

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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**May 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Paralytic**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Noon: Basics of Orthodoxy 103, Mission Council

**May 20<sup>th</sup> Monday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**May 21<sup>st</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Midfeast Pentecost**

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Water

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**May 24<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 201: The Church & Scripture

**May 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**May 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Noon: Basics of Orthodoxy 103

St. Diodochus: 100 Chapters on Spiritual Knowledge & Discrimination

47. It is in no way contrary to the principles of true knowledge to eat and drink from all that is set before you, giving thanks to God; for 'everything is very good' (cf. Gen. 1:31). But gladly to abstain from eating too pleasurable or too much shows greater discrimination and understanding. However, we shall not gladly detach ourselves from the pleasures of this life unless we have fully and consciously tasted the sweetness of God.

## Announcements for May 19<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 candle 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).

**Temple Wine** offered for the health and salvation of Mary; **Temple Oil** offered for the health and salvation of William.

**The Special Offering** this week is for SS Peter & Paul in Salt Lake City. They are building a second parish church and have less than six weeks to raise money with up to \$350,000 in matching funds promised. They bought property; now they wish to build and hope to be done before the year is out. See their website, <https://saintspeterpaulchurchcapitalcampaign.org/> for more.

### Classes this Week:

Sunday at the bell during coffee hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 103  
Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox 201 "The Church & Scripture"

**The Myrrhbearers**, our parish ministry for burying the dead, had a good response from you last week. You are the ones who make this ministry possible.

### Building Fund Watch

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

*Liturgy of St. Basil*

Building fund balance: \$215,097.14 as of April 30.

New goal: \$230,000 by Pentecost, \$300,000 by end of year. We probably need to raise \$500,000 before we start building per the current plan. With *everyone* pulling together, we can do this with God's help.

**The Annual Memorial Day Picnic** will be held Monday, May 27 at noon (just a week away), preceded by Divine Liturgy at 9:30. Bring food and drink to share, invite friends and family, and come prepared to meet new people.

**Building News:** Our application for a certificate of approval of our plan to build in front of our property along Oak Street was turned down last Monday, but only because some members of the committee didn't think the Spanish Mission elements of the design fit in our neighborhood. The door is open for us to make a few modifications and possibly get the certificate at a future meeting.

**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 \$3494.27 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$8239.65; our monthly budget is \$15,112; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$70.50, Special Offering for Seminarian Fund \$128, Building Fund \$70. Attendance last week: Vigil 63, Liturgy 163.

**The Next Fast-Free Friday**, June 21, we shall attempt to arrange some sort of game night and evening gathering for all at the church.

**Confessions at Matins:** If you wish to confess after Matins on a weekday, please let the priest know the day before that you plan to come.

**Commemorations:** Please try to submit your commemorations for Divine Liturgy the night before at Vespers or Vigil, whenever possible. Commemorations submitted after the Beatitudes may not be made at that Liturgy.

**Cleaning Teams:** Cleaning up after coffee hour is a necessary work for us all. Please be sure at least one member of your family assists in cleaning from start to finish when it is your team's turn.

**Please Pray** for our catechumens Katelyn (Marina) Davis, Chris Day, Esteban Lopez, Brian (Sabbas), Adrienne, and Hannah (Anna) Freas, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin, and Robert Peterson; for our inquirers the Dean family, Sumat, Makenna, Ashley, Luellen, David & Anita Charpie and their children, for Robert Osborne; for the nun Susannah. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher, who is seriously ill, and Holly Bellan.

### From Saint Maximus 200 Chapters on Knowledge

1.88 When God in His mercy resolved to send down from heaven the grace of His divine power to us on earth. He established the sacred tabernacle with all its contents as a symbolical image, type and imitation of wisdom.

1.89 The grace of the New Testament is mystically hidden in the letter of the Old. That is why St Paul says that 'the Law is spiritual' (Rom. 7:14). Thus the letter of the Law, superseded, grows old and decays (cf. Heb. 8:13), while its spirit, perpetually renewed, stays young. For grace is altogether immune from decay.

1.90 The Law is the shadow of the Gospel. The Gospel is the image of the blessings held in store. The Law checks the actualization of evil. The Gospel brings about the realization of divine blessings.

1.91 All sacred Scripture can be divided into flesh and spirit as if it were a spiritual man. For the literal sense of Scripture is flesh and its inner meaning is soul or spirit. Clearly someone wise abandons what is corruptible and unites his whole being to what is incorruptible.

### Troparia and Kontakia for May 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead./ He hath delivered us from the womb of hell, / and hath granted the world / great mercy.

#### Paralytic, Kontakion, Tone 3

As of old Thou didst raise up the paralytic, / O Lord God, by Thy God-like care and might, raise up my soul / which is palsied by diverse sins and transgressions / and by unseemly deeds and acts, / that saved I may also cry out: / O Compassionate Redeemer, / O Christ God, / glory to Thy dominion and might.

#### Paschal Kontakion, tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the myrrhbearing women, / granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

*St. Porphyrios recommended that the faithful make the kontakion (above) for the Sunday of the Paralytic a daily part of their prayers.*

*Considering the text, one may readily perceive why he recommended it.*

*In the prayer, we identify ourselves with the paralytic in his crippled condition. Who of us can claim to be fully free of the paralysis that sin brings to our life, which keeps us from loving God and others freely? Sin is a sort of paralysis which hinders love. May God deliver us all from this paralysis that we may love Him and those made in His image freely.*

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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*