

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, June 12th, 2016

Schedule of Services

June 12th Sunday; Fathers of the First Council, tone 6

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

June 15th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

June 16th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 202: Divine Liturgy 3

June 17th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

June 18th Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Liturgy, St. Seraphim Cathedral*

3:00 p.m. Colias Baptism

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

June 19th Pentecost Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:30 p.m. Vespers with Kneeling Prayers

Isaac the Solitary on Guarding the Senses, 27 Texts

6. If your heart comes to feel a natural hatred for sin, it has defeated the causes of sin and freed itself from them. Keep hell's torments in mind; but know that your Helper is at hand. Do nothing that will grieve Him, but say to Him with tears: 'Be merciful and deliver me, o Lord, for without Thy help I cannot escape from the hands of my enemies.' Be attentive to your heart, and He will guard you from all evil.

7. The monk should shut all the gates of his soul, that is, the senses, so that he is not lured astray. When the intellect sees that it is not dominated by anything, it prepares itself for immortality, gathering its senses together and forming them into one body.

8. If your intellect is freed from all hope in things visible, this is a sign that sin has died in you. *Philokalia*

Announcements for June 12

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.

Mission Council will meet today.

Welcome to Fr. Basil Biberdorf and family visiting today.

Temple Wine given for the health and salvation of the Michelle Frederick and family; **Temple Oil** given for the health and salvation of the John Colias Family and the Vasilios Colias family.

Classes This Week

Thursday 7:30: Basics of Orthodoxy 202 "Divine Liturgy: "Blessed is the Kingdom"

Pentecost, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated next Saturday evening at Vigil and Sunday morning at Divine Liturgy. We do well to keep the feast by attending the cycle of services celebrating it.

Episcopal Installation: His Grace Bishop Alexander was formally installed yesterday as Bishop of Dallas and the South during services at St. Seraphim Cathedral. Please pray for him that God grant him much grace, wisdom, discernment, and good health to guide our diocese.

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 about \$1600 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$52.50. Attendance: Vigil 38; Liturgy 97.

Please Pray: for our catechumen Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Wells family, the Dean family, for David & Sally Roberts, and for Meaghann Jones & family; for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for John Roberts and his wife Edith, and for Frieda as she cares for her mother. Olga Fincher, who is shut-in as she cares for her husband Joseph, hurt her hip, impeding her ability to take care of him. Pray for them and see if you can help: (940) 808-0093 and (940) 312-8781.

Happy Birthday to Colin Stokes (June 9). **Many Years** on their namedays to Ben Lyda (St. Columba of Iona, June 9) and to Olivia Reynolds and Olive Betz (St. Olive of Palermo, June 10)

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

Providence has implanted a divine standard or law in created beings, and in accordance with this law when we are ungrateful for spiritual blessings we are schooled in gratitude by adversity, and brought to recognize through this experience that all such blessings are produced through the workings of divine power. This is to prevent us from becoming irrepressibly conceited, and from thinking in our arrogance that we possess virtue and spiritual knowledge by nature and not by grace. If we did this we would be using what is good to produce what is evil: the very things which should establish knowledge of God unshaken within us will instead be making us ignorant of Him. 3.12

We know that the providence which sustains created beings exists in them as a divine rule and law. In accordance with God's justice, when those rich in blessings are ungrateful to Him who bestows them, they are schooled in gratitude by this richness being drastically curtailed; and through this adversity they are led to recognize the true source of the blessings they receive. For when conceit about one's virtue is left undisciplined it naturally generates arrogance, and this induces a sense of hostility to God. 3.13

He who thinks that he has achieved perfection in virtue will never go on to seek the original source of blessing, for he has limited the scope of his aspiration to himself and so of his own accord has deprived himself of the condition of salvation, namely God. The person aware of his natural poverty where goodness is concerned never relaxes his impetus towards Him who can fully supply what he lacks. 3.14

The arrogant intellect is justly made the object of wrath, that is to say, it is abandoned by God, as I have already described, and the

demons are permitted to plague it during contemplation. This happens so that it may become aware of its own natural weakness and recognize the grace and divine power which shields it and which accomplishes every blessing; and so that it may also learn humility, utterly discarding its alien and unnatural pride. If this indeed happens, then the other form of wrath - the withdrawal of graces previously given - will not visit it, because it has already been humbled and is now conscious of Him who provides all blessings. 3.16

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, June 12th

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.

Ascension, Troparion, tone 4

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing they were assured / that Thou art the Son of God, / the Redeemer of the world.

Fathers, Troparion, tone 8

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God! / Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! / Through them Thou hast guided us to the true faith! / O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Fathers, Kontakion, tone 8

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology; / great is the mystery of piety which it defines and glorifies.

Ascension, Kontakion, tone 6

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake, / and unite earth to heaven; / Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, / not being parted from those who love Thee, / but remaining with them and crying: / I am with you and no one will be against you!