

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday September 13th, 2015

Schedule of Services

September 13th Sunday Fifteenth After Pentecost, tone 6

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School Begins

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

6:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

September 14th Monday Elevation of the Cross

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

September 16th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

September 18th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

September 19th Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

September 20th Sunday Sixteenth After Pentecost, tone 7

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

The apostle gives us the following definition of faith: 'Faith makes real for us things hoped for, gives assurance of things not seen' (Heb. 11:1). One may also justly define it as an engrained blessing or as true knowledge disclosing unutterable blessings. 2.7

Faith is a relational power or a relationship which brings about the immediate perfect and supranatural union of the believer with the God in whom he believes. 2.8

Faith is knowledge that cannot be rationally demonstrated. If such knowledge cannot be rationally demonstrated, then faith is a supranatural relationship through which, in an unknowable and so undemonstrable manner, we are united with God in a union which is beyond intellection. 2.12

Announcements for September 13

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 prison ministry.

Classes: The Basics of Orthodoxy Class begins today at 11:30. The Wednesday evening class at 6:00 will resume October 14.

Church School begins today. Classes and teachers are as follows, from youngest to oldest:

Alpha Class with Melanie Betz: Jonah Betz, Mary Betz, Eliana Lyda, Elijah Brown, Alexandria Reynolds.

Beta Class with Olivia Reynolds and Mindy Brown: Colin Stokes, Olive Betz, Evangeline Lyda, Analise Reynolds, Chloe Stokes, Madeline Gibson, Gabriel Wells, Milla Mozuliova.

Gamma Class with Becki Stevenson: Marcos Sancer, Eden Lyda, Ariel Reynolds, Hannah Stokes, Claire Terry, Zoe Frederick, Daniel Brown, Emmanuel Lyda, Owen Terry, Anya Brown, Patience Wells.

Delta Class with Shane Gibson and James Davis: Emalie Northam, Joseph Terry, Katherine Frederick, Thomas Terry, Rebecca Rovny, Joy Wells, Charity Wells, Niko Davis, Thea Frederick, Nicholas Dean.

High Schoolers are strongly urged to attend the Basics of Orthodoxy Class.

The Parish Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, September 27 at 11:30. All members and are encouraged to attend. Anyone who attends regularly is welcome to attend, but voting members are those Orthodox Christians eighteen years of age and older who are members in good standing, have received Confession and Holy Communion in the past year, and have fulfilled their financial responsibility to the parish. See Fr. Justin if you aren't sure.

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 home from Russia.

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.

No financial information from last week. Attendance: Vigil 42, Liturgy 115. Nativity of Theotokos Vespers 36, Liturgy 26.

From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

He who has just begun to follow a holy way of life, and has received instruction about how to act righteously, devotes himself wholly to the practice of the virtues in all obedience and faith, nourishing himself, as if on meat, on their manifest aspects, that is to say, on moral training. The inner principles of the commandments, which constitute the knowledge of the perfect, in his faith he leaves to God, for he cannot as yet embrace the full magnitude of faith. 2.14

The perfect man, who has passed beyond the category not only of beginners but also of those who are advancing, is not ignorant of the inner principles of the actions he performs in carrying out the commandments. On the contrary, he first spiritually imbibes those principles and then by means of his actions feeds upon the whole body of the virtues. In this way he transposes to the plane of spiritual knowledge actions which take place in the sensible realm. 2.15

The Lord said, 'First seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness' (Matt. 6:33). That is, seek the knowledge of truth before all things, and therefore seek training in appropriate methods of attaining it. In saying this, He showed clearly that believers must seek only divine knowledge and the virtue which adorns it with corresponding actions. 2.16

Thus he who for the sake of faith alone - that is to say, for the sake of direct union with God - seeks all the things that contribute towards this union will unquestionably receive them. He who seeks either the things which we have mentioned or other things without this motive will not receive them. For he has no faith, but like an unbeliever uses divine things to boost his own glory. 2.18

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, September 13

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

Forefeast of Cross, Troparion, tone 4

O Lord, we offer unto Thee in supplication / the life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, / which Thou hast bestowed upon us, unworthy though we are. / Save Thou all Orthodox Christians and this Thy city, // which entreateth Thee through the Theotokos, O Thou who alone lovest makind.

Dedication of Church, Troparion, tone 4

Thou didst show forth the beauty / of the holy dwelling place of Thy glory here below, O Lord, / like the splendor of the firmament on high. / Establish it for all ages, / and through the Theotokos accept the supplications / we unceasingly offer unto Thee, therein, // O Thou life and resurrection of all.

Hieromartyr Cornelius, Troparion, tone 4

As thou didst share in the ways of the apostles and didst occupy their throne, / thou didst find thine activity to be a passage to divine vision, O divinely inspired one. / Wherefore, ordering the word of truth, / thou didst suffer for the Faith even unto the shedding of thy blood. // O hieromartyr Cornelius, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

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.

Dedication of Church, Kontakion, tone 2

Grant inner enlightenment and spiritual renewal of heart / unto those who with faith celebrate / the sacred dedication of the temple of Thy house, / which it was Thy good pleasure to have built unto Thy divine name, // O Thou who art glorious in the saints.