O holy Apostle Quadratus, / intercede with the merciful God / that he grant unto our soul // forgiveness of our transgressions.

Hieromartyr Phocas, Troparion, tone 4

As a sharer of the ways and a successor / to the throne of the Apostles, O inspired of God, / thou foundest discipline / to be a means of ascent to divine vision. / Wherefore, having rightly divided the word of truth, / thou didst also contest for the Faith even unto blood, / O Hieromartyr Phocas. / 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 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.