

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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

Bulletin for Sunday, July 25th, 2021

July 25th Sunday St. Anna

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

4:00 p.m. Vespers

July 26th Monday St. Jacob of Alaska

6:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Decatur

July 28th Wednesday 20-year Anniversary of Our First Vespers

6:00 p.m. Book Study: *Nililism*

7:30 p.m. Vespers

July 29th Thursday 20-year Anniversary of Our First Divine Liturgy

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers

6:00 p.m. Parish Game Night

July 30th Friday

6:30 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 301 Creed

July 31st Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Blessing of Water

August 1st Sunday Procession of the Holy Cross; Fast Begins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Cross Procession, Coffee Hour

Thou hast imposed repentance upon those who transgressed against Thee and not just upon the just, O Christ, for we have before us the examples of thief and the prodigal, of Manassas and the harlot, of the torturer, of the publican, and of him who denied Thee: I find it, then, hard to despair, for knowing Thy love and Thy supreme goodness, O my Savior, I turn to Thee and I shed tears, and I am in good hope that Thou wilt receive me. *Sunday Vespers, tone 4*

Announcements for July 25

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 seminarians.

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Hieromonk Dositheos.

The Teen Class will meet today.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Book Study of Rose's *Nilibilism*

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 301 "The Almighty"

The Sunday Catechesis class will return soon, to be taught by Deacon Anthony. These are our Basics 101, 102, and 103 classes, which go through Elder Cleopa's *The Truth of Our Faith*, Timothy Ware's *Orthodox Way*, and the catechism of St. Philaret. All are welcome.

N.B. the time of Wednesday Vespers will be 7:30 for the rest of the summer.

Twenty Years Ago, on July 28, we served our first Vespers; on July 29, our first Divine Liturgy. We thank God for all He has done in us and for us since then.

The Dormition Fast begins next Sunday and runs until Liturgy on August 15. This two-week fast is our second strictest fast. Plan now how to keep the fast, both in regards to food and alms, but also in regard to prayer, repentance, and worship. Holy Unction will be offered during the fast, along with a wealth of services.

Confession: Everyone should plan on making a good confession between now and August 15. Fr. Justin will be gone for the three following Sundays (Aug 22, 29, Sept 5). Fr. Nicholas Park from St. Nicholas will serve Vigil and Liturgy for Aug 22 and Sept 5. He will hear confessions, but we all should use the Dormition Fast (and the week before it) to make a good confession.

St. Nikon of Optina said, "We must never dwell on thoughts. Let them pass by. If they come to us, drive them off with the Jesus Prayer. Let them not find any sympathy in our hearts. Strive to cleanse your heart. For this it is necessary to have, besides the Jesus Prayer, the memory of God, and a careful and frank confession."

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 \$6378.20 in tithes and offerings; in July, we have given \$9357.50; candles \$58; Special Offering for IOCC, \$71; Building Fund \$5100; 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.* Attendance: Saturday Vigil 43, Sunday Liturgy 135, Thursday Liturgy 45.

Please Pray for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Branson Clements, Peter Dimitrov, Haley Smith, David and Melissa Sims and their children Carter, Molly, and Caroline, Reid Jones, Ethan Peterson, Vincent Howell, Lance Rawlinson, Delsie Bussell, Kristen & Clementine Hatten, Amanda Putnam and Haydon Grosch, and for our inquirers Ben Pimpler, Ryan McDowell, Douglas Burr. Pray for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, 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 at end of June: \$372,133.67

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.53 As the world of the body consists of things, so the world of the intellect consists of conceptual images. And as the body fornicates with the body of a woman, so the intellect, forming a picture of its own body, fornicates with the conceptual image of a woman. For in the mind it sees the form of its own body having intercourse with the form of a woman. Similarly, through the form of its own body, it mentally attacks the form of someone who has given it offence. The same is true with respect to other sins. For what the body acts out in the world of things, the intellect also acts out in the world of conceptual images.

3.54 One should not be startled or astonished because God the Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son (cf. John 5:22). The Son teaches us, 'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged' (Matt. 7:1); 'Do not condemn, so that you may not be condemned' (Luke 6:37). St Paul likewise says, 'Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes' (1 Cor. 4:5); and 'By judging another you condemn yourself' (Rom. 2:1). But men have given up weeping for their own sins and have taken judgment away from the Son. They themselves judge and condemn one another as if they were

sinless. 'Heaven was amazed at this' (Jer. 2:12. LXX) and earth shuddered, but men in their obduracy are not ashamed.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, July 25th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

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. Anna, Troparion, tone 4

O divinely wise Anna, / in thy womb thou didst bear the pure Mother of God, / who gave birth unto Life. / Wherefore, rejoicing in glory, / thou hast now been translated to the mansions of heaven, / where is the abode of those who rejoice. / O ever-blessed one, / beseech thou the cleansing of transgressions // for those who honor thee with love.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 4

My Saviour and Deliverer as God/ hath raised out of the grave the earth-born from their bonds / and He hath shattered the gates of hell / and as Master / He hath risen on the third day.

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. Anna, Kontakion, tone 2

We celebrate the memory of the forbears of Christ, / entreating them with faith for help, / that from every tribulation / all may be delivered who cry: // Our God is with us, who hath glorified them, as was His good pleasure.

"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*
