

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, July 8th, 2018

July 8th Sunday, tone 5 Great Martyr Procopius
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

July 10th Tuesday
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

July 11th Wednesday
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:00 p.m. Class: St. Basil the Great
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

July 12th Thursday Martyrs Proclus and Hilary
6:00 a.m. Matins
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

July 13th Friday
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession
7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox Class: Divine Liturgy

July 14th Saturday
8:00 a.m. Men's Meeting
5:00 Vigil, Confession

July 15th Sunday, tone 6 St. Vladimir
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

On The Divine Liturgy, Bishop Augustinos

Dear friends, the Book of the Gospels is incomparably superior to every other book in the world. It is the King of Books. That is why the priest during the Little Entrance raise the Book of the Gospels so that everyone may see it and says, "Wisdom!" That is to say, the book I am holding in my hands is wisdom. Whatever it preaches is the truth. And because Christ continues to teach the whole world with this Gospel, the entire congregation should stand to welcome it, honoring and giving thanks to Christ. That is why the priest, after the exclamation "Wisdom! Stand Upright!" chants: "Come, let us worship and bow down unto Christ. O son of God who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto Thee: 'Alleluia'".

Announcements for July 8th

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 Loreto House.

Temple Oil given in memory of Nicholas. **Temple Oil and Wine** given by the Lydas in thanksgiving for answered prayer.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Saint Basil, The Morals

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

Holy Oil: The Rovnys brought back from Georgia oil blessed on the tomb of St. Maximus, which we used last night to anoint those present at Vigil after the Gospel reading.

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.

Feast of St. Seraphim: On Thursday, July 19, in place of our regular Thursday Liturgy here, we shall join our mother parish, St. Seraphim Cathedral in Dallas in celebrating their patronal feast. Liturgy there will begin at 9:30.

The Monthly Men's Meeting will be held this Saturday morning 8:00-9:30. We will consider the lives of two saints who are models of sanctified masculinity for a possible position as patron of the men's group and have questions and answers with our priest. Bring any a breakfast dish.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$143,035.67.

Current goal: \$150,000 by Dormition, August 15; \$200,000 year end.

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 \$4435.27 in tithes and offerings; in June we gave \$16453.53 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$95; Building Fund \$116.26. Attendance: Vigil 47; Sunday Liturgy 144.

Please Pray for our catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, and James Blankenship; our inquirers Donna Lange, the Dean family, Chris Day, Jonathan, 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 who have been absent.

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

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

4.5 Try to learn why God created; for that is true knowledge. But do not try to learn how He created or why He did so comparatively recently; for that does not come within the compass of your intellect. Of divine realities some may be apprehended by men and others may not. Unbridled speculation, as one of the saints has said, can drive one headlong over the precipice.

4.6 Some say that the created order has coexisted with God from eternity; but this is impossible. For how can things which are limited in every way coexist from eternity with Him who is altogether infinite? Or how are they really creations if they are coeternal with the Creator? This notion is drawn from the pagan Greek philosophers, who claim that God is in no way the creator of being but only of qualities. We, however, who know almighty God, say that He is the creator not only of qualities but also of the being of created things. If this is so, created things have not coexisted with God from eternity.

4.7 Divinity and divine realities are in some respects knowable and in some respects unknowable. They are knowable in the contemplation of what appertains to God's essence and unknowable as regards that essence itself.

4.8 Do not look for conditions and properties in the simple and infinite essence of the Holy Trinity; otherwise you will make It composite like created beings - a ridiculous and blasphemous thing to do in the case of God.

Troparia and Kontakia for July 1st

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.

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.

Great Martyr Procopius, Troparion, tone 4

In his sufferings, O Lord, / Thy Martyr Procopius 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 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

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.

Great Martyr Procopius, Kontakion, tone 2

Set afire by divine zeal for Christ, / and protected by the might of the Cross, / O Procopius, thou didst cast down the audacity and boldness of the foe, / and didst raise up an honorable temple, // excelling in faith and enlightening us.

“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*
