

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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**August 4<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

**August 5<sup>th</sup> Monday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**August 6<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Holy Transfiguration**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers with Paraclesis, Confession

**August 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers with Paraclesis, Confession

**August 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday SS Zosimus and Sabbath of Solovki**

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers with Paraclesis, Confession

**August 9<sup>th</sup> Friday St. Herman of Alaska**

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers with Paraclesis, Confession

**August 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

10:00 a.m. Baptisms

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**August 11<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

2:00 p.m. Vespers

St. Diodochus: 100 Chapters on Spiritual Knowledge & Discrimination

68. Our intellect often finds it hard to endure praying because of the straightness and concentration which this involves; but it joyfully turns to theology because of the broad and unhampered scope of divine speculation. Therefore, so as to keep the intellect from expressing itself too much in words or exalting itself unduly in its joy, we should spend most of our time in prayer, in singing psalms and reading the Holy Scriptures, yet without neglecting the speculations of wise men whose faith has been revealed in their writings. In this way we shall prevent the intellect from confusing its own utterances, *(continued on page 3)*

## Announcements for August 4<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).

**The Special Offering** this week is for Our Daily Bread soup kitchen.

**No Classes this Week:** The services will serve for classes.

**Baptisms:** We shall be receiving into the Church this Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Katelyn (Marina) Davis, Christopher Day, Brian (Sabbas), Adrienne (Katherine), Hannah (Anna) Freas. Your prayers for them are requested.

**The Dormition Fast** runs until Thursday, August 15. The norms the Church has given us for the fast call us to devote ourselves to prayer, almsgiving, fasting (abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil, marital relations—see wall calendar for modifications), reading the Scriptures and other Orthodox spiritual literature, reducing or eliminating secular entertainments and elective social engagements, and serving others.

**Transfiguration**, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with Vigil Monday night at 7:00 and Divine Liturgy Tuesday morning at 9:00. All the faithful should make the effort to keep the feast by attending at least part of the cycle of services.

**The Feast of St. Herman** of Alaska celebrating his glorification will be the Friday, August 9. We celebrate the feast with Vigil Thursday night at 7:00 and Divine Liturgy Friday morning at 6:00. We do well to keep the feast of this first North American saint. His repose is commemorated December 13.

### Building Fund Watch

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

*Liturgy of St. Basil*

Building fund balance: \$231,000 as of July 31. Goal: \$300,000 by end of year. We may 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 and provision.

**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 \$2423.50 in tithes and offerings; in July, we gave \$14,440.12 and another \$7,999 electronically for a total of \$22,439.12; our monthly budget is \$15,112; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$89.50, Special Offering for prison ministry \$104.50; Building Fund \$485. Attendance last week: Vigil 54, Liturgy 167.

**Please Pray** for our catechumens preparing for Holy Illumination: Katelyn (Marina) Davis, Christopher Day, Brian (Sabbas), Adrienne (Katherine), Hannah (Anna) Freas, and Sandra Paschal; for our other catechumens Esteban Lopez, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin, Robert Peterson and Ashley Carpenter; for our inquirers the Dean family, Samat, Makenna, Luellen, David & Anita Charpie and their children, for Robert Osborne, Mark Robertson, and; for the nun Susannah. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher, who is seriously ill, Mother Susanna of Our Lady of Kazan Skete, Bethany Kaufman, and Thomas Harper who is in South America.

### From Saint Maximus 200 Chapters on Knowledge

2.19 We should always devote ourselves to God and seek Him out as we have been commanded (cf. Matt. 6:33). Although when we seek Him in this present stage of life we cannot come to the limit of His depth, yet perhaps if we penetrate His depth even slightly we shall contemplate what is more holy than the holy and more spiritual than the spiritual. The high priest shows this to us typologically when he goes from the holy place, which is holier than the court, into the holy of holies, which is holier than the holy place (cf. Lev. 16).

*(Diodochus, continued from front)* with the utterances of grace, and stop it from being led astray by self-esteem and dispersed through over-elation and loquacity. In the time of contemplation we must keep the intellect free of all fantasy and image, and so ensure that with almost all our thoughts we shed tears. When it is at peace in times of stillness, and above all when it is gladdened by the sweetness of prayer, not only does it escape the faults we have mentioned, but it is more and more renewed in its swift and effortless understanding of divine truth, and with great humility it advances in its knowledge of discrimination. There is, moreover, a prayer which is above even the broadest scope of speculation; but this prayer is granted only to those who fully and consciously perceive the plenitude of God's grace within them.

## Troparia and Kontakia for August 4<sup>th</sup>

### 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.

### 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.

### Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, Troparion, tone 4

Great is the wonder of faith! / The seven holy youths abode in the cave as in a royal chamber, / and died without falling into corruption; / and after much time they arose as from sleep, / as an assurance of the resurrection of all men. / Through their supplications, // O Christ God, have mercy on 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.

### 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.

### Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, Kontakion, tone 4

Spurning the corrupt things of this world / and accepting gifts of incorruption, / though they died yet did they remain untouched by corruption. / Wherefore, they arose after many years, / burying all the unbelief of the wicked. / O ye faithful, // praising them today in laudation, let us hymn Christ!

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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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