

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday November 8th, 2015

Schedule of Services

November 8th Sunday Twenty-Third After Pentecost, tone 6

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

November 10th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

November 11th Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Molieben, Confession

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

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 12th Thursday St. John the Merciful

6:00 a.m. Matins

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 13th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

8:00 p.m. Class: Therapy of Spiritual Illness

November 14th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 15th Sunday Twenty-Fourth After Pentecost, tone 7

Nativity Fast Begins

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

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

12:30 p.m. Mission Council

3:00 p.m. Vespers

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

If we desire to belong to God in both name and reality, let us struggle not to betray the Logos to the passions, as Judas did (cf. Matt. 26:14-16), or to deny Him as Peter did (cf. Matt. 26:69-75). To deny the Logos is to fail through fear to do what is good; to betray Him is deliberately to choose and commit sin. 1.43

Announcements for November 8

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. Vladimir's Seminary to go towards their "Giving Tuesday" fundraiser December 1 and give us a chance to support an Orthodox seminary. They have a donor who will match up to \$50,000 of what they raise. Here is what else SVS says: "Giving is at the very foundation of St. Vladimir's mission, so we'll be tithing 10% of whatever we raise on #GivingTuesday again this year. Last year, a tithe of \$8,000 supported our suffering brothers and sisters in the Middle East. This year's recipient? Our sister seminary across the globe: Makarios III Patriarchal Seminary in Nairobi, Kenya. This center of Orthodoxy in Africa is in great need of books for their library, and we want to help." We will take designated donations for this through Sunday, November 29.

Classes This Week

Sunday 11:30 Basics of Orthodoxy

Wednesday 6:00 An Orthodox Life in a Modern World

Friday, 8:00 p.m.: The Therapy of Spiritual Illness: discussion of Jean Claude Larchet's book. Bring the book if you have it. This week we'll discuss chapter two of volume one on the origin of man's illness.

Upcoming Classes: Fr. Justin will begin the second stage of the Basics of Orthodox Class the week of November 29, probably on a Tuesday evening. Please see him if you wish to attend. Russian reading for choir members may be offered on Saturdays before Vigil. See Fr. Justin.

Mission Council will meet November 15.

The Nativity Fast is upon us in one week. Now is the time to prepare for a soul-profitting fast. Plan some extra spiritual reading and, perhaps, something to memorize from Holy Scripture. Prepare to increase your prayer privately and at church. Plan additional

almsgiving in addition to your usual tithes and offerings. The fast is time to turn our hearts to the Lord in repentance for our sloth, ingratitude, carelessness, and lack of love, and to seek to be renewed in Him. It is also time to prepare for a good Confession and for Holy Communion.

Coffee Hour during the Nativity Fast will conform to the Church's norm of fasting, which means no meat or dairy products from November 15 until Nativity.

St. Maximus Lecture 2016: Bishop Maxim of the Western Serbian Diocese of North America will speak about St. Maximus January 20-21, 2016.

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.

October 25 we gave \$2456.48 in tithes and offerings; in October, we gave an additional \$1855.43 electronically for a total of \$10,167.32; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Last week, we gave \$1250.35 in tithes and offerings; Candles \$52; renovation (drinks) \$4, special offering for Nativity Monastery \$119.05. Attendance: Vigil 38, Liturgy 92.

From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

The outcome of every affliction endured for the sake of virtue is joy, of every labor rest, and of every shameful treatment glory; in short, the outcome of all sufferings for the sake of virtue is to be with God, to remain with Him for ever and to enjoy eternal rest. 1.44

Because He wishes to unite us in nature and will with one another, and in His goodness urges all humanity towards this goal, God in His

love entrusted His saving commandments to us, ordaining simply that we should show mercy and receive mercy (cf. Matt. 5:7). 1.45

In His love for man God became man so that He might unite human nature to Himself and stop it from acting evilly towards itself, or rather from being at strife and divided against itself, and from having no rest because of the instability of its will and purpose. 1.47

Nothing sequent to God is more precious for beings endowed with intellect, or rather is more dear to God, than perfect love; for love unites those who have been divided and is able to create a single identity of will and purpose, free from faction, among many or among all; for the property of love is to produce a single will and purpose in those who seek what pertains to it. 1.48

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 8

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.

Archangel Michael, Troparion, tone 8

Supreme commanders of the heavenly armies, / we, the unworthy, do ever entreat you / that by your prayers ye surround us with the protection of the wings of your immaterial glory, / preserving us who earnestly fall down before you and cry aloud: // Deliver us from misfortunes, in that ye are the leaders of the hosts on high.

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.

Archangel Michael, Kontakion, tone 2

O ye chief commanders of God, / ministers of glory divine, / captains of the angels and instructors of men: / beg ye great mercy and that which is profitable for us, // for ye are the supreme commanders of the bodiless hosts.