

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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15 Years! Bulletin for Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Schedule of Services

**July 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday, Sixth after Pentecost, tone 5**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Cross Procession, Coffee Hour

**August 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Dormition Fast Begins**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Blessing of Water

5:00 p.m. Vespers w/Paraclesis, Confession

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers w/Paraclesis, Confession

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers w/Paraclesis, Confession

**August 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vespers w/Paraclesis

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 202: Divine Liturgy 9

**August 5<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vigil Confession

**August 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday Transfiguration of Our Lord**

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

**August 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Seventh after Pentecost, tone 6**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

Isaiah the Solitary on Guarding the Senses, 27 Texts

19. When the intellect grows strong, it makes ready to pursue the love which quenches all bodily passions and which prevents anything contrary to nature from gaining control over the heart. Then the intellect, struggling against what is contrary to nature, separates this from what is in accordance with nature.

20. Examine yourself daily in the sight of God, and discover which of the passions is in your heart. Cast it out, and so escape His judgment.

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

## Announcements for July 31

**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 to help defray the costs of our celebration today.

**Welcome to Bishop Alexander** celebrating our fifteen-year anniversary with us today!

**Cross Procession:** Just before the end of Liturgy, we shall process around the church three times, stopping at each of the four sides to pray for the church and our city. We will re-enter the church for the usual dismissal, Prayers of Thanksgiving, and Coffee Hour.

**Temple Wine** given for the health and salvation of Thea Frederick, of Rebekah Skelton, Onesimus Bramlett, Zoe Colias, Silouan Lyda, Fiona Rovny and in memory of Moses. **Temple Oil** given for the health and salvation of Carolyn & William.

**Commemorative Picture Books** celebrating our fifteen years as a parish are available. See Dax.

### Classes This Week

Thursday 7:30: Basics of Orthodoxy 202 Divine Liturgy 8 Anaphora of St. John & the Theotokos

**Holy Transfiguration**, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with Vigil Friday night and Divine Liturgy Saturday morning. We do well to keep the Feasts by attending at least a part of the festal cycle of services.

**The Dormition Fast** will be observed August 1-14. We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil (except as modified per the wallcalendar) in order to devote ourselves to restraint of passions, fervent prayer, almsgiving, and good works. May Christ grant each of us an abundance of grace! Plan on making a Confession, too, as following the Feast (Aug 15), your priest will be going on vacation.

**Paraclesis:** a new feature of the Dormition Fast this year will be the regular serving of the Paraclesis service as part of Vespers. Prescribed in the Greek tradition for use during the Dormition Fasts and any time of need, it is a service of intercession directed towards the Theotokos for help in illness and all manner of need and distress. It

corresponds to the Molieben to the Theotokos in the Slavic tradition. Those with particular needs or ailments (and all of us have ailments of soul if not of body!) should avail themselves of the opportunity to attend and pray.

**Church Plans:** The most recent set of drawings for our new church is on the board in the kitchen. We may now go to the city to get their response and guidance to our project.

**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 \$1354.62 in tithes and offerings; in July we have given \$6606.51; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$99; Special offering for Building Fund, \$48.10. Attendance: Vigil 38; Liturgy 115.
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**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 (cancer), and for Frieda as she cares for her mother; for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph.

**Many Years** to Anna Stokes (St. Anna, 7/25) and Ariel Reynolds (St. Irene Chyrsovolantou, 7/28) on their namedays.

### From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

When you fail to carry out the divine precepts of faith, your faith is blind. For if the precepts of God are light (cf. Isa. 26:9. LXX), it is clear that when you fail to put the divine precepts into practice you are without divine light. You are God's servant merely in name, not in reality. 3.45

No one can plead the weakness of the flesh as an excuse when he sins; for the union of our humanity with the divine Logos through the incarnation, has renewed the whole of nature by lifting the curse, and so we have no excuse if our will remains attached to the passions. For the divinity of the Logos, which always dwells by grace in those who believe in Him, withers the rule of sin in the flesh. 3.46

He who through faith in God and love for Him has conquered the witless desires or impulses of the passions which are contrary to nature, moves out of the sphere of natural law and enters wholly into the noetic realm. And, together with himself, he delivers from alien servitude his fellow-men and their concerns. 3.47

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>

### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

### Elevation of the Cross, Troparion tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victory to Orthodox Christians / over the enemy; / and by Thy Cross / preserve Thine estate.

### 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.

### St. Eudocimus, Troparion, tone 4

He who summoned thee from earth to the mansions of heaven / also preserveth thy body incorrupt after death, O holy Eudocimus; / for thou didst live in chastity and a pure life, / without defiling thy flesh, O blessed one. // Wherefore entreat Christ God with boldness that we may be saved.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

### 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.

### St. Eudocimus, Kontakion, tone 2

Desiring higher things, and uniting thyself with those on high, / thou didst make thy soul a fiery chariot / by the divine ascents of the virtues, O all-blessed Eudocimus; / and living on earth like one of the incorporeal ones, // thou was well pleasing to the Creator of all.

### Elevation of the Cross, Kontakion tone 4

As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, / so grant mercy, O Christ God, to those who are called by Thy name; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, / granting them victories over the enemy, / by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.