

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, November 18th, 2018

November 18th Sunday, tone 8

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 20th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 21st Wednesday Entrance of Theotokos to Temple

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 22nd Thursday Thanksgiving

6:30 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 23rd Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

November 24th Saturday Great Martyr Katherine

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 25th Sunday, tone 1

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

On Being A Person

The chief error of modern Western civilization and our own much-suffering Russia lies in that people want to be people without God, but a person only truly becomes a person when he is united with God. This is that for which he was intended, and this is his mission. When a person starts living without God, it always ends badly. The truth is, all our chief problems come from improper teaching about Christ. It is not accident that the Church spent the first millennium fighting for the mystery of Christ's incarnation. Even the icon: what is its significance? We will never agree with the Protestants, who claim that one must not venerate icons, for failing to venerate the icons would mean that Christ cannot be depicted, and if He cannot be depicted, He is not a Man, and if he is not a Man, that's it—the road to God is closed. For us the icon is of the utmost importance. For us it is a door, a door into eternity, a door to victory over the curse, a door to victory over sin.

Catechetical Talks, Priest Daniel Sysoev

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

Announcements for November 18th

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 Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry.

New Catechumen: today we welcome Esteban Lopez into the ranks of the catechumens.

Many Years to the newly illumined Ethne Lyda, baptized November 10, and her godmother Eudokia (Becki) Stevenson!

Congratulations to the Ignatius and Elizabeth Rodgers on the birth of their daughter Magdalena last Wednesday.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with Vigil Tuesday night at 7:00 and Divine Liturgy Wednesday morning at 9:00. We do well to keep the feast by attending as much of its cycle of services as we can.

Children's Craft Fair is coming up Sunday, December 2. All young people who have crafted things are welcome to bring them that day for display and sale.

Long Communion Line: see today's *Confessor's Tongue* for suggestions on how to redeem that time.

Thanksgiving is this week, and while strictly it falls during the fast, it is the custom of many to keep this venerable American holiday with the traditional feast. Archbishop Dmitri gave a blessing not to keep the fast on the day, especially if one would be celebrating with non-Orthodox relatives. Some clergy have gone further and blessed the eating of leftovers through the weekend. Whatever you do, take time to give hearty thanks to God and return fully to the fast by Monday at the latest. Please consider our brethren without family in the area and try to include them in your festivities.

The Nativity Fast has begun 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. If you have questions about the fast or how to apply it in your current circumstances, please speak to your priest or confessor.

Classes this Week:

Sunday at the bell during coffee hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 101
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. *400 Chapters on Love*, St. Maximus
Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 202

Most Namedays and Birthdays and anniversaries henceforth will normally be commemorated at Coffee Hour.

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.

Nativity Fast Almsgiving: in your almsgiving, please remember our parish food pantry.

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 \$2183.77 \$5735.57 in tithes and offerings; in November, we have given \$7919.34 our monthly budget is \$15,112 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$40.50, Building Fund \$22, Special Offering for seminaries \$65. Attendance last week: Vigil 53; Sunday Liturgy 131.

Please Pray for our new catechumen Esteban Lopez, for catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, James Blankenship, Donna Lange, Jonathan Kidd, Katelyn Davis, Chris Day, and the Heitzenrater family: John, Christina, Madeleine, Margaret, Aemelia, John "William", Isabella, Mary Elizabeth, Thomas, Charles, Charlotte; for our inquirers the Dean family, Robert Peterson, 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

4.61 It is natural for spiritual knowledge to produce conceit and envy, especially in the early stages. Conceit comes only from within, but envy comes both from within and from without - from within when we feel envious of those who have knowledge, from without when those who love knowledge feel envious of us. Love destroys all three of these failings:

conceit, because love is not puffed up; envy from within, because love is not jealous; and envy from without, because love is 'long-suffering and kind' (1 Cor. 13:4). A person with spiritual knowledge must, then, also acquire love, so that he may always keep his intellect in a healthy state.

Troparia and Kontakia for November 18th

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.

Ss Plato and Romanus, tone 4

In their sufferings, O Lord, / Thy Martyrs Plato and Romanus received imperishable crowns from Thee, our God. / For possessed of Thy might, / they cast down the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls.

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. Plato, Kontakion, tone 3

Thy holy memory doth gladden the whole world, / summoning all the faithful to thine all-honorable temple, / where, now assembled with joy we chant in hymns amid splendor. / Wherefore, O Plato, we cry out to thee: // Deliver thy city from the invasion of the heathen, O holy one.

"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*
