

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday, November 19th, 2017

Schedule of Services

November 19th Sunday Tone 7 Prophet Obadiah

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

November 20th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 21st Tuesday Entrance of the Theotokos into Temple

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 22nd Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: Ephesians

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 23rd Thursday Thanksgiving St. Alexander Nevsky

6:00 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 24th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

10:00 a.m. Class: Spiritual Psalter

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:30 p.m. Compline with Akathist

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

November 25th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 26th Sunday Tone 8

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

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

90. While we are oppressed and imprisoned by the passions, we are often at a loss to know why we suffer from them. We must, therefore, realize that it is because we allow ourselves to be diverted from the contemplation of God that we are taken captive in this way. But if a man fixes his intellect without distraction on our Master and God, then the Savior of all can Himself be trusted to deliver such a soul from its impassioned servitude. It is of this that the prophet speaks when he says: 'I have set the Lord always before me; for He is at my right hand, so that I shall not be moved' (Ps. 16:8). What is sweeter or safer than always to have the Lord at our right hand, protecting and guarding us and not letting us be moved? And to attain this is within our power.

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

Announcements for November 19th

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 St. Sava's Orthodox Church's building fund. They broke ground yesterday.

Altar Wine offered for the health and salvation of Sophia

The Nativity Fast has begun. It 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. This week, to facilitate being with non-Orthodox family, we are blessed to eat a traditional meal on Thursday.

The Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, is celebrated this week with Vigil Monday evening at 6:00 and Divine Liturgy Tuesday morning at 9:00. The faithful do well to keep the feasts by attending as much of the cycle of services celebrating them as they can.

Thanksgiving will be observed with Divine Liturgy Thursday morning at 8:00 to give thanks.

Classes This Week

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Ephesians

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

Friday 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

The Sunday Basics of Orthodoxy Class will take this Sunday and next Sunday off before resuming the first Sunday in December to study Timothy Ware's book *The Orthodox Way*. **The Weekday Basics Class** has moved to Fridays at 8:00 p.m.

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: \$103,366. 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 \$1561 \$2802.23 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$4302.23; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$75; Special Offering for IOCC \$42; for St. Gabriel Mission \$200; Building Fund \$610. Attendance: Vigil 23; Sunday Liturgy 146 (all-time record).

Please Pray for Cassian and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for our catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, Joel and Alta Morris and their children, and Brandon and Lanie Veazey; our inquirers Donna, the Dean family, Jason Matthes, 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.

Thanksgiving Need: Olga Fincher has been having a hard time. Is someone willing to help provide her and Joe with a Thanksgiving meal?

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.94 A man writes either to assist his memory, or to help others, or for both reasons; or else he writes in order to injure certain people, or to show off, or out of necessity.

2.95 In Psalm 23, 'green pasture' represents the practice of the virtues; 'water of refreshment', spiritual knowledge of created things.

2.96 'The shadow of death' is human life. Therefore if a man is with God and God is with him, clearly he is able to say, 'Though I walk through the midst of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me'.

2.97 A pure intellect sees things correctly. A trained intelligence puts them in order. A keen hearing takes in what is said. He who is lacking in these three qualities insults the person who has spoken.

Troparia and Kontakia for November 19th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

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.

Prophet Obadiah, Troparion, tone 2

As we celebrate the memory / of Thy prophet Obadiah, O Lord, // through him we beseech Thee to save our souls.

Martyr Barlaam, tone 4

In his sufferings, O Lord, / Thy Martyr Barlaam received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God. / For possessed of Thy might, / he cast down the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

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.

Prophet Obadiah, Kontakion, tone 8

As a divinely-chosen Prophet, thou foretoldest things far off, / that on Mount Zion salvation should come to pass, / for Heaven's mysteries shone on thee; / as thou dwellest in Heaven with the prophets rejoicing in Christ whom ye foretold, // entreat Him, O Obadiah, to save us who honor thee with love.

Martyr Barlaam, Kontakion, tone 4

Thou wast shown to be most amazing / in the fortitude whereby thou didst endure immolation, / and didst offer thyself in sacrifice unto Christ as incense of sweet savor. / Having received a crown of honor, O Barlaam, // do thou ever pray for us, O athlete.