

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Bulletin for Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

**September 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, tone 8 Conception of St. John the Baptist**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**September 25<sup>th</sup> Tuesday St. Sergius of Radonezh**

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**September 26<sup>th</sup> Wednesday St. John the Theologian**

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**September 27<sup>th</sup> Thursday Martyr Callistratus**

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**September 28<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Molieben to St. Maximus, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**September 29<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**September 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday, tone 1**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

On Unity

Wherever there is disunity, neither God nor Christ nor the Spirit is to be found. Christ and the Holy Spirit lead us to the one God for Whom we are all one and equal. The unity of the Holy Trinity is both the ideal and the power of our own unity. It is the ideal because we all ought to strive to form a single being, to live by one content of goodness, truth, and beauty, while at the same time preserving the full individuality of each of our persons, just as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have a single essence and are a single Being. The Holy Trinity is also the power of unity since through Christ and the Holy Spirit we are united as children of the divine Father into a single divine-human family. The unity of men in Christ is the Church, the family of God, the Kingdom of God or the body of Christ. Unity is the essence of the Church. In the Church, all is one, although it remains diverse. *From Serge Verbovskoy, The Light of the World*

## Announcements for September 23<sup>rd</sup>

**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 the Azle, TX, mission.

### Classes this Week

Sunday, noonish, Basics of Orthodox 101

**Upcoming Classes:** A daytime class to read Vladyka Dmitri's book *The Kingdom of God* and study the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) will start in October, time to be announced (but not on Friday as before). A class Wednesday at 6:00 before Vespers will read and discuss the writings of St. Maximus. Fr. Justin's Basics Class will resume the second week in October.

**Church School** will begin October 7.

**Many Years** to the newly-illuminated servants of God Jacob Skelton and Emelia Stokes and their sponsors, Reader Benjamin and Angelina Lush and Paul Johnson!

**Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting will be held next Sunday after Divine Liturgy. All adult members are urged to attend. Our main business is to pass a budget for 2018-2019. A report will be given by the Council detailing where we are in our effort to build a new church. Material from the bylaws pertinent to who may vote is posted on the bulletin board.

**New Icons** in the church include a smaller icon of St. Nicholas (under the larger one) to allow veneration on his feast and a icon of St. Maximus on the right end of the kliros that was blessed on his grave in the land of Georgia.

**There is no blessing** given to drink coffee and wine before the dismissal at Liturgy. The faithful should be present in the Liturgy until the dismissal. Catechumens may leave at the dismissal of the catechumens if they will use the time to study the faith to further their catechumenate. Failing this, it would be better for them to stay in church. We strive to do all things decently and in order.

**Get to Know Someone New!** With recent growth, there are many of you in the parish who do not know one another. Please make the effort each week to meet someone you don't know and to get to know better someone you don't know well.

### Building Fund Watch

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

*Liturgy of St. Basil*

Building fund balance: \$162,592.51.

New goal: \$200,000 by year's 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 week, we gave about \$7200 in tithes and offerings. Our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles, Building Fund \$58.50, Special Offering for Loreto House \$116.00. Attendance last weekend: Vigil 51; Sunday Liturgy 125.

**Please Pray** for our catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, James Blankenship, Donna Lange, and Jonathan Kidd; for our inquirers the Dean family, Chris Day, Robert, Pam Fortner, Esteban Lopez, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children, David & Anita Charpie and their children, John and Christina Heitzenrater and their children, for Robert Osborne; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Pray for those who have not seen for a season.

### From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

*Today's chapters apply as well to married couples as they do to other relations. Read well, ponder, and practice.*

4.35 The deiform soul cannot nurse hatred against a man and yet be at peace with God, the giver of the commandments. 'For', He says, 'if you do not forgive men their faults, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your faults' (cf. Matt. 6:14-15). If your brother does not wish to live peaceably with you, nevertheless guard yourself against hatred, praying for him sincerely and not abusing him to anybody.

4.36 The perfect peace of the holy angels lies in their love for God and their love for one another. This is also the case with all the saints from the beginning of time. Most truly therefore is it said that 'on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets' (Matt. 22:40).

4.37 Stop pleasing yourself and you will not hate your brother; stop loving yourself and you will love God.

4.38 Once you have decided to share your life with spiritual brethren, renounce your own wishes from the start. Unless you do this you will not be able to live peaceably either with God or with your brethren.

## Troparia and Kontakia for September 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, 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 the Baptist, Troparion, tone 4

Make merry, O barren woman, / who before wast unable to bear a child! / For, lo! thou hast manifestly conceived the lamp of the Sun, / who will enlighten all the world, which suffereth from blindness. / Dance thou, O Zechariah, / crying out with boldness: // He who will be born is the prophet of the Most High.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

### 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 the Baptist, Kontakion, tone 1

Great Zacharias radiantly rejoiceth / together with Elisabeth: / she worthily conceived John the Forerunner / whom the Angel announced with great gladness / and whom we honour // as an initiate of grace.

---

“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*

---