

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday October 18th, 2015

Schedule of Services

October 18th Sunday Twentieth After Pentecost, tone 3

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

October 20th Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Molieben, Confession

October 21st Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: An Orthodox Life in a Modern World

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

October 22nd Thursday St. Abercius Equal to the Apostles

6:00 a.m. Matins

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

October 23rd Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

October 24th Saturday

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

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

October 25th Sunday Twenty-First After Pentecost, tone 4

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

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

Relation of Faith, Hope, and Love

Love is the consummation of all blessings, since all who walk in it love leads and guides towards God, the supreme blessing and cause of every blessing, and unites them with Him; for love is faithful and never fails (cf. 1 Cor. 13:8). Faith is the foundation of what comes after it, namely hope and love, since it provides a firm basis for truth. Hope is the strength of the two pre-eminent gifts of love and faith, since hope gives us glimpses both of that in which we believe and of that for which we long, and teaches us to make our way towards our goal. Love is the completion of the other two, embracing entirely the entire desire of all desires, and satisfying the yearning of our faith and hope for it; for that which we believe to be and which we hope will come to pass, love enables us to enjoy as a present reality. 1.26

Announcements for October 18

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 Dave Eaton's son Nathan's medical expenses.

Classes: Sunday 11:30 Basics of Orthodoxy
Wednesday 6:00 An Orthodox Life in a Modern World

The Holy Synod of the OCA will this week. One item of business is to elect a bishop for the Diocese of the South. Please pray fervently for God's provision.

Mission Council will meet next Sunday after church school.

New Class: Those interested will meet Fridays after Vespers at 8:00 starting October 30 to discuss Jean Claude Larchet's book *The Therapy of Spiritual Illness* in three volumes.

All Saints Party: We will hold our annual All-Saints party Saturday, October 31, at 2:30 before Vigil. Please dress as a saint or biblical character and come prepared to present clues to your identity for the rest of us to guess. Volunteers are needed to sponsor games (bobbing for apples, three-legged race, etc.) and to bring candy. Please see the Lydas for more details.

Candles: If candles are lacking at the candle table, please do not put out new ones yourself. Please see Father, Andrea, George, or Matushka if at all possible. Thank you.

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 Skelton and Marsha Northam, for the inquirers Dante, 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.

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 \$996.61 in tithes and offerings; this month, we have given \$2637.61; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$31; renovation (drinks) \$1, building fund \$1; special offering for prison ministry \$6.28. Attendance: Vigil 9, Liturgy 76.
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From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

The most perfect work of love, and the fulfillment of its activity, is to effect an exchange between those it joins together, which in some measure unites their distinctive characteristics and adapts their respective conditions to each other. Love makes man god, and reveals and manifests God as man, through the single and identical purpose and activity of the will of both. 1.27

If we are made, as we are, in the image of God (cf. Gen. 1:27), let us become the image both of ourselves and of God; or rather let us all become the image of the one whole God, bearing nothing earthly in ourselves, so that we may consort with God and become gods, receiving from God our existence as gods. For in this way the divine gifts and the presence of divine peace are honored. 1.28

The devil has deceived us by guile in a malicious and cunning way, provoking us through self-love to sensual pleasure (cf. Gen. 3:1-5). He has separated us in our wills from God and from each other; he has perverted straightforward truth and in this manner has divided humanity, cutting it up into many opinions and fantasies. 1.30

The greatest authors and instigators of evil are ignorance, self-love and tyranny. Each depends on the other two and is supported by them: from ignorance of God comes self-love, and from self-love comes tyranny over one's own kind. The devil establishes these in us when we misuse our own powers, namely our intelligence, our desire and our incensive power. I.31

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, October 18

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.
/ From the womb of hell hath He delivered us, // and hath granted the world great mercy.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

Apostle Luke, Troparion, tone 5

The holy apostle, the all-hymned Luke, / who is acknowledged by the Church of Christ / as the recorder of the acts of the apostles / and the splendid author of the Gospel of Christ, / let us praise with sacred hymns, / as a physician who healeth the infirmities of man and the ailments of nature, // who cleanseth spiritual wounds and prayeth unceasingly for our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

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. Luke, Kontakion, tone 2

Let us praise the godly Luke / the true preacher of piety, / the speaker of ineffable mysteries, / the star of the Church: / for the Word who alone knoweth men's hearts / chose him to be, // with the wise Paul, a teacher of the gentiles.