

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Schedule of Services

**July 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Tone 3 St. John of San Francisco**

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

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

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: Ephesians

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**July 6<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

10:00 a.m. Class: Ephesians

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

7:00 p.m. Compline

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

8:00 a.m. Men's Meeting

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**July 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday Tone 4**

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

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

69. God does not want us to be lying idly on our backs; therefore He does not effect everything Himself. Nor does He want us to be boastful; therefore He did not give us everything. But having taken away from each of the two alternatives what is harmful, He has left us what is for our good.' Truly does the psalmist say: 'Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain' (Ps. 127:1). For it is impossible to tread on the asp and basilisk and trample on the lion and dragon' (Ps. 91:13. LXX), unless you have first cleansed yourself as far as you can, and have been strengthened by Him who said to the apostles: 'See, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and on all the enemy's power' (Luke 10:19). *cont.*

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

## Announcements for July 2<sup>nd</sup>

**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 also invite you to go first through the food line.

**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).

**Temple Wine** offered for the health and salvation of the Brown family and in Memory of Daniel Holland; **Temple Oil** in memory of William Frederick.

**The Special Offering** this week is for our building fund.

**Mission Council** will not meet today but next week.

### Classes This Week:

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy (Fr. Justin)

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Ephesians

Friday, 10:00 a.m. Ephesians

**The Monthly Men's Breakfast** will take place this Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Please bring some food to share.

**St. John the Wonderworker** of Shanghai and San Francisco is a great saint of the twentieth century whose feast we celebrate today and with whom we all should be acquainted. Please read his life published in today's *Confessor's Tongue*.

**Lyda Family:** Today is the last Sunday we have longtime members the Lyda family with us. We bid them, "Farewell, and Godspeed." Pray for them as they being a new life (at least for a year) in Kerrville and Fredericksburg.

**Building Fund Watch:** Building fund balance: \$93,473.96. We are aiming to break \$100k by September 1. Special, designated gifts are welcome (and needed!), but the most important regular giving is our tithe. If all who have regular income tithe, we shall have plenty, for whatever we take in over our budget will go to the building fund.

**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 Sunday, we gave \$1675.55 in tithes and offerings; in June we also gave \$2844 electronically for a monthly total of \$9750.29; our monthly budget is \$11,250; candles \$69.50; Special Offering for OCMC Kenya, \$111.43; special offering for Fr. Seraphim \$412; building fund \$94.40. Attendance: Vigil last Saturday 48; Sunday Liturgy 92.

**Please Pray:** for Cassian and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for our catechumen Marsha Northam, for Miguel Dean, who will be made a catechumen next week, for our inquirers the Dean family; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, for Eugene and Rachel, and for Jeremy Gleb Rovny, travelling in India.

### From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.38 The malice of the demon of pride takes two forms. Either he persuades the monk to ascribe his achievements to himself and not to God, the Giver of all goodness and helper in every achievement; or, if this fails, he suggests that he should belittle those of his brethren who are as yet less perfect than himself. Influenced in this way, he does not realize that the demon is persuading him to deny God's help. For if he belittles his brethren for their lack of achievement, he clearly infers that he has achieved something through his own powers. But this is impossible, since, as our Lord has said, 'Without Me you can do nothing' (John 15:5). For even when impelled towards what is good, our weakness cannot bring anything to fruition without the Giver of all goodness.

2.39 The person who has come to know the weakness of human nature has gained experience of divine power. Such a man, having achieved some things and eager to achieve others through this divine power, never belittles anyone. For he knows that just as God has helped him and freed him from many passions and difficulties, so, when God wishes, He is able to help all men, especially those pursuing the spiritual way for His sake. And if in His providence He does not deliver all men together from their passions, yet like a good and loving physician He heals with individual treatment each of those who are trying to make progress.

2.40 We grow proud when the passions cease to be active in us, and this whether they are inactive because their causes have been eradicated or because the demons have deliberately withdrawn in order to deceive us.

## Troparia and Kontakia for July 2<sup>nd</sup>

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### Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.  
/ He hath delivered us from the womb of hell, / and hath granted the world / great mercy.

### St. John of San Francisco, Troparion, tone 5

Like a spiritual daystar in heaven's firmament, / thou didst encompass the whole world / and didst enlighten men's souls. / Hence thy name is glorified in the East and West, / for thou didst shine with the grace of the sun or righteousness, / O John, our beloved shepherd: / Wherefore, cease not to entreat Christ that He may have mercy on our souls.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

### St. John of San Francisco, Kontakion, tone 4

Thy heart hath gone out to all / who entreat thee with love, O holy hierarch John, / and who remember the struggle of thy whole industrious life, / and thy painless and easy repose, // O faithful servant of the all-pure directress.

*St. Theodore cont.* It is on this account that we have been commanded to entreat the Master not to 'lead us into temptation, but to deliver us from the evil one' (Matt. 6:13). For if we are not delivered from 'the fiery arrows of the evil one' (Eph. 6:16) through the power and help of Christ, and found worthy of attaining dispassion, we are laboring in vain, thinking that through our own powers or efforts we shall accomplish something. Therefore, he who wishes 'to stand against the wiles of the devil' (Eph. 6:11) and render them ineffectual, and to share in the divine glory, ought day and night to seek God's help and divine succor with tears and sighs, with insatiable longing and fire in his soul. He who wishes to share in this glory purges his soul of all worldly pleasures and of hostile passions and desires. It is of such souls that God Speaks when He says: 'I will dwell in them' (2 Cor. 6:16). And the Lord said to His disciples: 'if a man loves Me, he will keep My commandments; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and take up Our abode with him' (John 14:23)