

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, November 12th, 2017

Schedule of Services

November 12th Sunday Tone 6 Martyrs St. John the Merciful

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

4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

5:00 p.m. Parish Thanksgiving Meal

November 13th Monday St. John Chrysostom

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 15th Wednesday Nativity Fast Begins

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: Ephesians

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 16th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

November 17th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

10:00 a.m. Class: Spiritual Psalter

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida Confession

7:30 p.m. Compline with Akathist

November 18th Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 19th Sunday Tone 6 Prophet Obadiah

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

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

89. What Christ our God called the 'narrow way' (Matt. 7:14), He also called an 'easy yoke' and 'light burden' (Matt. 11:30). How could He equate these things when they seem to be contraries? For our nature, certainly, this path is harsh and steep, but those who pursue it wholeheartedly and with good hope, and who aspire after holiness, find it attractive and full of delight, for it brings them pleasure, not affliction. Hence they eagerly follow the narrow and painful way, greatly preferring it to that which is broad and spacious. Listen to St Luke, who tells us how the apostles, after being beaten, departed from the presence of the council rejoicing (cf. Acts 5:41), even though this is not the natural effect of a beating. For scourges normally cause, not pleasure and joy, but pain and suffering. Yet if, because of Christ, they resulted in joy, what wonder is it if other forms of bodily hardship and ill-treatment have, because of Him, the same effect?

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

Announcements for November 12th

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).

The Special Offering this week is for the IOCC—International Orthodox Christian Charities.

Temple Oil and **Temple Wine** offered for the health and salvation of Daniel Brown.

Many Years to the newly-illuminated handmaiden of God Petra Elizabeth Bramlett and her sponsor Anna Stokes!

The Nativity Fast begins this Wednesday and lasts until the Nativity of our Lord. We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil (unless modifications are shown on the wall calendar). We seek God through increased prayer, fasting, almsgiving, spiritual reading, repentance, service to others, and reducing the presence in our lives of things that distract us from God and provoke us to sin.

Classes This Week

Sunday 12:00 Basics of Orthodoxy

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Ephesians

Thursday 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

Friday 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Psalter of St. Ephrem

A Parish Thanksgiving dinner will be held today at 5:00. We'll eat a traditional Thanksgiving meal together, giving thanks to God for all His blessings, before the fast begins. Please show what you will bring on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

The New Mission Council will be installed next Sunday and have its first meeting.

Craft Sale: We will have a children's crafts sale Sunday, December 17, during coffee hour, and a bake sale December 31.

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$102,826. Our goal by the end of the year is \$125,000. Petitions for the construction of a church are being added to the Augmented Litany.

Commemorations: Please try to submit your Sunday commemorations Saturday night (or earlier) whenever you can.

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 and our building fund.

Last Sunday, we gave \$2802.23 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$52; Special Offering for Seminarian Dn. Daniel Greeson \$34; Building Fund \$5. Attendance: Vigil 46; Sunday Liturgy 135.

Please Pray for Cassian and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for our catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, and Joel and Alta Morris and their children; our inquirers Brandon and Lanie Veazey being received as catechumens today, our inquirers Donna, the Dean family, Jason, Chris; 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, for Jeremy Gleb Rovny, working in Georgia, and for Adam Bramlett recovering from an injury and looking for work, Elisabeth Terry, and John Roberts. Memory Eternal to the newly departed Tikhon Lynch.

Thanksgiving: For those who will not be with extended family for the holiday, please consider opening your home to gather others who have no family in the area. Vladyka Dmitri always gave a blessing not to keep the fast on Thanksgiving for this purpose.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.91 Those whom divine providence is leading towards holiness in this life are tested by the following three tests: by the gift of agreeable things, such as health, beauty, fine children, money, fame and so on; by afflictions causing distress, such as the loss of children, money and fame; and by bodily sufferings, such as disease, torture and so on. To those in the first category the Lord says, 'If a person does not forsake all that he has, he cannot be My disciple' (Luke 14:33); and to those in the second and third He says, 'You will gain possession of your souls through your patient endurance' (Luke 21:19).

2.93 Death in the true sense is separation from God, and 'the sting of death is sin' (1 Cor. 15:56). Adam, who received the sting, became at the same time an exile from the tree of life, from paradise and from God (cf. Gen. 3); and this was necessarily followed by the body's death. Life, in the true sense, is He who said, 'I am the life' (John 11:25), and who, having entered into death, led back to life him who had died.

Troparia and Kontakia for November 12th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

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. John, Troparion, tone 8

In patience thou didst acquire thy reward, O venerable Father, / who continued in prayers unceasingly, / and who loved the poor and saw to their needs. // Entreat Christ God, O blessed almsgiver John that our souls be saved.

St. Nilus, Troparion, tone 8

With the streams of thy tears thou didst irrigate the barren desert, / and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst make it to bear fruit a hundredfold. / Thou wast a beacon to the whole world, radiating miracles. // O Nilus our father, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human dough, / for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

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. John, Kontakion, tone 2

Thou didst distribute thy wealth to the destitute, / and hast now received heavenly riches, O John most wise. / Wherefore, celebrating thy memory, // we all honor thee, O namesake of almsgiving.

St. Nilus, Kontakion, tone 8

In thy vigilant prayer thou didst cut down the underbrush / of the uprising of the passions of the body as with a scythe. / As thou hast boldness before the Lord, free me from every misfortune, // that I may cry out to thee: Rejoice, O universal father, Nilus!