

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Warden: Adam Skelton; Treasurer: Meghan Jones; Council Members: David Charpie,
Brian Freas, Jonathan Strand

Bulletin for Sunday, May 9th, 2021

May 9th Thomas Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Teen Church School

May 10th Monday

3:00 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Mission Council

May 11th Tuesday Radonitsa, SS Cyril & Methodius

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Meal

12:30 p.m. Visitation of Graves

May 12th Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 Vespers, Confession

May 13th Thursday

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Meal

May 14th Friday

6:30 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

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

May 15th Saturday

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Meal

5:00 p.m. Reader Vigil

May 16th Sunday

9:00 a.m. Matins, Typica

As the disciples were in doubt, the Savior came on the eighth day to where they were gathered and granted them peace, and cried unto Thomas: Come, O Apostle, and feel the palm in which they fastened the nails. O good unbelief of Thomas, which hath led the hearts of the faithful to knowledge! Hence, he cried out with fear: O my Lord and my God, glory to Thee. *Vigil for Thomas Sunday*

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

Announcements for May 9

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, and fellowship. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the candle table by the door.

The Special Offering today will be for our seminarians.

Next Sunday, Fr. Justin will be serving a wedding in Tulsa. You are encouraged to come for Divine Liturgy this Saturday instead of Sunday. You may also attend the reader services that will be held in the priest's absence.

Memorial Day: We plan to have our annual picnic at noon on May 31. This is a good time to invite your non-Orthodox family and friends.

Mission Council will meet this Monday at 7:30 at church. Meetings are open to any who would attend.

Paschal Notes

The prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said at home or in church during this season until Pentecost, June 7. Instead we say or sing the Paschal Troparion, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death..." three times.

During the 50 days from Pascha to Pentecost, we do not kneel or make prostrations in church in keeping with the joyful, festal character of the season. We begin to kneel and do prostrations again with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost.

For 40 days through the Leavetaking (June 9), we greet each other by saying, "Christ is Risen!" "Indeed, He is Risen!" We also use the Paschal Troparion before and the Kontakion after meals and when setting out on a trip.

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 is also a box for alms at the candle table.

Last week, we gave \$3130.61 in tithes and offerings; candles (Holy Week) \$290; Building Fund \$300; 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 our new catechumens Delsie Bussell and Ethan Peterson, for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Robert Boguski,

Branson Clements, Peter Dimitrov & Haley Smith, David and Melissa Sims and their children Carter, Molly, and Caroline, for Reid Jones, and for our inquirers the Dean family, Drew (Andrew), Haydon Grosch, Lance Rawlinson, Vincent Howell, Johnny Jelinek. Pray for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, and for all in need.

Confessions will be heard after Vigils, weekday Vespers (except Fridays), and Matins, and by appointment. It helps the priest if you let him know you'd like to come.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$351,000.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.11 Love, self-restraint, contemplation and prayer accord with God's will, while gluttony, licentiousness and things that increase them pander to the flesh. That is why 'they that are in the flesh cannot conform to God's will' (Rom. 8:8). But 'they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh together with the passions and desires' (Gal. 5:24).

3.12 If the intellect inclines to God, it treats the body as its servant and provides it with no more than it needs to sustain life. But if it inclines to the flesh, it becomes the servant of the passions and is always thinking about how to fulfill its desires.

3.13 If you wish to master your thoughts, concentrate on the passions and you will easily drive the thoughts arising from them out of your intellect. With regard to unchastity, for instance, fast and keep vigils, labor and avoid meeting people. With regard to anger and resentment, be indifferent to fame, dishonor and material things. With regard to rancor, pray for him who has offended you and you will be delivered.

3.14 Do not compare yourself with weaker men but rather apply yourself to fulfilling the commandment of love. For by comparing yourself with the weak you will fall into the pit of conceit, but by applying yourself to the commandment of love you will reach the height of humility.

Homily on the Twofold Mystery of Marriage

St. Nicholas of Zicha (+1956)

It is a great mystery when a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife. The Apostle himself, who has been raised to the third heaven and beheld many heavenly mysteries, calls the marriage of natural man on earth a great mystery. It is the mystery of love and life, and the only mystery that exceeds it is the mystery of Christ's link with His Church. Christ calls Himself the Bridegroom and the Church His Bride. Christ so loved the Church that He left His heavenly Father for her—though remaining

equal with Him in unity of essence and divinity—and came down to earth and clave to His Church. He suffered for her sake that He might, by His Blood, cleanse her from sin and from all impurity and make her worthy to be called His Bride. He warms the Church with His love, feeds her with His blood, and enlivens, enlightens, and adorns her with His Holy Spirit. As a man is to his wife, so Christ is to the Church. Man is the head of woman, and Christ is the Head of the Church. A woman obeys her husband, and the Church obeys Christ. A man loves His wife as his own flesh, and Christ loves the Church as His own flesh. A man loves his wife as he does himself, and a wife is in awe of her husband. Christ loves the Church as His own self, and the Church is in awe of Christ. As no one hates his own flesh, but gives it warmth and food, so also Christ gives warmth and food to the Church as His own flesh. Each individual human soul is the bride of Christ the Husband, and the community of all the faithful is the bride of Christ the Husband. The relationship of any one believer with Christ and that of the whole Church with Christ is essentially the same. Christ is the Head of that great Body that is called the Church, and which is in part visible and in part invisible.

Oh my brethren, this is a great mystery. It is revealed to us according to the measure of our love for Christ, and of our fear of His judgment.

O Lord and gracious Savior, cleanse Thou our souls and save and adorn them, that they may be worthy of that deathless and indescribable unity with Thee, in time and in eternity. To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

Comment: Contemporary redefinitions of marriage serve to obscure, not illumine, the relationship between Christ and His Church. This compels us who are in Christ to work on our marriages that they image Christ and the Church as part of our proclamation of the Gospel to the world, regardless of how the world may distort and debase its own conceit of marriage. Christ's relationship to the Church is the prototype of marriage; our marriages at their best are but icons of the prototype. How great is the vocation of the married: to set forth in their own marriage an accurate image of Christ and His Church! How short of this we too often fall! More is at stake in our marriages than we commonly imagine. Fr. Justin

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, May 9th

Thomas Sunday, Troparion, tone 7

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! / Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy disciples, O Christ God. / Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, / by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all.

Thomas Sunday, Kontakion, tone 8

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, / when Thou, O Christ God, didst come to Thine Apostles through closed doors. / He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God!

“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*
