

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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## Bulletin for Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Schedule of Services

**September 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday Seventeenth After Pentecost, tone 8**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting

**September 30<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. Reader's Vespers

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil

**October 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Eighteenth After Pentecost, tone 1**

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

**October 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. Readers's Vespers

**October 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**October 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday Nineteenth After Pentecost, tone 2**

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

### From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

#### The Passions Can Become Good

Even the passions become good if we wisely and diligently detach them from what is bodily and direct them towards the acquisition of what is heavenly. This happens, for example, when we turn desire into a noetic yearning for heavenly blessings; or when we turn pleasure into the gentle delight which the volitive energy of the intellect finds in divine gifts; or when we turn fear into protective concern to escape punishments threatening us because of our sins; or when we turn distress into corrective remorse for present sin. In short, the passions become good if — like wise physicians who use the body of the viper as a remedy against present or expected harm resulting from its bite — we use them to destroy present or expected evil, and in order to acquire and safeguard virtue and spiritual knowledge. I.66

## Announcements for September 27

**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 Holy Nativity Monastery.

**Temple Oil** given for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn; **Temple Wine** given in memory of Archbishop Dmitri.

**Classes:** The Basics of Orthodoxy Class begins today at 11:30. The Wednesday evening class "An Orthodox Life in a Modern World" at 6:00 will resume October 14. The class is suitable for adults and children alike.

**New Class:** Fr. Justin is contemplating having a class Friday nights after Vespers to discuss Jean Claude Larchet's book *The Therapy of Spiritual Illness* in three volumes. If you would be interested in such a class, please let him know.

**Church School** will not meet today due to the annual meeting.

**The Parish Annual Meeting** will be held today at 11:30 or thereabouts. All members 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.

**Fr. Justin** and will be in New Jersey next weekend to celebrate the hundred year anniversary of his home parish. Fr. John Anderson will serve next Sunday.

**St. Maximus Lecture 2016:** We have confirmed with Bishop Maxim of the Western Serbian Diocese of North America that he will come speak to us about St. Maximus in January. He will be present at Vigil, January 20, 2016 and will give a brief homily after it. He will give the homily at Liturgy on January 21, will speak to those

at coffee hour following, and will give his keynote address the evening of the January 21 (Thursday). So plan ahead to come to meet a fine bishop and get to know our patron saint better.

**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.

Last week we gave \$1557.98 in tithes and offerings; this month, we have given \$4936.85; our month budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$67; renovation (drinks) \$5, building fund \$47.06; prison ministry \$10. Attendance: Vigil 34, Liturgy 89.
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### From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

Suffering cleanses the soul infected with the filth of sensual pleasure and detaches it completely from material things by showing it the penalty incurred as a result of its affection for them. This is why God in His justice allows the devil to afflict men with torments. 1.64

Fear is twofold; one kind is pure, the other impure. That which is pre-eminently fear of punishment on account of offences committed is impure, for it is sin which gives rise to it. It will not last for ever, for when the sin is obliterated through repentance it too will disappear. Pure fear, on the other hand, is always present even apart from remorse for offences committed. Such fear will never cease to exist, because it is somehow rooted essentially by God in creation and makes clear to everyone His awe-inspiring nature, which transcends all kingship and power. 1.69

He who does not fear God as judge but holds Him in awe because of the surpassing excellence of His infinite power will not justly lack anything; for having reached perfection in love, he loves God with

awe and fitting reverence. He has acquired the fear that endures for ever and he will lack for nothing (cf. Ps. 19:9; 34:9-10). 1.70

It is entirely fitting and just that those who gladly accept the devil's cunning suggestions to commit sins through their own volition should also be chastised by him. For through the passions to which we willingly accede the devil is the begetter of pleasure, and through the experiences that we suffer against our will he is the inflictor of pain. 1.87

### **Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, September 27**

#### **Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8**

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, 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.

#### **Martyr Callistratus and Companions, Troarprion, tone 4**

In their sufferings, O Lord, / Thy Martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee, our God. / For possessed of Thy might, / they cast down the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By their supplications save Thou our souls.

#### **Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8**

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

#### **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.

#### **Martyr Callistratus & Companions, Kontakion, tone 4**

Having endured multifarious wounds / and manifestly received crowns from God, / pray to Christ for us who celebrate you most festive memorial, / O great Callistratus and ye blessed ones who suffered with him, // that He may grant peace to His flock and people, for He is the confirmation of the faithful.