

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, May 29th, 2016

Schedule of Services

May 29th Sunday; Samaritan Woman, tone 4

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

May 30th Monday

noon: Memorial Day Picnic

May 31st Tuesday

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

June 1st Wednesday St. Justin Martyr; St. Justin of Chelije

6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

June 2nd Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 202: Divine Liturgy I

June 3rd Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

June 4th Saturday

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

June 5th Sunday; Blind Man, tone 5

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

Isaac the Solitary on Guarding the Senses, 27 Texts

3. Let us stand firm in the fear of God, rigorously practicing the virtues and not giving our conscience cause to stumble. In the fear of God let us keep our attention fixed within ourselves, until our conscience achieves its freedom. Then there will be a union between it and us, and thereafter it will be our guardian, showing us each thing that we must uproot. But if we do not obey our conscience, it will abandon us and we shall fall into the hands of our enemies, who will never let us go. This is what our Lord taught us when He said: 'Come to an agreement with your adversary quickly while you are with him in the road, lest he hand you over to the judge, and the judge deliver you to the officer and you are cast into prison (Matt. 5:25). The conscience is called an 'adversary' because it opposes us when we wish to carry out the desires of our flesh; and if we do not listen to our conscience, it delivers us into the hands of our enemies. *Philokalia*

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

Announcements for May 29

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 the building fund of St. Sava Orthodox Church in Allen.

Many Years to the newly illumined Estafania Dean (St. Stephen the Protomartyr) and her Godmother, Matushka Amber Wojcik of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Pella, Iowa, many years and welcome!

Temple Wine given in thanksgiving for sixteen years in marriage by Fr. Justin and Michelle and for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn.

Many Thanks to our Church School Teachers and helpers for making church school possible: Shane Gibson, James Davis, Becki Stevenson, Melanie Betz, Anna Stokes, Mindy Brown, Amy Stokes, Pam Ward, Elisabeth Terry, Juliana Bramlett, Isabel Stone, Olivia Reynolds.

Classes This Week Basics of Orthodoxy 202 will resume with Fr. Justin on Thursday nights from now until mid August. We shall be studying the Divine Liturgy. All are encouraged to participate.

Sunday after Liturgy: Ambigua (St. Maximus) Discussion Group.

Thursday 7:30: Basics of Orthodoxy 202 "Divine Liturgy: Preparation and Fulfillment"

The Annual Memorial Day Picnic is tomorrow from noon until five. Plan on coming, bring good food and drink to share, invite friends. Bounce house will be provided, possibly face painting, games, good old-fashioned fun.

Call for Pictures: We will celebrate the fifteen-year anniversary of the founding of our parish July 30-31 with Bishop Alexander. As part of that celebration, we seek to gather pictures for a commemorative book. Please see Amy Stokes or Olivia Reynolds if you have pictures to submit for consideration.

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.

Last week we gave \$1656.86 in tithes and offerings; in May, we have given about \$56402.03; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$32, Building Fund \$32, Special offering for St. Sava Building Fund \$121. Attendance: Vigil 22; Liturgy 69.

Please Pray: for our catechumen Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Wells family, the Dean family, for David & Sally Roberts, and for Meaghan Jones & family; for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for John Roberts and his wife Edith, and for Frieda caring for her mother.

Happy Birthday to Elisabeth Terry (May 24).

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

The person who courageously closes his senses by means of the deliberate and all-embracing practice of self-control and patience, and prevents sensory forms from entering the intellect through the soul's faculties, easily frustrates the wicked schemes of the devil and turns him back, abased, along the way by which he came. The way by which the devil comes consists of material things which seem to be needed for sustaining the body. 2.79

If during periods of temptation and trial you refrain from natural contemplation and hold fast to prayer, withdrawing your intellect from all things and focusing it on itself and on God, you will put to death the inward disposition which produces evil and you will send the devil packing with his tail between his legs. For it was the devil who insinuated this habit into you and, relying on it, he boastfully approached your soul, vilifying truth with proud thoughts. David who had vast experience in the front line of every kind of spiritual battle, was most likely not simply familiar with these tactics but actually put them into practice; for he says: 'While the wicked one stood before me I was dumb and humbled myself and refrained from uttering even good words' (Ps. 39:1-2. LXX). Jeremiah, in the same spirit, warned the people not to go out of the city because the sword of the enemy lay about it (cf. Jer. 6:25). 2.82

We may apply this also to Cain and Abel (cf. Gen. 4:8). Cain is the law of the flesh, and the field into which Cain and Abel went is the realm of natural contemplation. Had Abel kept guard over himself and had he not gone out with Cain into the field before attaining dispassion, then the law of the flesh would not have risen up and

killed him, cleverly deceiving him when he was engaged in the contemplation of created beings before being fully prepared. 2.83

Similarly, if Dinah the child of Jacob had not gone out to the daughters of the land - that is, into the world of sensible images - Shechem the son of Hamor would not have risen up and humiliated her (cf. Gen. 34:1-2). 2.84

We should abstain from natural contemplation until we are fully prepared, lest in trying to perceive the spiritual essences of visible creatures we reap passions by mistake. For the outward forms of visible things have greater power over the senses of those who are immature than the essences hidden in the forms of things have over their souls. Of course, those who confine their minds Judaic-wise to the letter alone expect the promises of divine blessings to be fulfilled in this present age, for they are ignorant of the qualities naturally inherent in the soul. 2.85

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, May 29

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

Mid-Pentecost, Troparion, tone 8

In the middle of the Feast, O Savior, / fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as Thou didst cry to all: / “If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!” // O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!

Kontakion of Samaritan Woman, tone 8

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith; / she saw Thee, the Water of Wisdom, and drank abundantly! / She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified.

Mid-Pentecost, Kontakion, tone 4

O sovereign Master and Creator of all things, Christ our God, / Thou didst cry unto those present at the Judaic Mid-feast and address them thus: / Come hither and draw ye forth immortality’s water. / Wherefore, we fall down before Thee and faithfully cry out: //Grant Thy compassions unto us, O Lord, for Thou art truly the Well-spring of life for all.