

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday August 30th, 2015

Schedule of Services

August 30th Sunday Thirteenth After Pentecost, tone 4

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 p.m. Mission Council

August 31st Monday

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

September 1st Tuesday Church New Year

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

September 2nd Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

September 4th Friday

6:30 a.m. Molieben to Theotokos (Paraclesis)

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida

September 5th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

September 6th Sunday Fourteenth After Pentecost, tone 5

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Maevers-Williams Wedding

September 7th Monday

12:00 p.m. Labor Day Picnic

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

September 8th Tuesday Nativity of the Theotokos

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From Saint Maximus on the Lord's Prayer

Thus — to go back a little and comment briefly on what has been said — if we really wish to be delivered from evil and not to enter into temptation, we should trust in God and forgive our debtors their debts. 'For if you do not forgive people their sins', says Scripture, 'your heavenly Father will not forgive you yours' (Matt. 6:15). We should do this not only to receive forgiveness for the offences we have committed, but also to defeat the law of sin — because then we would not be allowed to undergo the experience (*continued, page 3*)

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

Announcements for August 30

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 St. Arsenius Skete.

Mission Council will meet briefly today.

No Classes this Week The Basics of Orthodoxy Class will begin Sunday, September 13. The Wednesday class at 6:00 will resume that week as well, God-willing.

Church School will begin Sunday, September 13. We shall also bless students and teachers that Sunday.

Wedding: Next Sunday at 3:00 Michelle Maevers and Seth Williams will be married here at St. Maximus.

Annual Labor Day Picnic will be held this year Monday, September 7, from noon to five. It will conclude at five with Great Vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Please bring picnic food and drink to share, and invite non-Orthodox friends.

Please Pray: for our catechumens, Adam and Jenilee, for the inquirers Rebecca, the Wells family, the Dean family, 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. Pray for Subdeacon Anthony as he travels to Russia for a choir master class.

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.

Last week, we gave about \$2600; this month, we have given \$7477.32 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles est. \$47; Drink Jar (Renovation) \$6; Special Offering for St. Arsenius \$98. Attendance: Vespers 24, Liturgy 96.
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From Saint Maximus on the Lord's Prayer, (*continued*)

of being tempted by it – and to trample on the originator of this law, the evil serpent from whom we entreat God to deliver us. For Christ, who has overcome the world (cf. John 16:33), is our leader. He arms us with the laws of the commandments, and by enabling us to reject the passions He unites us in pure love with nature itself. Being the bread of life, of wisdom, spiritual knowledge and righteousness, He arouses in us an insatiable desire for Himself. If we fulfill His Father's will He makes us co-worshippers with the angels, when in our conduct we imitate them as we should and so conform to the heavenly state. Then He leads us up still further on the supreme ascent of divine truth to the Father of lights, and makes us share in the divine nature (cf. 2 Pet. 1:4) through participation by grace in the Holy Spirit. By virtue of this participation we are called children of God and, cleansed from all stain, in a manner beyond circumscription, we all encircle Him who is the author of this grace and by nature the Son of the Father. From Him, through Him and in Him we have and always will have our being, our movement and our life (cf. Acts 17:28).

When we pray, let our aim be this mystery of deification, which shows us what we were once like and what the self-emptying of the only-begotten Son through the flesh has now made us; which shows us, that is, the depths to which we were dragged down by the weight of sin, and the heights to which we have been raised by His compassionate hand. In this way we shall come to have greater love for Him who has prepared this salvation for us with such wisdom. Bringing the prayer to fulfillment through our actions, we shall manifestly proclaim God as our true Father, by grace. We shall show that the evil one, who is always tyrannically attempting to gain control of our nature through the shameful passions, is not the father of our life, and that we are not unwittingly exchanging life for death. For both God and the devil naturally impart their qualities to those who approach either of them: God bestows eternal life on those who love Him, while the devil, operating through temptations that we subject to our volition, causes the death of his followers.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, August 30

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

St. John the Forerunner, Troparion, tone 2

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, / but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; / for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the prophets, / since thou wast granted to baptize in the running waters Him whom they proclaimed. / Wherefore, having contested for the truth, / thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: // that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

St. Alexander Nevsky, Troparion, tone 4

Recognize thy brethren, O right-believing Prince Alexander, / thou Russian Joseph who reignest not in Egypt but in heaven; / and accept their entreaties, / increasing the harvests of thy people through the fertility of thy land, / and protecting the cities of thy dominion by thy supplications. / and together with our Orthodox hierarchs // do battle against all heresies.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 4

My Saviour and Deliverer as God/ hath raised out of the grave the earth-born from their bonds / and He hath shattered the gates of hell / and as Master / He hath risen on the third day.

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.

St. John the Baptist, Kontakion, tone 4

Working iniquity, / Herod gave thy precious head to a woman, O Forerunner. / We, venerating it, are filled with gladness; / but Herodias weepeth and lamenteth, / with Herod and the dancer.

St. Alexander Nevsky, Kontakion, tone 4

As thy kinsmen Boris and Gleb appeared to thee, / bringing thee help from heaven / when thou didst battle against Velgar the Swede and his warriors, / so now, O blest Alexander, come to our aid // and contend thou against those who wage war against us.