

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton


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Bulletin for Sunday May 11th, 2014

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!



Schedule of Services

May 11th Sunday of the Paralytic

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
noon Basics of Orthodoxy

May 12th Monday

7:30 a.m. Matins

May 13th Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession
4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

May 14th Wednesday Mid Pentecost

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Water
noon Class: Gospel of John
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

May 15th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

May 16th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

May 17th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 18th Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
noon Basics of Orthodoxy

The sovereign man-befriending Lord, He that is all compassionate, drew nigh and stood at the Sheep's Pool that He might heal men's diseases; and there He found a man that lay abed, enfeebled many years. And unto him, the Lord cried aloud: "Take up thy bed now and go forth; walk in the straight and upright paths."

Vigil for Paralytic Sunday

Announcements for May 11

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 if we are communing), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

The Special Offering this week will be for Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry.

Temple wine given for the health and salvation of Carolyn and William.

Classes this Week

Sunday, noon: Basics of Orthodoxy

Wednesday, noon: Gospel of John

Midfeast Pentecost: Weekday Liturgy this week will be Wednesday morning for the Midfeast. It will be followed by the blessing of water.

The Annual Memorial Day Picnic will be held Monday, May 26 at noon, following Divine Liturgy at 10:00. Plan to come, to bring some favorite food and drink, and to bring a non-Orthodox friend.

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 8.

During the 50 days from Pascha to the Feast of Pentecost, we do not kneel or make prostrations in church in keeping with the joyful, festal character of the season. We begin to kneel and do prostrations again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost.

For 40 days until the Feast of Ascension (May 29), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!"

During the same period, we replace "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal..." with the paschal troparion "Christ is risen" said thrice.

Through the Leavetaking of Pascha (May 28), we use the Paschal Troparion (thrice) before meals and when setting out on a trip.

Please Pray: for catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, and Virginia Warwas, for inquirer Rick Hollembeak, the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia and James Lydon, and for the newly-departed Irina.

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 \$1735.80 in tithes and offerings; in May, we have given \$2835; our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week). Candles \$43; Building Fund \$69.99; Soda (renovation) \$32.53. Attendance: Liturgy 75, Vigil 35.

From Saint Maximus

All impassioned thoughts either stimulate the soul's desiring power, or disturb its incensive power, or darken its intelligence. It is in this way that the intellect's capacity for spiritual contemplation and for the ecstasy of prayer is dulled. And for this reason a monk, especially the hesychast, must pay close attention to such thoughts, searching out and eliminating their causes. For example, the soul's power of desire is stimulated by impassioned thoughts of women. Such thoughts are caused by intemperance in eating and drinking, and by frequent and senseless talk with the women in question; and they are cut off by hunger, thirst, vigils and withdrawal from human society. Again, the incensive power [anger] is disturbed by impassioned thoughts about those who have offended us. This is caused by self-indulgence, self-esteem and love of material things. For it is on account of such vices that the passion-dominated man feels resentment, being frustrated or otherwise failing to attain what he wants. These thoughts are cut off when the vices provoking them are rejected and nullified through the love of God.

400 Chapters on Love, 3.20

When we honestly confess the things of which we are ashamed, that shame will be converted into spiritual energy that can overcome the passions and sin. Shame is "the lack of courage to see ourselves as God sees us." *Elder Zacharias of Essex*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, May 11

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.

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.

SS Cyril & Methodius, Troparion, tone 4

In that ye share the ways of the apostles, / O divinely wise Cyril and Methodius, ye teachers of the Slavic lands, / entreat the Master of all, / that He confirm all the Slavic nations in Orthodoxy and oneness of mind, / grant peace to the world and save our souls.

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.

SS Cyril & Methodius, Kontakion, tone 3

Let us honor our two sacred enlighteners, / who poured forth upon us spring of divine knowledge / through their translation of the divine Scriptures. / Drawing forth abundantly threfrom to this very day, / we bless you, O Cyril and Methodius, / who stand before the throne of the Most High // and ferently pray for our souls.

Paralytic, Kontakion, Tone 3

As of old Thou didst raise up the paralytic, / O Lord God, by Thy God-like care and might, raise up my soul / which is palsied by diverse sins and transgressions / and by unseemly deeds and acts, / that saved I may also cry out: / O Compassionate Redeemer, / O Christ God, / glory to Thy dominion and might.