

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday November 17th, 2013

Schedule of Services

November 17th 21st Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 18th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins

November 19th Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

November 20th Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Russian Class

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November, 21st Thursday Entrance of the Theotokos

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

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

November 22nd Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

November 23rd Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Divine Liturgy, 40th Day Commemoration, Holy Nativity*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 24th 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

The Optina Elders on Repentance

Hurry to expose your spiritual wounds before the Lord and seek absolution and forgiveness. And if after forgiveness you again fall into sins, again flee to repentance, and so on until the end. And God, seeing your labor, your repentance, will not leave you without His help and mercy. If He commanded us to forgive a repentant brother seventy times seven, will He not grant us even more forgiveness when we flee to with repentance? The fact that passions do not diminish—this is according to the providence of God. The holy fathers write that passions and falls humble a person, lead him to heartfelt compunction, and thereby attract to him Divine mercy.

St. Joseph

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

Announcements for November 17

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. We invite you to go first through the food line and join the priest at the table.

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 this week will be for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).

Temple Wine offered for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn.

Classes this Week

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Russian Class.

Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Class.

Nativity Fast: We fast from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil & marital relations (fish, wine, oil are noted on the wall calendar when permitted) and seek to increase in both quantity and quality our prayer (corporate and private), almsgiving, spiritual reading, and deeds of service in fulfillment of Christ's commandments that we may make more room for Christ in our lives. If you have not been to Confession and Communion in the past couple months, now is the time to prepare yourself to participate in those Mysteries. The Nativity Fast lasts through Liturgy on December 25.

The Forty-Day Memorial for the newly-departed nun Elizabeth will be held at Holy Nativity Monastery this Saturday November 23 with Divine Liturgy at 9:30. Metropolitan Jonah will be attending. Please let the monastery know if you plan to attend.

A General Holy Unction will be served Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. to pray for healing of soul and body. Any Orthodox Christian who has had a recent Confession may come and receive the anointing.

Feast of St. Maximus and Lecture: With our hosting of the Diocesan Pastoral Conference in February, the Council has decided not to hold the St. Maximus Memorial Lecture this year. But, as the eve of the Feast, January 20, falls on a civil holiday, a full festal Vigil

will be offered that evening starting about 6:00 and lasting until 10:00 or 11:00—something to look forward to and to plan on coming to at least a part of it.

Please Pray: for catechumen Shannon Goodson, for inquirers Rebecca and Destiny Marcott, Holly Bellan, Kathy Wells and her family, Amber Payne, Leah Saunders, and Joseph; the novice Svetlana, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale. **Eternal Memory** to the nun Elizabeth.

Parish Food Pantry: As part of our parish almsgiving, you may bring non-perishable foods and toiletries and place them in the labeled tub in the hall outside the bathroom. These will be made available to parishioners and sundry who have need.

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 \$976.80; in November we have given \$3457.76; Our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$73.50, Special offering for debt relief \$13.33, building fund \$30. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 28, Sunday Liturgy 80.

From Saint Maximus

The passions lying hidden in the soul provide the demons with the means of arousing impassioned droughts in us. Then, fighting the intellect through these thoughts, they force it to give its assent to sin. When it has been overcome, they lead it to sin in the mind; and when this has been done they induce it, captive as it is, to commit the sin in action. Having thus desolated the soul by means of these thoughts, the demons then retreat, taking the thoughts with them, and only the specter or idol of sin remains in the intellect. Referring to this our Lord says, 'When you see the abominable idol of desolation standing in the holy place (let him who reads understand) . . .' (Matt. 24:15). For man's intellect is a holy place and a temple of God in which the demons, having desolated the soul by means of impassioned thoughts, set up the idol of sin. That these things have already taken place in history no one, I think, who has read Josephus will doubt; though

some say that they will also come to pass in the time of the Antichrist. *400 Chapters on Love, Second Century 29-30*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 17

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.

St. Gregory the Wonderworker, Troparion, tone 8

By vigilance in prayer and persistence in the working of miracles, / thou didst acquire the name of thy worthy deeds. / Pray thou to Christ God, O Father Gregory, // that He enlighten our souls, lest we sleep unto death.

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 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.

St. Gregory the Wonderworker, Kontakion, tone 2

Receiving the power to work many miracles, / thou didst terrify the demons with awesome signs, / and didst dispel the diseases of men, O most wise Gregory. / And thou was called the wonderworker, // receiving this title from thy works.