

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, November 24th, 2019

November 24th Sunday tone 6

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

1:30 p.m. Vespers

November 25th Monday Leavetaking of Entrance

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 26th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 27th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 28th Thursday Thanksgiving Day

6:45 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 29th Friday

6:00 p.m. Vespers

November 30th Saturday Apostle Andrew

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 1st Sunday tone 7

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

St. Diodochus: 100 Chapters on Spiritual Knowledge & Discrimination
88. When a man stands out of doors in winter at the break of day, facing the east, the front of his body is warmed by the sun, while his back is still cold because the sun is not on it. Similarly, the heart of those who are beginning to experience the energy of the Spirit is only partially warmed by God's grace. The result is that, while their intellect begins to produce spiritual thoughts, the outer parts of the heart continue to produce thoughts after the flesh, since the members of the heart have not yet all become fully conscious of the light of God's grace shining upon them. Because some people have not understood this, they have concluded that two beings are fighting one another in the intellect. But just as (*cont. p. 3*)

Announcements for November 24

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 Oil given for the health and salvation of Katherine Frederick.

The Special Offering this week is for our building fund.

Many Years to the newly Chrismated Sandra Anna Paschale!

A Special Liturgy of Thanksgiving will be served Thursday morning at 8:00; Vespers Wednesday at 7:00.

No Classes this Week

The Nativity Fast: We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil, (unless modifications are shown on the wall calendar) and marital relations in order to give ourselves to increased prayer, almsgiving, spiritual reading, repentance, and service to others as we pursue being filled more fully with Christ. 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, social media—the list of possible distractions is long. If you have questions about the fast, please see your priest or confessor.

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 \$4115.25 in tithes and offerings; this month, we have given \$10,183.31 our monthly budget is \$16,084; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$87 Special Offering for Seminarian \$119, Building Fund \$600. Attendance last week: Vigil 57, Liturgy 149. *Please note: we do not report funds given electronically until the end of the month.*

Please Pray for our catechumens Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin, Robert Peterson, Ashley Carpenter, Makenna Baldwin, Luellen Bassano, Mark Robertson, Mark Jones, and for David, Anita, Sarah, Rachel, Samuel, Aaron; the Dean family, and Robert Osborne. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher, who is seriously ill, for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, for Elizabeth Terry, and Thomas Harper who is in South America.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$240,500. 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.

From Saint Maximus 200 Chapters on Knowledge

2.91 The text, ‘The kingdom of heaven has drawn near’ (Matt. 3:2; 4:17), does not in my judgment imply any temporal limitation. For the kingdom ‘does not come in a way that can be observed: one cannot say, “Look, it is here” or “Look, it is there”’ (Luke 17:20-21). The phrase has reference to the relationship which the saints have with the kingdom, each according to his or her inner state. For ‘the kingdom of God’, says Scripture, ‘is within you’ (Luke 17:21).

(cont. from front), the man in our illustration both shivers and yet feels warm at the touch of the sun, so the soul may have both good and evil thoughts simultaneously. Ever since our intellect fell into a state of duality with regard to its modes of knowledge, it has been forced to produce at one and the same moment both good and evil thoughts, even against its own will; and this applies especially in the case of those who have reached a high degree of discrimination. While the intellect tries to think continually of what is good, it suddenly recollects what is bad, since from the time of Adam's disobedience man's power of thinking has been split into two modes. But when we begin wholeheartedly to carry out the commandments of God, all our organs of perception will become fully conscious of the light of grace; grace will consume our thoughts with its flames, sweetening our hearts in the peace of uninterrupted love, and enabling us to think spiritual thoughts and no longer worldly thoughts. These effects of grace are always present in those who are approaching perfection and have the remembrance of the Lord Jesus unceasingly in their hearts.

Troparia and Kontakia for November 24

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.

Feast of the Entrance, Troparion, tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, / of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. / The Virgin appeareth in the temple of God, / in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. / Let us rejoice and sing to her: / Rejoice, O Fulfillment // of the Creator's dispensation.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

St. Katherine, Troparion, tone 4

With thy virtues, as with the rays of the sun, / thou didst enlighten the unbelieving philosophers; / and, like the most radiant moon shining on those who walk at night, / thou dost drive away the darkness of unbelief. / Thou didst bring the empress to faith / and didst denounce the tyrant, O divinely elect bride. / O blessed Katherine, / with desire didst thou make haste to the heavenly bridal chamber, / to Christ the most comely Bridegroom, / and by Him hast thou been crowned with a royal crown. / Standing with angels before Him, / do thou pray for us // who keep thy most honored memory.

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*

St. Katherine, Kontakion, tone 2

O ye who love the martyrs / raise up an honored chorus in godly manner / honoring the most wise Katherine / for in the arena she preached Christ and trod upon the serpent // putting down the knowledge of the rhetors.

Feast of the Entrance, Kontakion, tone 4

The all-pure Temple of the Savior, / the precious Bridal Chamber and Virgin, / the sacred treasure of the glory of God, / is led today into the house of the Lord, / and with her she bringeth the grace of the divine Spirit. / Of her God's angels sing in praise: // "She is indeed the heavenly Tabernacle."

"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*
