

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday May 24th, 2015

Schedule of Services

May 24th Sunday Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

2:00 p.m. Vespers

May 25th Monday

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:45 a.m. Memorial Day Picnic

May 26th Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Molieben to the Theotokos

May 27th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: Inside the Church: The Icons part 2

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 28th Thursday

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

May 29th Friday Leavetaking of Ascension

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

May 30th Memorial Saturday

7:45 a.m. Matins for the Departed

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for the Departed

4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

May 31st Sunday Holy Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

1:00 p.m. Vespers with Kneeling Prayers

Through Thine arising from the dead, O Christ, no longer doth hell hold sway over any that have died in piety. Wherefore, we pray Thee fervently: In the bosom of Abraham, do Thou grant rest to Thy servants in Thy courts, to them that from Adam till this day have worshipped Thee in purity, even our fathers and brethren, and our friends and kinsfolk all alike, yea, even every man that with faith performed all proper to this life and that in every manner hath been translated unto Thee, O Lord, and vouchsafe them to attain Thy Kingdom of the Heavens, O our God.

Vespers for the Departed

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

Announcements for May 24

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 his 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, please see the posting on the door to the nave) 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 debt reduction. Our debt with the Diocese is down to about \$7000.

Classes this Week. A brief class meets Wednesdays in May at 6:00 p.m. before Vespers. We explain the interior of the church, the icons, liturgical items, and traditional church architecture. This class will be suitable for children and adults alike.

The Memorial Day Picnic is tomorrow. Liturgy will be served at 10:00, picnic at noon. Invite friends, family, bring some food and drink, come ready to have a good time together. A bounce house will be provided.

Schedule Change: Due to a family wedding, Great Vespers with Lita for Pentecost will be served at 4:00 p.m. this Saturday evening with no Confession available afterwards. Matins will be served Monday at 8:00 a.m. with Divine Liturgy following. This is a rare chance to try things Greek style at St. Maximus. The Vespers of Pentecost with kneeling prayers will be served at 12:30 or 1:00 Sunday afternoon.

Memorial Saturday: The Saturday before Pentecost is one of several Saturdays during the year dedicated to the general commemoration of the departed. The services have special hymns dedicated to the departed, the Church's prayers on their behalf. Vespers with a Pannikhida will be served Friday evening, Matins at 7:45 Saturday morning and Divine Liturgy at 9:00.

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 \$2440.05; this month we have given \$7555.43; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$65.50; Special offering for Prison Ministry \$86, Building Fund \$34.25, Drink Jar (Renovation) \$3. Attendance: Vigil 35, Liturgy 91.
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Please Pray: for our catechumens, Adam and Jenilee; for the novice Elias, and the novice Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin, and for our new diocesan administrator, Fr. Gerasim. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest field here in Denton and North Texas.

From Saint Maximus on the Lord's Prayer

At the outset of this prayer, then, we honor the coessential and supraessential Trinity as the creative cause of our coming into existence. Secondly, we are taught to proclaim the grace of our adoption, since we have been found worthy of addressing our Creator by nature as our Father by grace. Thus, venerating this title of our begetter by grace, we strive to stamp our Creator's qualities on our lives, sanctifying His name on earth, taking after Him as our Father, showing ourselves to be His children through our actions, and through all that we think or do glorifying the author of this adoption, who is by nature Son of the Father.

We hallow or sanctify the name of our heavenly Father by grace when we mortify our desire for material things and purify ourselves of corrupting passions. For sanctification is truly the complete mortification and cessation of desire in the senses. When we have achieved this we assuage the uncouth turbulence of our incensive power [anger], for the desire that arouses it and persuades it to fight for its own pleasures has now been quelled by holiness. For anger, being by nature the protagonist of desire, stops of its own accord when once it sees the desire has been put to death.

It is thus fitting that, anger and desire repudiated, we should next invoke the rule of the kingdom of God the Father with the words 'Thy kingdom come', that is, 'May the Holy Spirit come'; for, having put away these things, we are now made into a temple for God through the Holy Spirit by the teaching and practice of gentleness. 'For on whom shall I rest,' says Scripture, 'but on him who is gentle and humble, and trembles at my words?' (cf. Isa, 66:2). It is dear from this that the kingdom of God the Father belongs to the humble and the gentle. For 'blessed are the gentle, for they will inherit the earth' (Matt. 5:5). It is not this physical earth, which by nature occupies a middle place in the universe, that God promises as an inheritance for those who love Him — not, at least, if He is speaking truly when He says, 'In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels in heaven' (Matt. 22:30), and 'Come, you

whom my Father has blessed, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world' (Matt. 25:34), and elsewhere again to someone else who has striven with goodwill, 'Enter into the joy of your Lord' (Matt. 25:21). And after the Lord St Paul also says, 'The trumpet will sound and first the dead in Christ will rise up incorrupt; then we who are alive and remain will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall be with the Lord for ever' (cf. 1 Thess. 4:16-17).

Commentary on the Lord's Prayer

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, May 24

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

Ascension, Troparion, tone 4

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing they were assured / that Thou art the Son of God, / the Redeemer of the world.

Fathers, Troparion, tone 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God! / Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! / Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith! / O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Fathers, Kontakion, tone 8

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology; / great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

Ascension, Kontakion, tone 6

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake, / and unite earth to heaven; / Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, / not being parted from those who love Thee, / but remaining with them and crying: / I am with you and no one will be against you!