

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, July 26th, 2020

July 26th Sunday St. Jacob of Alaska

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

July 28th Tuesday

5:00 p.m. Vespers

July 29th Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

July 30th Thursday

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers

July 31st Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers

August 1st Saturday Procession of the Cross, Dormition Fast Begins

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:45 a.m. Russian Language Confessions

9:00 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

August 2nd Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

How To Conduct Ourselves in Happiness

3. Therefore, in making use of earthly well-being, avoid becoming attached to it in your heart; that is, do not fall in love with the joys and comforts that your earthly well-being can and does afford you. Your heart should cleave completely only to the Lord God. Never forget His words, filled with love, spoken through the most wise Solomon: "Give me, son, your heart." Do not forget: be obedient. All the joys and comforts of your earthly well-being are worldly joys and comforts, and the holy apostle absolutely forbids us to love the world and that which is in it, because whoever loves the world lacks what is central and most necessary for true *(continued p. 3)*

Announcements for July 26

Public Services: We have been blessed to open services to the parish, but at a limited number of those present each time. For now we stream daily Vespers, Saturday Vigil, and Sunday Divine Liturgy. Please pray faithfully at home, contact the priest about attending services, and tune in on Sundays and Saturdays if you cannot attend in person, or read Vespers, the Hours, and the Typica at home.

Temple Oil & Wine offered for the health and salvation of Mykola Tokaryev and in memory of Nina Tokaryev.

Attendance at Services: our attendance is limited at present. Please email or text the priest if you desire to come to Liturgy. As there is always room at Vespers and Matins during the week, feel free just to show up at those services.

The Dormition Fast begins this Saturday, August 1 and lasts until the Feast of Dormition, August 15. All of us should begin planning now how to keep this short but strict fast to gain full spiritual benefit. 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), and reading the Scriptures and other Orthodox spiritual literature, and to reduce or eliminate secular entertainments and elective social engagements. All the faithful should prepare themselves for Confession and Holy Communion during the Fast. With the Fast are celebrated the two Great Feasts of Transfiguration and the Dormition of the Theotokos along with the Feasts of St. Herman of Alaska at St. Maximus. Hence, we may readily use this short, concentrated Fast as a sort of intense spiritual boot camp to recalibrate our life in Christ. With God's help, we will offer Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy every day of the Fast.

Start of School Year: On Sunday, August 16, we will serve a Molioben at the end of Liturgy for all students and teachers before the start of the new school year.

The Departure of Andrew, Juliana, Onesimus, Petra, and Euphemia Bramlett for Missouri took place yesterday. May God preserve them and guide them in the Faith!

Vacation Notice: Fr. Justin and his family will be gone August 17 – September 11. Please take advantage of his presence during the next five weeks to attend services, make Confession, and receive Holy Communion.

Confession: If you desire to make a confession, please contact the priest directly to arrange it. Usually they are heard after Vespers or Vigil each day.

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.

In July so far, we have given about \$6600 by check or cash; our monthly budget is \$17,560; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). May God bless you for your faithful giving! *Please note: we do not report funds given electronically until the end of the month.*

Please Pray for the Meals family soon to be received at St. Paul's Denison, for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Mark Robertson, Mark Jones, Elizabeth Dakak, and for our inquirers the Dean family, Robert Osborne, Kristen Hatten, Rebekah Kruse, Robert Boguski, Branson, Drew (Andrew), Haydon Grosch, Andrew, and Carter. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher, for Thomas Harper who is in South America, and for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, for Reader Michael Rodgers and Mary LeBrecht as they prepare for Holy Matrimony, and for the Reynolds family, and for all in need.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$254,900.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

1.79 Almsgiving heals the soul's incensive power [anger]; fasting withers sensual desire; prayer purifies the intellect and prepares it for the contemplation of created beings. For the Lord has given us commandments which correspond to the powers of the soul.

1.80 'Learn from Me', He said 'for I am gentle and humble in heart' (Matt. 11:29). Gentleness keeps the soul's incensive power in a calm state; humility frees the intellect from conceit and self-esteem.

1.81 Fear of God is of two kinds. The first is generated in us by the threat of punishment. It is through such fear that we develop in due order self-control, patience, hope in God and dispassion; and it is from dispassion that love comes. The second kind of fear is linked with love and constantly produces reverence in the soul, so that it does not grow indifferent to God because of the intimate communion of its love.

(*cont. from front*) well-being, namely love for the Lord God, for “If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him,” according to the holy apostle John. *From How To Live A Holy Life, Met. Gregory*

Troparia and Kontakia for July 26

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.

St. Jacob of Sitka, Troparion, tone 4 Alaskan Melody

O righteous Father Jacob, \ adornment of Atka and the Yukon Delta; / thou didst offer thyself as a living sacrifice / to bring light to a searching people. / Offspring of Russian America, / flower of brotherly unity, / healer of sickness / and terror of demons: / O Holy Father Jacob, // pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved!

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.

St. Jacob of Sitka, Kontakion, tone 3

O Holy Father Jacob, / teacher of the knowledge of God, / thou didst reveal thy love for thy people, / taking up thy cross and following Christ, / enduring hardships like the Apostle Paul. / Pray on our behalf to Christ our God // to grant us great mercy!

“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*
