

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday October 20th, 2013

Schedule of Services

October 20th 17th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

October 22nd Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

October 23rd Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:15 p.m. Russian Class

7:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

October 24th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Introductory Session 5

October 25th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

8:00 p.m. *Liturgical Theology Class, St. Seraphim, Dallas*

October 26th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

October 27th 18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

The Optina Elders on the Gospel

In order to fulfill the commandments of Christ, you must know them. They are expounded in the Gospels. Read the Holy Gospel, penetrate its spirit, make it the rule of your life, your manual in everything you do and for every question in life, act in accordance with the teachings of the Gospels. This is the one light in our life. *St. Nikon*

I advise you to read the Gospel more often and longer, especially the Gospel of John. Read it so that only your ears hear it: whether you understand it or not, read. The grace-filled words of the Gospel will mightily drive away boredom and despondency and bring comfort; only read it more often and longer. *St. Ambrose*

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

Announcements for October 20

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 IOCC.

Church School will meet for all ages after Liturgy today.

Temple Wine offered for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn; **Temple Oil** offered in thanksgiving for Pamela Sparks.

A Taste and Tour of IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) will be held tonight at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is a fund-raiser for the charity, one of the most efficient of its kind in the USA at getting dollars raised out into the field. Holy Trinity requests that each parish in the area participate and bring ethnic foods representing the parish as we come together to celebrate our cultural heritages and raise money for a good cause.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Russian

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Introductory Session 5: The Church and Tradition.

Friday, 8:00 p.m. Liturgical Theology: Baptism (at St. Seraphim's in Dallas)

All Saints Night, a time for children to come dressed as a saint with clues for others to guess, will be held the evening of October 31 at 6:00 p.m., so start planning now.

Please Pray: for catechumen Shannon Goodson, for inquirers Rebecca and Destiny, the novice Svetlana, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Adam Bramlett, admitted to the hospital yesterday for colitis and possibly mild pancreatitis. **Eternal Memory** to the nun Elizabeth.

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 \$2400; this month we have given \$3842.25; Our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$55, Alaskan Seminarian \$66.02, Building Fund \$6. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 42, Sunday Liturgy 88.

From Saint Maximus

Again, vice is the wrong use of our conceptual images of things, which leads us to misuse the things themselves. In relation to women, for example, sexual intercourse, rightly used, has as its purpose the begetting of children. He, therefore, who seeks in it only sensual pleasure uses it wrongly, for he reckons as good what is not good. When such a man has intercourse with a woman, he misuses her. And the same is true with regard to other things and our conceptual images of them.

When the demons expel self-restraint from your intellect and besiege you with thoughts of unchastity, turn to the Lord with tears and say, 'Now they have driven me out and encircled me' (Ps. 17:11. LXX); 'Thou art my supreme joy: deliver me from those who encircle me' (Ps. 32:7. LXX). Then you will be safe.

The demon of unchastity is powerful and violently attacks those who struggle against passion, particularly if they are lax about matters of diet and often meet women. With the lubricity of sensual pleasure he imperceptibly steals into the intellect and thereafter persecutes the hesychast by means of the memory, setting his body on fire and presenting various forms to his intellect. In this way he evokes his assent to sin. If you do not want these forms to linger in you, turn again to fasting, labor, vigils and blessed stillness with intense prayer.

Those who are always trying to lay hold of our soul do so by means of impassioned thoughts, so that they may drive it to sin either in the mind or in action. Consequently, when they find the intellect unreceptive, they will be disgraced and put to shame; and when they find the intellect occupied with spiritual contemplation, they will 'be turned back and suddenly ashamed' (Ps. 6:10).

400 Chapters on Love, Second Century 17-20

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, October 13

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to Thee.

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.

Martyr Artemius, tone 4

In his sufferings, O Lord, / Thy Martyr Artemius received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God. / For possessed of Thy might, / he cast down the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

Let us the faithful praise with fitting hymns / that lover of the Holy Trinity, great Maximus, / who clearly taught the divinely-given Faith: / that we should give glory unto Christ our God, / Who, but one person, hath in very truth / two natures, wills, and energies. / Let us cry to him: // Rejoice, divine herald of the Faith.

Martyr Artemius, Kontakion, tone 2

Assembling, let us praise with hymns as is meet / the pious and crown-bearing martyr Artemius / most great among martyrs / the abundant bestower of miracle / who had won the trophy of victory over the enemy // for he entreateth the Lord in behalf of us all.