

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Bulletin for Sunday June 29th, 2014

Schedule of Services

June 29th Sunday SS Peter & Paul

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

noon Basics of Orthodoxy: Creed 4 “God the Father”

July 1st Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

July 2nd Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

noon Class: Gospel of John

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

July 3rd Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

July 4th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

2:00 p.m. Vespers

6:00 p.m. Fourth of July at the Rovnys’ in Weatherford

July 5th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil

July 6th Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

noon Basics of Orthodoxy: Creed 5 “God Almighty”

Vespers last Sunday evening at Vatopedi Monastery on Mt. Athos offered what to my eyes was an incongruous image. Along with 118 monks and 150 pilgrims, two policemen attended the service and stood near me in the north choir. Both were in full uniform; both were fully armed. One stood in one of the stacidia (the high-backed, high-armed ‘chair’ found in churches in this part of the world) praying his komboskini. The second stood at the chanters’ stand, chanting with the north choir. Both they and everyone around them appeared completely comfortable as though this were the most natural thing in the world. So why did the sight strike me as incongruous?

Fr. Justin Frederick, Reflections on a Pilgrimage

Announcements for June 29

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.

Classes this Week

Sunday, noon: Basics of Orthodoxy. Today: Nicene Creed, part four: "God the Father".

Wednesday, noon: Gospel of John

Fourth of July: A gathering will be held at the Rovnys' home in Weatherford this Friday night at 6:00 to celebrate together our nation's birthday. Please see George or Andrea for more information.

Matins N.B.: the usual time for Matins will change from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Trip talk: Fr. Justin will put together a presentation to share pictures and experiences from his trip for all who are interested. Stay tuned. He will need a projector that can connect to a laptop.

Please Pray: for catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, and Virginia Warwas, for inquirer Rick Hollembeak, the postulant Elias, the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon, and for Natalya (a Russian lady on her deathbed).

Building Update: Our architects are working to have enough of a plan to present to the city for review to spot and problems or shortcomings before we invest money in building plans. A soil survey to determine what foundation will be needed and a property survey are in the works too.

A Word from Fr. Justin: To make a good pilgrimage leaves many impressions on the soul. This trip imparted an abundance to me that will take time to process and appropriate more fully. In short, the trip was great. To express more with any justice would take many

thousands of words, but, then, just where to begin? As I process the trip and distill the potent essence from the raw experiences, I will share it with you as I can, and I pray that it will be to your benefit. Thank you for your prayers and your patience in my absence.

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 \$1035.93 in tithes and offerings, in June, we have given \$5756.20; our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week). Candles \$25 (est); Soda (renovation) \$2; Building Fund \$35. Attendance: Liturgy 77, Vespers ?.

From Saint Maximus

There are many people in the world who are poor in spirit, but not in the way that they should be; there are many who mourn, but for some financial loss or the death of their children; many are gentle, but towards unclean passions; many hunger and thirst, but only to seize what does not belong to them and to profit from injustice; many are merciful, but towards their bodies and the things that serve the body; many are pure in heart, but for the sake of self-esteem; many are peace-makers, but by making the soul submit to the flesh; many are persecuted, but as wrongdoers; many are reviled, but for shameful sins. Only those are blessed who do or suffer these things for the sake of Christ and after His example. Why? Because theirs is the kingdom of heaven, and they shall see God (cf. Matt. 5:3-12). It is not because they do or suffer these things that they are blessed, for those of whom we have spoken above do the same; it is because they do them and suffer them for the sake of Christ and after His example.

As has been said many times, in everything we do God examines our motive, to see whether we are doing it for His sake or for some other purpose. Thus when we desire to do something good, we should not do it for the sake of popularity; we should have God as our goal, so that, with our gaze always fixed on Him, we may do everything for His sake. Otherwise we shall undergo all the trouble of performing the act and yet lose the reward.

In time of prayer clear your intellect of both the passion-free conceptual images of human things and the contemplation of

creatures. Otherwise in imagining lesser things you may fall away from Him who is incomparably greater than all created beings.

Through genuine love for God we can drive out the passions. Love for God is this: to choose Him rather than the world, and the soul rather than the flesh, by despising the things of this world and by devoting ourselves constantly to Him through self-control, love, prayer, psalmody and so on.

If we persistently devote ourselves to God and keep a careful watch on the soul's passible aspect, we are no longer driven headlong by the provocations of our thoughts. On the contrary, as we acquire a more exact understanding of their causes and cut them off, we become more discerning. In this way the following words come to apply to us: 'My eye also sees my enemies, and my ear shall hear the wicked that rise up against me' (Ps. 92:11. LXX). *400 Chapters on Love, 3.47-51*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, June 29

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / 'O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!'

SS Peter and Paul, Troparion, tone 4

O foremost in the ranks of the Apostles, Peter and Paul, / and teachers of the world, / intercede with the Master of all, / to grant peace to the world, // and to our souls great mercy.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 2

Thou didst rise from the grave, all-powerful Saviour; / and Hades, seeing the wonder, was affrighted; / and the dead arose; and creation, beholding, rejoiceth with Thee; / and with Thee Adam also is glad; / and the world, O my Saviour, hymneth Thee forever.

SS Peter & Paul, Kontakion, tone 2

The steadfast and divinely eloquent preachers, / the foremost of Thine apostles, O Lord, / hast Thou received into the delight of Thy good things and into rest; / for thou hast accepted their pangs and death // as greater than any wholeburnt offering, O Thou who alone knowest the hearts of men.