

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, July 1st, 2018

July 1st Sunday, tone 4 SS Cosmas & Damian the Unmercenaries

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

1:00 p.m. Great Vespers

July 2nd Monday St. John of San Francisco

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

July 3rd Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

July 4th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

July 5th Thursday St Athanasius of Athos, St. Sergius of Radonezh

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

July 6th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

July 7th Saturday

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

5:00 Vigil, Confession

July 8th Sunday, tone 5 Great Martyr Procopius

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

On The Divine Liturgy, Bishop Augustinos

Prayer is a most basic need of the soul. Unfortunately, modern man is possessed by matter and is preoccupied with his enjoyment of materialistic things and pleasures, and has destroyed his sacred sense. He is like someone who has a broken antenna on his television set; this person cannot see what the others with working sets can see. Prayer is an antenna which connects us with heaven; now we can see the grandeur of God, adore him, and thank Him. . . . But which prayer? Certainly not just any kind of prayer, but prayer in the way which Christ taught. One of the characteristics of true prayer is perseverance and persistence.

Announcements for July 1"

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 Alms.

Temple Oil given in memory of Nina on the first anniversary of her death.

Classes this Week:

No Saint Basil Class due to the national holiday.

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox, The Divine Liturgy

Holy Oil: Your priest brought back from Russia oil blessed on the relics of St. Sergius of Radonezh and St. Tikhon of North America which has been used the past two weeks to anoint those present at Vigil. We also have received oil blessed on the grave of St. Maximus in Georgia. When the Litia (at which oil for the Vigil is blessed) is not served, it is our custom to anoint we oil blessed on the relics of the saints or from the Vigil lamp before their icon on their feast. This anointing is one of the blessings of being present at Vigil.

White Stones from the drain along the building-edge of the patio should be left there. We have some who delight in playing with them and then in leaving them all over the yard. This is not good for the appearance of the yard, the function of the drain, or the well-being of the lawnmowers, and the priest spends time collecting them each week to return them to their proper place. Thank you.

Commemoration Books Available: a number of Russian commemoration booklets may be found in the bookstore for a modest price. English speakers may use them; just keep in mind the first section is for the living, the second for the departed.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$141,452.

Current goal: \$150,000 by Dormition, August 15.

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 \$5800 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$9840; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$; Building Fund \$258.10. Attendance: Vigil 53; Sunday Liturgy 150.

Please Pray for our catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, and James Blankenship; our inquirers Donna Lange, the Dean family, Chris Day, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias, and for Ian Rehmet studying in Greece. Pray for those you haven't seen for awhile.

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

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

4.1 First the intellect marvels when it reflects on the absolute infinity of God, that boundless sea for which it longs so much. Then it is amazed at how God has brought things into existence out of nothing. But just as 'His magnificence is without limit' (Ps. 145:3. LXX), so 'there is no penetrating His purposes' (Isa. 40:28).

4.2 How can the intellect not marvel when it contemplates that immense and more than astonishing sea of goodness? Or how is it not astounded when it reflects on how and from what source there have come into being both nature endowed with intelligence and intellect, and the four elements which compose physical bodies, although no matter existed before their generation? What kind of potentiality was it which, once actualized, brought these things into being? But all this is not accepted by those who follow the pagan Greek philosophers, ignorant as they are of that all-powerful goodness and its effective wisdom and knowledge, transcending the human intellect.

4.3 God is the Creator from all eternity, and He creates when He wills, in His infinite goodness, through His coessential Logos and Spirit. Do not raise the objection: 'Why did He create at a particular moment since He is good from all eternity?' For I reply that the unsearchable wisdom of the infinite essence does not come within the compass of human knowledge.

4.4 When the Creator willed, He gave being to and manifested that knowledge of created things which already existed in Him from all eternity. For in the case of almighty God it is ridiculous to doubt that He can give being to anything when He so wills.

Troparia and Kontakia for July 1st

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting 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.

SS Cosmas & Damian, Troparion, tone 8

O holy unmercenary and wonder-workers Cosmas and Damian, visit our infirmities. // Freely have ye received, freely give unto us.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 4

My Saviour and Deliverer as God/ hath raised out of the grave the earth-born from their bonds / and He hath shattered the gates of hell / and as Master / He hath risen on the third day.

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.

SS Cosmas & Damian, Kontakion, tone 2

Having received the grace of healings, / ye extend health to those in need, / O all-glorious physicians and wonder-workers, Cosmas and Damian. / By your visitation cast down the audacity of the enemy, // healing the world with miracles.

“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*
