

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

Schedule of Services

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost, tone 6**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

noon Annual Meeting

2:00 p.m. Life Chain

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

**October 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

**October 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:45 p.m. Class: Survey of the New Testament Epistles

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**October 6<sup>th</sup> Thursday St. Innocent of Alaska; Apostle Thomas**

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**October 7<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:30 p.m. Vespers (*Confession at 6:00 by appointment*)

7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Lord's Prayer

**October 8<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**October 9<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost, tone 7**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. Meeting of the Myrrhbearers

Isaiah the Solitary on Guarding the Senses, 27 Texts

25. The first virtue is detachment, that is, death in relation to every person or thing. This produces the desire for God, and this in turn gives rise to the anger that is in accordance with nature, and that flares up against all the tricks of the enemy. Then the fear of God will establish itself within us, and through this fear love will be made manifest.

## Announcements for October 2

**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 seminarian Daniel Greeson.

**Temple Oil** offered in memory of William Frederick.

**The Annual Meeting** will be held today at noon. Voting members are all Orthodox Christians 18 and older who have partaken of the Sacraments in the past year and have fulfilled their financial obligation to the parish. See Fr. Justin if you have any questions.

**Life Chain** will take place today from 2:00 to 3:30 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 will meet at University Drive and Carroll in front of Kroger.

### Classes This Week

*Wednesday:* Bible Study 5:45-6:45 New Testament Survey. This new class will run for twelve weeks to the end of the year to give a basic overview of each epistle, Romans through Jude. We'll begin this week with Romans. If you think knowing the major themes of each epistle will inform your personal reading of Scripture, this class is for you. Fr. Justin

*Friday:* Basics of Orthodoxy 301 7:30- 8:45, the "Our Father". This 'advanced' level Basics Class over the course of ten weeks will consider the meaning of the prayer Jesus taught His disciples, drawing on the writings of the Fathers and St. Maximus' work on the Our Father. Fr. Justin

*Next Sunday:* Basics of Orthodoxy 103 will begin meeting this fall to read and discuss the Longer Catechism of the Eastern Orthodox Church, written by St. Philaret of Moscow. Reader Michael Rehmet will conduct the class.

**The Myrrhbearers** will meet Sunday, October 9. This is our local ministry of Christian burial. All who are interested, both old members and new are invited to attend today in the church when the bell rings. The topic will be "How Orthodox Christians Can Give a Christian Ending to Their Non-Orthodox Kin".

**The Annual All Saints Party** will be held Monday evening, October 31. Start planning now.

**Parish Thanksgiving:** As we have dropped our Labor Day picnics in recent years and in the interest of a coming together as a community before the Nativity Fast, the priest would like to see us organize an annual gathering the Sunday before the Nativity Fast (Nov 13 this year), as a combination of a parish Thanksgiving meal/picnic/festival. Please see Fr. Justin with ideas and your interest.

**Poetry and Port:** Fr. Justin will host a modest gathering to discuss the poem "Choruses from the Rock" by T. S. Eliot over port at his house Monday, October 24, at 7:30. Please let Fr. Justin know if you are interested in coming and then read the poem ahead of time.

**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 \$ \$2014.29 in tithes and offerings. In September, we gave \$8150.07. Candles \$56.50, Special Offering for prison ministry \$60, St. Elijah's, Durango \$20, Building Fund \$6.21. Attendance: Liturgy 93, Vigil 23. All-Night Vigil 20.
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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 Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph.

### From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

Virtue may be defined as the conscious union of human weakness with divine strength. Thus the person who makes no effort to transcend the weakness of human nature has not yet attained the state of virtue. And that is why he goes astray, because he has not yet received the power which makes what is weak strong. On the other hand, he who willfully relies on his own weakness instead of on divine power, regarding this weakness as strength, has completely overshot the bounds of virtue. And that is why he goes astray, because he is unaware that he has left goodness behind; indeed, he mistakes his error itself for virtue. Thus the person who makes no effort to transcend the limits of his natural weakness is more easily forgiven, because indolence is the main reason for his lapse. But he who relies on his own weakness instead of on divine strength in-order to do what is right, is likely to have lapsed because of willfulness. 3.79

