

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Bulletin for Sunday August 3rd, 2014

Schedule of Services

August 3rd Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

noon Basics of Orthodoxy: Creed 6 “Maker-Creator”

August 4th Monday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

August 5th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

August 6th Wednesday Holy Transfiguration

9:00 a.m. Hours, Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

August 7th Thursday

8:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers

August 8th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

August 9th Saturday St Herman of Alaska

7:00 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

August 10th Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

noon Basics of Orthodoxy: Creed 7 “One Lord Jesus Christ”

Come, and having transformed ourselves with a more exalted transformation, let us prepare ourselves well for the morrow, to ascend the holy mountain of God, beholding the glory of Christ which shineth forth immutably, more brightly than the sun; and, illumined with the light of the Trinity, let us glorify His condescension therein.
Prefeast of Transfiguration

Announcements for August 3

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 St. Basil Mission in Weatherford, OK. They have an opportunity to buy a long-term property in an excellent location.

Temple Oil given for the Health and Salvation of William and Carolyn; **Temple Wine** given for the health and salvation of Betty Casper.

Classes this Week

Sunday, noon: Basics of Orthodoxy. Today: Nicene Creed, part six: "Maker of Heaven and Earth".

Contacting the Priest: The priest now has unlimited texting. You may reach him at (940) 293-3032. This does not mean that he will text in unlimited fashion, but you may text him if you desire.

Great Feast: This week we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, with Vigil Tuesday evening at 7:00 and Divine Liturgy Wednesday morning at 9:00. We do well to make the effort to keep the feast by attending as much of the festal cycle of services as we can.

The Dormition Fast has begun. We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil (except as modified per the calendar) in order to devote ourselves to restraint of passions, fervent prayer, almsgiving, and good works. May Christ grant each of us an abundance of grace!

An All-Night Vigil for St. Maximus will be held August 12 at 7:00 p.m. We'll serve Compline with the Akathist to the Theotokos, full Great Vespers, and a full Matins. We shall conclude about 11:00 p.m., and Liturgy will be served the next morning at 7:00.

Please Pray: for catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, Seth Williams, 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).

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 \$1719.35 in tithes and offerings; electronic contributions for the month totaled \$1200, and so, in July, we gave \$8342.19; our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week). Candles \$45.50; Soda (renovation) \$2; Building Fund \$8, Prison Ministry \$95. Attendance: Liturgy 87, Vigil 38. Average Sunday Liturgy attendance in July, 89.5, Vigil 38.

From Saint Maximus

Just as passion-free thought of human things does not compel the intellect to scorn divine things, so passion-free knowledge of divine things does not fully persuade it to scorn human things. For in this world truth exists in shadows and conjectures. That is why there is need for the blessed passion of holy love, which binds the intellect to spiritual contemplation and persuades it to prefer what is immaterial to what is material, and what is intelligible and divine to what is apprehended by the senses.

If a man has cut off the passions and so has freed his thoughts from passion, it does not necessarily mean that his thoughts are already orientated towards the divine. It may be that he feels no passionate attraction either for human or for divine things. This occurs in the case of those simply living the life of ascetic practice without yet having been granted spiritual knowledge. Such men keep the passions at bay either by fear of punishment or by hope of the kingdom.

'We walk by faith, not by sight' (2 Cor. 5:7) and we gain spiritual knowledge through symbols, indistinctly as in a mirror (cf. 1 Cor. 13:12). Thus we must devote much time to this kind of knowledge, so that by long study and constant application we may achieve a persistent state of contemplation.

If we cut off the causes of the passions for only a short while, and occupy ourselves with spiritual contemplation without making it our sole and constant concern, we easily revert to the passions of the

flesh, gaining nothing from our labor but theoretical knowledge coupled with conceit. The result is a gradual darkening of this knowledge itself and a complete turning of the intellect towards material things.
400 Chapters on Love, 3.67-70

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, August 3

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto 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.

Hieromartyrs Isaac, Dalmatus, Faustus, Troparion, tone 4

O God of our fathers, / who ever dealest with us according to Thy gentleness. / Take not Thy mercy from us, / but by their entreaties // govern our life in peace.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

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.

Hieromartyrs Isaac, Dalmatus, Faustus, Kontakion, tone 2

With hymns let us praise Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus, / who shone forth like beacons through fasting / and turned away heresies with faith; // for they are saints of God who entreat in our behalf.