

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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**November 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday, tone 7**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:30 p.m. Parish Thanksgiving Dinner

**November 13<sup>th</sup> Tuesday St. John Chrysostom**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

**November 14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

1:30 p.m. Class: *The Sermon on the Mount*

6:00 p.m. Class: *400 Chapters on Love*

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**November 15<sup>th</sup> Thursday Nativity Fast Begins**

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**November 16<sup>th</sup> Friday Apostle Matthew**

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

**November 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

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

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**November 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday, tone 8**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

On Wearing Your Cross

[At Baptism], you will be given a cross to wear as a sign that you will bear sorrows for Christ's sake. You must never take off your cross—not when you bathe, nor when you sleep. The Cross is never removed. Not when you bathe, not when you swim, not in the sauna—never. It is a fact, for instance, that suicides are almost never found wearing their crosses. A forensic pathologist of my acquaintance knows from experience that suicides are hardly ever found wearing their crosses. In other words, the devil cannot destroy a person completely without first forcing him to remove his cross. The cross is our protection; ever remove it for any reason.  
*Catechetical Talks, Priest Daniel Sysoev*

## Announcements for November 11<sup>th</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 our OCA seminaries: St. Tikhon's in PA, St. Vladimir's in NY, and St. Herman's in Alaska.

**New Catechumens:** today we welcome the Heitzenrater family to the ranks of the catechumens. Please keep them and the other catechumens in your prayers.

**A Parish Thanksgiving:** a traditional Thanksgiving meal together will be held today at 3:30 before the fast begins. We hope to be all set up to bless the food at 4:00 and a short molieben of thanksgiving. As usual, instruments and games are welcome for mutual merriment as people are welcome to linger.

**The Nativity Fast** begins this Thursday and lasts until the Nativity of our Lord, December 25. We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil, (unless modifications are shown on the wall calendar) and marital relations. We use our fasting to strengthen our pursuit of God through increased prayer, almsgiving, spiritual reading, repentance, and service to others. To help us acquire what is more important, we reduce or eliminate the presence in our lives of things that distract us from God and provoke us to sin: secular entertainments, music, movies, television, internet, novels, news—the list of possible distractions is long. If you have questions about the fast, please see your priest or confessor.

### Classes this Week:

Sunday at the bell during coffee hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 101

Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Sermon on the Mount

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. *400 Chapters on Love*, St. Maximus

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 202

**Namedays and Birthdays** and anniversaries henceforth will normally be commemorated at Coffee Hour on Sundays except for milestones—16, 18, 21, 40, 50, 60—you get the idea, which we shall do at the end of Liturgy. We shall, however, commemorate after weekday liturgies those whose day it is who are in attendance.

**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.

### Building Fund Watch

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

*Liturgy of St. Basil*

Building fund balance: \$181,275.88.

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

**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 upstairs in the kitchen.

**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 \$5735.57 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$15,112 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$111.50, Building Fund \$443.12, Special Offering for IOCC \$89.14. Attendance last week: Vigil 71; Sunday Liturgy 156.

**Please Pray** for our new catechumens, the Heitzenrater family, Chris Day, for catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, James Blankenship, Donna Lange, Jonathan Kidd, Katelyn Davis, and Chris Day; 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, Brian, Adrienne and Hannah Freas, for Robert Osborne; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher.

### From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

4.59 Since 'knowledge puffs up, but love edifies' (1 Cor. 8:1), unite love with knowledge and you will free yourself from arrogance and be a spiritual builder, edifying both yourself and all who draw near you.

4.60 Love edifies because it does not envy, or feel any bitterness towards those who are envious, or ostentatiously display what provokes envy; it does not reckon that its purpose has yet been attained (cf. Phil. 3:13), and it unhesitatingly confesses its ignorance

of what it does not know. Hence it frees the intellect from arrogance and always equips it to advance in knowledge.

### **Troparia and Kontakia for November 11<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7**

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto 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. Minas, Victor, Vincent, Troparion, tone 4**

In their sufferings, O Lord, / Thy martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee, our God; / for possessed of Thy might, / they cast down the tormenters and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By their supplications save Thou our souls.

#### **St. Theodore the Studite, Troparion, tone 8**

Instructor of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and purity, / beacon for the whole world, divinely inspired adornment of monastics: / by thy teachings thou hast illuminated all, O Theodore. // O harp of the Spirit, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

#### **Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7**

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

#### **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. Minas, Kontakion, tone 4**

O passionbearer Minas, / Christ our God, the imperishable Crown of martyrs, / took thee from a transient army, / and showed thee forth as a partaker // of what is incorruptible and heavenly.

#### **St. Theodore the Studite, Kontakion, tone 2**

Thine angelic life of fasting / thou didst adorn with the struggles of suffering, / O divinely blessed Theodore, / and thou hast been shown to abide with the angels. // With them never cease thou to pray to Christ God for us all.

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“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*

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