

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, May 13th, 2018

May 13th Sunday of the Blind Man, tone 5

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

May 15th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Paschal Vespers, Confession

11:00 p.m. *Paschal Matins, Hours, Liturgy, St. John's Eules*

May 16th Wednesday Leavetaking of Pascha

6:00 p.m. Class: St. Basil the Great *Letters*

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

May 17th Thursday Holy Ascension

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

May 18th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Class: Divine Liturgy

May 19th Saturday

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

5:00 Vigil, Confession

May 20th Sunday Fathers of the First Council, tone 6

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

The Didache: Two Ways

There are two ways, one of life and one of death, but a great difference between the two ways. The way of life, then, is this: First, you shall love God who made you; second, love your neighbor as yourself, and do not do to another what you would not want done to you. And of these sayings the teaching is this: Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you. For what reward is there for loving those who love you? Do not the Gentiles do the same? But love those who hate you, and you shall not have an enemy. Abstain from fleshly and worldly lusts.

Announcements for May 13th

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 line at Coffee Hour.

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 St. Sava's building fund.

Temple Wine given for the health and salvation of Photini and Jude and Thomas; **Temple Oil** given in memory of Charles.

After Communion: Please take a piece of antidoron, take a quick sip of wine if you wish, and move on. Please do not dip bread in the wine any longer. It makes a mess, it is slowing things down too much, and it is not necessary.

Leavetaking of Pascha is observed this Wednesday. Paschal Vespers for Leavetaking will be served here Tuesday afternoon at 4:00. Fr. Justin will go to St. John's, Eules, for the Paschal Matins, Hours, and Liturgy starting at 11:00 p.m. Tuesday night. Others are welcome.

Ascension: This week, celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, with Vigil Wednesday night at 7:00 and Divine Liturgy Thursday at 9:00 a.m. We do well to keep the feast by attending as much of the cycle of services celebrating it as we can.

Classes this Week:

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy.

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. St. Basil the Great. Selected Letters.

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox, Divine Liturgy: "Blessed is the Kingdom". An examination of the meaning of the Liturgy. All welcome.

The Annual Memorial Day Picnic will be held Monday, May 28, at noon. We may serve Liturgy in the morning. Plan on attending, on bringing good food, on bringing and making good friends.

Building Fund Watch

"Establish Thou this holy house, even unto the consummation of the age."

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$136,690.

Current goal: \$150,000 by Pentecost.

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 \$2275.36 in tithes and offerings; in April, we gave \$13,098 plus \$3331.55 electronically for a total of \$16,429.55; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$96, Special Offering for Loreto House \$31.10; Prison Ministry \$10, Nativity Monastery \$36, Building Fund \$63. Attendance: Vigil 59; Sunday Liturgy 134.

Please Pray for our catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, Brandon and Lanie Veazey and their baby Silouan; our inquirers Donna Lange, the Dean family, Jason Matthes, Chris Day, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, for Eugene and Rachel, for Jeremy Gleb Rovny, working in Georgia, and Ian Rehmet studying and Mike and Gina travelling in Greece. Remember the grieving Photina and Jude Bellan. Pray for those you haven't seen for awhile.

In and Out: There is too much movement in and out of the church during Divine Liturgy, which is distracting both to the ones doing it and those remaining inside. Much (but not all) is children who go in and out multiple times for no good reason. Please do not let your children do this! Please let us all do what we can to resist the temptation to drift in and out or to linger outside in conversation while the Liturgy is being served.

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 23. Instead we say or sing the Paschal Troparion, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death..." three times. After the Leavetaking, we use the Troparion of Ascension once.

During the 50 days from Pascha to the Feast of Pentecost on May 27th, we do not kneel or make prostrations in church in keeping with the joyful, festal character of the season. We begin to kneel and do prostrations again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost.

For 40 days through the Leavetaking (May 16), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!" We also use the Paschal Troparion before and the Kontakion after meals and when setting out on a trip.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.76 The presence of the passion of avarice reveals itself when a person enjoys receiving but resents having to give. Such a person is not fit to fulfill the office of treasurer or bursar.

3.77 A man endures suffering either for the love of God, or for hope of reward, or for fear of punishment, or for fear of men, or because of his nature, or for pleasure, or for gain, or out of self-esteem, or from necessity.

3.78 It is one thing to be delivered from sinful thoughts and another to be free from passions. Frequently a man is delivered from such thoughts when the things which rouse his passions are not present. But the passions lie hidden in the soul and are brought to light when the things themselves are present. Hence one must watch over the intellect in the presence of things and must discern for which of them it manifests a passion.

3.79 A true friend is one who in times of trial calmly and imperturbably suffers with his neighbor the ensuing afflictions, privations and disasters as if they were his own.

3.80 Do not treat your conscience with contempt, for it always advises you to do what is best. It sets before you the will of God and the angels; it frees you from the secret defilements of the heart; and when you depart this life it grants you the gift of intimacy with God.

Troparia and Kontakia for May 13th

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.

Kontakion of the Blind Man, tone 4

Since my soul's noetic eyes are blind and sightless, / I come unto Thee, O Christ, as did the man born blind. / And in repentance I cry to Thee: / Thou art the most radiant Light / of those in darkness.

Paschal Kontakion, tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, "Rejoice!" to the myrrhbearing women, / granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

"It is not he who begins well who is perfect. It is he who ends well who is approved in God's sight." *St. Basil the Great*
