

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday November 15th, 2015

Schedule of Services

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

2:30 p.m. Vespers

November 16th Monday Apostle Matthew

6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 17th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 18th 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

November 19th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 20th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vigil, No Confession

November 21st Saturday Entrance of the Theotokos

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 22th Sunday Twenty-Fourth After Pentecost, tone 7

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

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

If by nature the good unifies and holds together what has been separated, evil clearly divides and corrupts what has been unified. For evil is by nature dispersive, unstable, multiform and divisive. 1.49

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

Announcements for November 15

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. We will take designated donations for this through Sunday, November 29.

Mission Council meets today after the Basics class.

Classes This Week

Sunday 11:30 Basics of Orthodoxy

Wednesday 6:00 An Orthodox Life in a Modern World

The Friday class on the Therapy of Spiritual Illness will meet again December 4.

Upcoming Classes: Fr. Justin will begin the second stage of the Basics of Orthodox Class the week of December 6, Tuesday evening at 8:00. Please see him if you wish to attend.

The Nativity Fast has begun. We abstain from meat and dairy products. The wall calendar indicates what days we may have fish, wine, and oil. 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.

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| Last week, we gave \$2618.79 in tithes and offerings, in November we have given \$3869.14; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$101.50; renovation (drinks) \$4, Building Fund \$20, special offering for St. Vladimir's \$67.20. Attendance: Vigil 25, Liturgy 97. |
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From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

The true love of God, grounded in real knowledge, together with the total repudiation of the soul's affection for the body and this world, is the short road to salvation and brings deliverance from all sins. In this way, casting off desire for pleasure and fear of pain, we are freed from evil self-love and are raised to a spiritual knowledge of the Creator. In the place of the evil self-love, we receive an uncorrupt and spiritual self-love, separated from affection for the body; and we do not cease to worship God through this uncorrupt self-love, always seeking from Him sustenance for our souls. For true worship, genuinely pleasing to God, is the strict cultivation of the soul through the virtues. 1.50

Paris: Friday's attack by terrorists in Paris shocks us particularly because such things are not supposed to happen in the civilized world. Without diminishing our sympathy for the victims and their families, we should reflect that such events happen frequently throughout the world and have throughout history, innocent blood unjustly shed for a variety of reasons. This is the sort of thing that man carried away by the passion of anger perpetrates and justifies to himself through the false ideology he professes. Also, we Westerners are also not so civilized or moral as we are wont to think. Our bombs

fall and our bullets fly in many countries far from us, frequently taking the lives of non-combatants. On Christ can bring true peace.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 15

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

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.

Martyrs Gurias, Samonas, Abibus, Troparion, tone 5

O Christ God, Thou hast given us an impregnable rampart / in the miracles of Thy holy martyrs. / Through their supplications destroy Thou the councils of the heathen / and strengthen the scepters of kingdoms // in that Thou art good and lovest mankind.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

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.

Martyrs Gurias, Samonas, Abibus, Kontakion, tone 2

Having received grace from on high, O most lauded martyrs, / ye intercede for those amid temptations; / wherefore, ye delivered the maiden from a bitter death, / O holy ones: // for ye are truly the glory of Edessa and the joy of the world!