

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, May 8th, 2016

Schedule of Services

May 8th Thomas Sunday tone 1 Antipascha, St. John Theologian

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

6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers, St. Seraphim Cathedral

May 9th Monday

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

May 10th Tuesday Radonitsa, Day of Rejoicing

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Grave Visitation

May 11th Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, SS Cyril & Methodius, Hartshorne, OK

May 12th Thursday

May 13th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

May 14th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 15th Sunday; Holy Myrrhbearers, tone 2

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

Let us purify our senses, and we shall see Christ...Paschal Canon

Since man is a composite being of soul and body, he has a double set of senses, five belong to the soul and five to the body. The senses of the soul are intellect, reason, opinion, fantasy, and perception; those of the body are sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. So the melodist instructs us to keep the spiritual senses of our souls pure from evil desires and appetites, from blasphemous wicked, and obscene thoughts—in short, from all the so-called passions of the soul. Similarly, we should keep our physical senses pure. We should guard our eyes from dramas, dances, games and other unseemly and evil sights which are an incitement to pleasures of the flesh. We should keep our hearing pure from frivolous songs and foul language. In the same way, he tells us to preserve our other senses, too, from harmful objects, for spiritual death comes up through the senses as through windows, as it is written “Death is come up into our windows” (Jer9:21).

St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain, Commentary on the Paschal Canon

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

Announcements for May 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).

The Special Offering this week will be for Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry.

The Artos is normally blessed and distributed on Bright Saturday, but we shall do it today at the end of the Liturgy. See last week's *Confessor's Tongue* for the meaning of the artos.

Temple Wine given for the health and salvation of the Lyda family and the Bramlett family. **Temple Oil** given in memory of Dave and Doris Eaton.

Congratulations to Reader Vasilios and Elizabeth Colias on the birth of their daughter, Zoe Marie, on May 4.

No Classes This Week, but they will resume in a week or two.

Radonitsa, or Day of Rejoicing, is a Slavic Orthodox custom of commemorating the departed and visiting their graves on the Tuesday of Thomas week. We will mark this day with Liturgy for the Departed and the visitation of graves. This will also be observed at St. Seraphim's.

Many Thanks to the anonymous major donor and all the others who gave to acquire the new censer and lampadas on the iconostasis, as well as to all those who helped with Pascha and the picnic, assembling processional candles, cleaning, decoration, bringing food, organizing the egg hunt, roasting the lamb, baking the artos, boiling and coloring eggs, etc. Everyone working together makes for a blessed and joyous feast, for we tend to get out of something in proportion to which we put into it.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and 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 the slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during service). There are also boxes for alms (those in need) and our building fund.

We have no numbers for last week as yet; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Attendance: Paschal Vigil 123; Agape Vespers 100.
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Please Pray: for Estefania Dean preparing for holy illumination, our catechumen Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Wells family, the Dean family, for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest field here in Denton and North Texas. Remember always to pray for your priest. Please pray for John Roberts and his wife Edith. Pray for those whom you have not seen at church for some time.

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

The first and unique effect of the divine gift of genuine spiritual knowledge is to produce within us by faith the resurrection of God. Faith needs to be accompanied, by the right ordering of our will and purpose – that is to say, by discrimination – which makes it possible for us bravely to withstand the spate of trials and temptations, sought or unsought. Thus faith, rightfully expressing itself through the fulfillment of the commandments, is the first resurrection within us of the God whom we have slain through our ignorance. 2.70

The return to God clearly implies the fullest affirmation of hope in Him, for without this nobody can accept God in any way at all. For it is characteristic of hope that it brings future things before us as if they were present, and so it assures those who are attacked by hostile powers that God, in whose name and for whose sake the saints go into battle, protects them and is in no way absent. For without some expectation, pleasant or unpleasant, no one can ever undertake a return to the divine. 2.71

Nothing so much as love brings together those who have been sundered and produces in them an effective union of will and purpose. Love is distinguished by the beauty of recognizing the equal value of all men. Love is born in a man when his soul's powers – that is, his intelligence, incensive power and desire – are concentrated and unified around the divine. Those who by grace have come to recognize the equal value of all men in God's sight and who engrave His beauty on their memory, possess an ineradicable longing for divine love, for such love is always imprinting this beauty on their intellect. 2.72

Paschal Notes

The prayer “O Heavenly King” is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, May 27. It and the “Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee” that precedes it are replaced with the Paschal Troparion “Christ is risen” thrice.

During the 50 days of Pascha, ending with the Feast of Pentecost on May 27th, we do not kneel or make prostrations in church in keeping with the joyful, festal character of the season. We begin to kneel and do prostrations again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost.

For 40 days until the Feast of Ascension (May 17), we greet each other by saying, “Christ is Risen!” “Indeed, He is Risen!”

Through the Leavetaking of Pascha (May 16), we use the Paschal Troparion before and after meals and when setting out on a trip.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, May 8

Thomas Sunday, Troparion, tone 7

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! / Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy disciples, O Christ God. / Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, / by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all.

St. John the Theologian, Troparion, tone 2

O beloved apostle of Christ God, / haste thou to deliver a defenseless people. / He who permitted thee to recline against His breast / receiveth thee, prostrate in supplication. / Him do thou beseech, O theologian, / that He dispel the gloom of the nations which doth beset us, / asking for us peace and great mercy.

St. John the Theologian, Kontakion, tone 2

Who can recount thy mighty works, / O virgin apostle? / For thou pourest out miracles / and dost cause healings to flow forth; / and thou prayest for our souls / in that thou art a theologian and the friend of Christ.

Thomas Sunday, Kontakion, tone 8

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, / when Thou, O Christ God, didst come to Thine Apostles through closed doors. / He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God!