

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Schedule of Services

**July 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday Seventh After Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. Reader's Vespers

**July 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

3:00 p.m. Baptism of Onesimus Bramlett

4:30 p.m. Pannikhida for Joanna Sherri Hale

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**July 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Eighth After Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**July 27<sup>th</sup> Monday**

6:30 a.m. Molieben to St. Maximus

**July 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**July 30<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**July 31<sup>st</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

**From Saint Maximus on the Lord's Prayer**

He who prays to receive this daily bread, however, does not automatically receive it all as it is in itself: he receives it in accordance with his receptive capacity. For the Bread of Life in His love gives Himself to all who ask, but He does not give to all in the same way. He gives liberally to those who have done great things, and more sparingly to those who have achieved less. Thus He gives to each person in accordance with the receptive capacity of his or her intellect.

The Savior Himself has led me to this interpretation of the phrase we are considering, because He commands His disciples explicitly not to take any thought at all for sensible food saying, *(continued page 3)*

## Announcements for July 19

**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 Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry.

### No Classes this Week

**Memory Eternal!** to the departed handmaiden of God Joanna Sherri Hale. Sherri and her family were converts to Orthodoxy in Alaska and later settled in Fort Worth. Despite losing her son in a tragic accident and her husband who left through divorce, she remained in the Church. Over the past few years, she lived in Denton, struggling to take care of an aged and ill mother and to cope with her own many illnesses. She always was cheerful, never grumbling or complaining, never blaming God—an example to all who knew her. Her mother died earlier this year, and Sherri's health took a nosedive after that. Due to her illnesses and her responsibility for her mother, Sherri only rarely attended St. Maximus, but Fr. Justin visited her. He had just been to visit her, hear her confession, and give her Holy Communion the week before he left on vacation. She leaves behind a daughter, a son-in-law, and two grandchildren. Please pray for them.

**Church School** teachers and helpers are needed for the fall. Please see Fr. Justin if you are willing to teach or help (we want two adults with each class).

**All American Council:** Fr. Justin will attend the triennial All-American Council of the OCA this week in Atlanta, a gathering of clergy and lay delegates. This year, besides the usual task of passing a budget, the council will decide on whether to approve a major revision of the OCA statute. You may learn more at [r8aac.oca.org](http://r8aac.oca.org). Please pray for God's guidance of the council.

**Please Pray:** for our catechumens, Adam and Jenilee, for the inquirer Rebecca, for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin, and for our diocesan administrator, Fr. Gerasim. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest field here in Denton and North Texas. Remember always to pray for your priest.

**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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during Liturgy), where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for our building fund.

In June, we were only \$200 short of making budget. So far this month, we have given about \$3350 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$?, Special offering for debt reduction \$12.19, Building Fund \$74, Drink Jar (Renovation) \$2.45. Remaining Mortgage: \$610.56. Attendance: Vigil 16, 30, Liturgy 69, ?.

### From Saint Maximus on the Lord's Prayer, (*continued*)

'Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will put on. For the heathen seek all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things as well will be given to you' (Matt. 6:25, 32, 33). How then can it be that He teaches us to pray for what He commands us not to seek? Obviously He does not order us to do anything of the kind: we should ask in prayer only for things that we are commanded to seek. If the Savior commanded us to seek only the kingdom of God and righteousness, then surely He intended those who desire divine gifts to ask for this kingdom in their prayers, in this way, by showing what petitions are blessed by His grace. He conjoins the intention of those who ask with the will of Him who bestows the grace. kingdom of God the Father, that comes to us through gentleness.

If, however, we also take this clause to mean we should pray for the daily bread that sustains our present life, let us be careful not to overstep the bounds of the prayer, presumptuously assuming that we will live for many cycles of years and forgetting that we are mortal and that our life passes by like a shadow; but free from anxiety let us pray for bread sufficient for one day at a time, thus showing that as

Christian philosophers we make life a rehearsal for death, in our purpose anticipating nature and, even before death comes, cutting off the soul's anxiety about bodily things. In this way the soul will not transfer its natural appetite to material things, attaching itself to what is corruptible, and will not learn the greed that deprives it of a rich possession of divine blessings.

### **Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, July 19**

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Fathers of the First 6 Councils, Troparion, tone 8**

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God, / who hast established our Fathers upon the earth as beacons, / and hast thereby guided us to the true Faith! / O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Thee!

#### **Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6**

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human dough, / for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

#### **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.

#### **Fathers of the First 6 Councils, Kontakion, tone 8**

The preaching of the Apostles and the dogmas of the Fathers / sealed the one Faith of the Church; / and clad in the robe of Truth woven of theology from on high, / it setteth aright and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.