

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, November 4th, 2018

November 4th Sunday, tone 6 Synaxis of the Unmercenary Healers

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 5th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins

November 6th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

November 7th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Reader Vespers

November 9th Friday

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

November 10th Saturday

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Baptism of Ethne Lyda

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 11th Sunday, tone 7

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

God as Creator and Father

Fr. Daniel: Creation differs in essence from the Creator, just as a chair is different from the woodworker. And since the Creator differs from His creation, we obviously cannot find the Creator Himself inside the creation. When we look at a photograph, we don't see the photographer, unless it's a self-portrait, but we do see the ideas and feelings the photographer wanted to express. This is very important. God is not gold, or silver, or air, or earth, or the cosmos, or the stars, or cosmic energy, or a cosmic intelligence. Why? Because the cosmos are created, but the Creator is outside creation; hence, God is not a cosmic intelligence. He cannot be a star; hence, the stars do not rule a person. Astrology—worshipping the celestial bodies instead of God—is idolatry; we must not believe in it. Likewise, God is not man. He is not a higher part of man, He is not man's soul. For this reason, the statement "I have God in my soul", which suggests that God is a part of the soul, is erroneous. God is the Creator of the soul, but not the soul itself. God is the Creator of man, but not man himself. So, is God a Father for everyone?

Attendee: Yes, everyone. *Fr. Daniel:* Not exactly. (Continued on the back page)

Announcements for November 4th

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 IOCC, next week for our OCA seminaries: St. Tikhon's, St. Vladimir's, St. Herman's.

Catechumens who leave the Liturgy at the dismissal of the catechumens are invited to go upstairs to further their catechesis by reading or quietly discussing the faith and practice of the Church. Some books for your benefit will be laid out.

A Coffee Hour and Church cleaning rotation goes into effect today. Team One is up to the cleaning bat today.

New Catechumen: today we welcome Chris Day to the ranks of the catechumens. Please keep him and the other catechumens in your prayers.

Light Week: Fr. Justin and his family will be at Holy Archangels Monastery for their feast day most of the week, so the schedule will be light this week.

Parish Thanksgiving next Sunday. We'll have a light coffee hour and come back at 3:30 for a traditional Thanksgiving meal together before the fast begins. Please sign up with what you will bring.

Classes this Week:

Sunday at the bell during coffee hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 101
Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 202

The Sermon on the Mount and St. Maximus classes will not meet this week, but will resume next week.

Our Parish Food Pantry could stand to be replenished, especially with substantial main courses. Please consider this for part of your almsgiving during the upcoming Nativity Fast. We stock non-perishable canned goods.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$177,400.

New goal: \$200,000 by year's end. We should aim to raise \$500,000 before we start building.

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 \$2104.06 in tithes and offerings; in October, we have given \$10,770.86 and another \$7598.29 electronically for a total of \$18,369.15; our monthly budget is \$14,000 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$78.50, Building Fund \$16, Special Offering for Loreto House \$62.11. Attendance last week: Vigil 77; Sunday Liturgy 161.

Please Pray for our new catechumen, Chris Day, for catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, James Blankenship, Donna Lange, Jonathan Kidd, and Katelyn Davis; for our inquirers the Dean family, Chris Day, Robert Peterson, Pam Fortner, Esteban Lopez, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children, David & Anita Charpie and their children, John and Christina Heitzenrater and their children, Brian, Adrienne and Hannah Freas, for Robert Osborne,; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher—Olga is caring for Joseph since his life was changed by a stroke five years ago. His health is poor at the moment.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

4.55 He who loves Christ is bound to imitate Him to the best of his ability. Christ, for example, was always conferring blessings on people; He was long-suffering when they were ungrateful and blasphemed Him; and when they beat Him and put Him to death, He endured it, imputing no evil at all to anyone. These are the three acts which manifest love for one's neighbor. If he is incapable of them, the person who says that he loves Christ or has attained the kingdom deceives himself. For 'not everyone who says to Me: "Lord, Lord" shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father' (Matt. 7:21); and again, 'He who loves Me will keep My commandments' (cf. John 14:15, 23).

4.56 The whole purpose of the Savior's commandments is to free the intellect from dissipation and hatred, and to lead it to the love of Him and one's neighbor. From this love springs the light of active holy knowledge.

4.57 When God has granted you a degree of spiritual knowledge, do not neglect love and self-control; for it is these which, once they

have purified the soul's passible aspect, always keep open for you the way to such knowledge.

4.58 Dispassion and humility lead to spiritual knowledge. Without them no one will see the Lord.

Troparia and Kontakia for November 4th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

Unmercenary Healers, Troparion, tone 8

O holy unmercenary physicians and wonderworkers, / visit our infirmities. // Freely have ye received; freely give unto us.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human dough, / for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

Kontakion of the Unmercenaries, tone 2

Having received the grace of healings, / ye extend health to those in need, / O all-glorious physicians and wonderworkers. / By your visitation cast down the audacity of the enemy, // healing the world through your 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*

(continued from front) Fr. Daniel: Not exactly. Let’s take a closer look. We have agreed that one can only beget someone of the same essence as the begetter. God is the Father of Christ, and through Him He adopts us. This adoption is given through Baptism. For the unbaptized, God is not their Father. An unbaptized person cannot read the prayer “Our Father”, because he does not have God as his Father. For him, God is merely the Creator, to Whom he naturally matters, and who loves and cares for him. Hence, when people want to receive baptism, we tell them: be sure to pray, for without prayer one cannot come to God. But it is best to pray in the words of the psalms, addressing God as Creator. God is outside the universe: since He is not creation, but rather its Creator, He is beyond the limitations of space and time. The universe exists in space and time. And since God is outside space, he is also outside matter; therefore, He is not material, because we call Him a Spirit, meaning a Being who possesses no material body. *From Catechetical Talks, Priest Daniel Sysoev*