

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for All-Saints Sunday, June 26th, 2016

Schedule of Services

June 26th Sunday of All Saints

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Icon Tour, Ambigua

June 27th Monday Apostles' Fast Begins

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

June 28th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

June 29th Wednesday SS Peter & Paul

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 202: Divine Liturgy 5

July 2nd Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

July 3rd Sunday of All Saints of North America

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Isaac the Solitary on Guarding the Senses, 27 Texts

12. Our teacher Jesus Christ, out of pity for mankind and knowing the utter mercilessness of the demons, severely commands us: 'Be ready at every hour, for you do not know when the thief will come; do not let him come and find you asleep' (cf. Matt. 24:42-43). He also says: 'Take heed, lest your hearts be overwhelmed with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of this life, and the hour come upon you unawares' (cf. Luke 21:34). Stand guard, then, over your heart and keep a watch on your senses; and if the remembrance of God dwells peaceably within you, you will catch the thieves when they try to deprive you of it. When a man has an exact knowledge about the nature of thoughts, he recognizes those which are about to enter and defile him, troubling the intellect with distractions and making it lazy. Those who recognize these evil thoughts for what they are remain undisturbed and continue in prayer to God. *Philokalia*

Announcements for June 26

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 alms.

Temple Wine given for the health and salvation of Mary Grace and George and Elizabeth Rovny & family; **Temple Oil** given for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn.

Many Thanks to him who has been mowing the lawn. If any others of you are willing to help with this, please see Fr. Justin. The alternative is paying \$200 a month to a lawn service.

Many Thanks to those who organized and executed the fast-free Friday game night. A good time was had by all who attended.

Classes This Week

Wednesday 7:30: Basics of Orthodoxy 202 "Divine Liturgy: The Antiphons

Icon Tour: In honor of All Saints, Fr. Justin will give a tour of the icons in the church part way through coffee hour for any who are interested. We'll eat first and gather in the church on the bell.

Apostles' Fast begins Monday and concludes Wednesday with the Feast of SS Peter and Paul. Take advantage of the services during this shortened fast (due to the thirteen-day difference as we go from the Paschalion determined by the Julian calendar to the fixed feasts determined by the Gregorian calendar, which slices nearly weeks off the Apostles' Fast every year).

Divine Liturgy this week will be served on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. instead of Thursday for the sake of the Feast of SS Peter and Paul. There will be no Liturgy this Thursday.

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 \$1926.96 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$5292.20 our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$49.50; Special Offering for Alms \$10, Renovation (drink jar) \$1. Attendance: Vigil 28; Liturgy 99.

Please Pray: for our catechumen Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Wells family, the Dean family, for David & Sally Roberts, and for Meghann 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 and her husband Joseph.

Namedays last week: Ian Rehmet (24th, St. John the Baptists), **Many Years! Happy Birthday** to Andrew Colias (20th), Elliana Lyda (23rd), Ian Rehmet (24th).

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

Blessed is he who knows in truth that we are but tools in God's hands; that it is God who effects within us all ascetic practice and contemplation, virtue and spiritual knowledge, victory and wisdom, goodness and truth; and that to all this we contribute nothing at all except a disposition that desires what is good. Zerubbabel had this disposition when he said to God: 'Blessed art Thou who hast given me, wisdom; I give thanks to Thee, O Lord of our fathers; from Thee comes victory and wisdom; and Thine is the glory and I am Thy servant' (1 Esd. 4:59-60). As a truly grateful servant he ascribed all things to God, who had given him everything. He possessed wisdom as a gift from God and attributed to Him as Lord of his fathers the efficacy of the blessings bestowed on him. These blessings are, as we have said, the union of victory and wisdom, virtue and spiritual knowledge, ascetic practice and contemplation, goodness and truth. For when these are united together they shine with a single divine glory and brightness. 3.28

All the achievements of the saints were clearly gifts of grace from God. None of the saints had the least thing other than the goodness granted to him by the Lord God according to the measure of his gratitude and love. And what he acquired he acquired only in so far as he surrendered himself to the Lord who bestowed it. 3.29

When wrath takes the form of God allowing the demons to attack an arrogant intellect through the passions, it is a means of deliverance. For through suffering these shameful attacks the person that boasts

of his virtues is enabled to learn who is the giver of these virtues. Otherwise he will be stripped of those things that are not in fact his, though he regarded them as such, forgetting that he had received them as a gift. 3.23

From Saint Justin of Chelije

Our vocation is to fill ourselves with the Lord Christ, with His Divine life-creating energies, to live in Christ and to make ourselves christ. If you set about this you are already in heaven although you walk on earth; you are already wholly in God even though your being has remained within the limits of human nature. The man who makes himself a christ surpasses himself, as man, by God, by the God-man, in Whom is given the perfect image of the true, real whole man in the image of God; and in Him are also given the all-vanquishing Divine energies, by the help of which man raises himself above every sin, above every death, above every hell; and this he does by the Church and in the Church, which all the powers of hell cannot overcome, because in Her is the whole wondrous God-man the Lord Christ, with all His Divine energies, His truths, His realities, His perfections, His lives, His eternities.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, June 26th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to Thee.

All Saints, Troparion, tone 4

Adorned in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout all the world, / Thy Church as in purple and fine linen / through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God; / Send down Thy compassions upon Thy people; / grant peace to Thy commonwealth, and great mercy to our souls.

All Saints, Kontakion, tone 8

All the world doth offer unto Thee, O Lord, as to creation's Planter, / the God-bearing Martyrs as nature's first fruits for they bare witness unto Thee. / Thus preserve Thou Thy Church in the profoundest peace by their entreaties, O Savior, / through the pure Theotokos, O Thou who art greatly merciful.