

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, September 25th, 2016

Schedule of Services

September 25th Sunday, 14th after Pentecost, tone 5; St. Sergius

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

2:00 p.m. Great Vespers for St. John the Theologian

September 26th Monday St. John the Theologian

5:00 a.m. Matins

6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

September 28th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession, Class: Way of the Pilgrim

September 29th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

September 30th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Little Vespers, Confession

10:00 p.m. All-Night Vigil (to 4:00 a.m.)

October 1st Saturday

2:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers, Confession

October 2nd Sunday, 15th after Pentecost, tone 6

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

noon Annual Meeting

2:00 p.m. Life Chain

Isaiah the Solitary on Guarding the Senses, 27 Texts

24. In storms and squalls we need a pilot, and in this present life we need prayer; for we are susceptible to the provocations of our thoughts, both good and bad. If our thought is full of devotion and love of God, it rules over the passions. As hesychasts, we should discriminate between virtue and vice with discretion and watchfulness; and we should know which virtues to practice when in the presence of our brethren and elders and which to pursue when alone. We should know which virtue comes first, and which second or third; which passions attack the soul and which the body, and also which virtues concern the soul and which the body. We should know which virtue pride uses in order to assault the intellect, and which virtue leads to vainglory, wrath or gluttony. For we ought to purify our thoughts from 'all the self-esteem that exalts itself against the knowledge of God' (2 Cor. 10:5).

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

Announcements for September 25

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.

Temple Oil offered in memory of William Frederick.

The Annual Meeting will be held next Sunday at noon.

Life Chain: Sunday, October 2, from 2:00 to 3:30 there will be a life chain here in Denton to "take a public stand and pray to end abortion. Participants hold a sign with a life-affirming message while they stand quietly and pray." Several of us took part in it a few years ago, and it was a good experience. It meets at University Drive and Carroll in front of Kroger. Call Diana Jelen (940) 206-1076 or Cheryl Spooner (940) 442-8022 for more information. While it may conflict with our annual meeting, I hope the meeting will be done in time for some of us to participate.

All-Night Vigil will be served this Friday night starting at 10:00 p.m. for the feast of the Protection of the Theotokos. Don't miss this opportunity to keep vigil through the night as we shan't be able to do it at the New Year (on Sunday this year).

Classes This Week The Way of the Pilgrim class will meet this Wednesday after Vespers.

New Classes will begin in October. There will likely be a class on Scripture Wednesdays at 5:45 before Vespers, as well as a Basics Class on the Lord's Prayer on a weeknight.

Housekeeping: While a couple of our ladies have discretely left the church to set up for coffee hour during Communion, they will do that no longer as too many people are going out at that time. Please remain prayerfully in the church during Communion unless the needs of small children call you out. This is a good time to say the Jesus Prayer or the Prayers of Thanksgiving. Two other things. Parents, please work to see that children do not get competitive about extinguishing candles. I'd like for them to be free to do this, but if it becomes disruptive or distracting, we'll appoint people to tend the candles. Also, please train children to stand during the most reverent

moments of the service. A summary rule says that if the royal doors are open, we should stand. More specifically, we should have our children stand 1. for all entrances (when servers come out with candles), 2. for the reading of the Gospel, 3. during the Cherubic Hymn ("We the Cherubim mystically representing...") 4. during the Eucharistic canon (from "The doors, the doors" to "Meet it is"), 5. during the "Our Father", and at the final dismissal. These are also times when people should not be moving about the church to light or extinguish candles or go in or out. Please see the article in the Confessor's Tongue.

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 made budget in August. Our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Last week, we gave \$2014.29 in tithes and offerings. Candles \$68, Special Offering for St. Elijah Mission, Durango, CO \$118, Building Fund \$42. Attendance: Liturgy 107, Vigil 48.

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 Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph.

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

God is the cause of created beings and of their inherent goodness. Thus he who is puffed up with his virtue and knowledge, and whose grace-given progress in virtue is not matched by a corresponding recognition of his own weakness, falls inevitably into the sin of pride. He who seeks goodness for the sake of his own reputation prefers himself to God, for he has been pierced by the nail of self-esteem. By doing or speaking what is virtuous in order to be seen by men, he sets a much higher value on the approbation of men than on that of God. In short, he is a victim of the desire to be popular. And he who immorally makes use of morality solely to deceive by his solemn display of virtue, and hides the evil disposition of his will under the outward form of piety, barter virtue for the guile of hypocrisy. He aims at something other than the cause of all things. 3.68

The demons of pride, self-esteem, desire for popularity, and hypocrisy, never act by trying to dampen the ardor of the virtuous man. Instead, they cunningly reproach him for his shortcomings where the virtues are concerned, and suggest that he intensifies his efforts, encouraging him in his

struggle; They do this in order to entice him to give his full attention to them; in this way they make him lose a proper balance and moderation, and lead him imperceptibly to a destination other than the one to which he thought he was going. 3.69

Neither do these demons hate self-restraint, fasting, almsgiving, hospitality, the singing of psalms, spiritual reading, stillness, the most sublime doctrines, sleeping on the ground, vigils, or any of the other things which characterize a life lived according to God, so long as the aim and purpose of a person trying to live such a life are tilted in their direction. 3.70

Troparia and Kontakia for September 25th



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.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

St. Sergius, Troparion, tone 4

O thou who wast a struggler for the virtues, / as a true warrior of Christ God didst thou contend greatly against the passions in this transitory life, / becoming a model for thy disciples in chanting, the keeping of vigils and fasts. / Wherefore, the all-holy Spirit made His abode within thee, / by whose activities thou wast splendidly adorned. / As thou hast boldness before the Holy Trinity, / be thou mindful of the flock which thou hast assembled, O wise one, / and forget it not, as thou hast promised, // visiting thy children, O Sergius, our venerable father.

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 6

St. Sergius, Kontakion tone 8

Wounded with the love of Christ, O venerable one, and following Him with unwavering desire, / thou didst despise all the delight of the flesh, / and hast shone forth like the sun upon thy native land; / wherefore, Christ hath enriched thee with the gift of miracles. / Be mindful of us who honor thine all-radiant memory, // that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, O divinely wise Sergius!