

## St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Church

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

### Bulletin for Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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#### **August 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday Dormition of the Theotokos**

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

1:30 p.m. Vespers for St. Joseph the Hesychast

#### **August 18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. Reader Vespers

#### **August 20<sup>th</sup> Friday Leavetaking of Transfiguration**

6:00 p.m. Reader Vespers

#### **August 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **August 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**

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

#### **August 28<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Reader Vigil

#### **August 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

9:00 p.m. Typica, Coffee Hour

#### **September 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **September 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

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

Look at thy lawless deeds and wonder, O my soul! How can the earth bear thee? Why doth thunder not strike thee down? Why do wild beasts not devour thee? Why doth the never-setting sun that ever giveth thee light, not fail? Rise up, repent and cry unto the Lord: I have sinned before Thee, I have sinned: have mercy on me! *Sunday Vespers, tone 7*

## Announcements for August 15

**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.

**Many Years** to the newly-illuminated servants of God Maximus Semerikov, Joseph (Peter) Dmitrov, Theophan (Branson) Clements, Veronica (Kristen) Hatten, and Maria (Clementine) Hatten, and to their sponsors Ron and Dawn Robson, Robert & Elisabeth Terry, Sabbas and Catherine Freas, and Madgalena Jones!

**The Teen Class** will meet today.

**No Classes this Week:**

Sunday (August 22), Coffee Hour, Basics 101

**Fr. Justin** will be on vacation with his family beginning August 16. If you have an emergency, please contact Deacon Anthony or Bishop Gerasim.

**Fr. Nicholas Park** will serve Vigil and Divine Liturgy for us (and hear confessions) August 22 and September 5. Unless a priest turns up, the weekend of August 29 we'll have Reader Services.

**In Fr. Justin's Absence:** Apart from the weekends, and unless you hear otherwise, there will be Reader Vespers Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

**The Annual Meeting** will be held Sunday, September 19 after Divine Liturgy. Everyone is welcome to attend. Voting members are Orthodox adults of age 18 and up who are members here, have partaken of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in the past year, and help support the parish financially by their tithes and offerings. The main business this year will be to approve an annual budget, elect a parish council and a delegate to next year's All-American Council in Baltimore (July 18-22), and to update the parish on the progress of our building project.

**Our Twenty-Year Anniversary** will be celebrated with Bishop Gerasim Sunday, October 3, with a hierarchical Divine Liturgy here and a banquet at the Great White Barn of the Wells family in Decatur. We are hoping to have the meal catered.

**St. Macarius of Optina** said, "At the beginning of the call to the spiritual life, the Lord visits a person with His grace and various consolations, but afterwards He withdraws them and casts him into the fire of diverse temptations and sorrows, so that our self-loving and glory-loving disposition would be completely reduced to ashes by the fire of temptation and would not trust in itself and its works but in the mercy and love of God Humility is a great blessing!"

**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 \$5022.26 in tithes and offerings; in August, we have given \$13,011.76; candles \$164.50; Special Offering for our Library, \$55; Building Fund \$200; 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 47, Sunday Liturgy 110, Thursday Liturgy 50.

**St. Nikon of Optina** said, "You must firmly remember this spiritual law of life: if you condemn someone for something or are disturbed by something in another person, you will experience the very same thing. You will do that which you condemned someone else for doing, or you will suffer from the same infirmity."

**Please Pray** for our new catechumen Ben Pimpler, for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Haley Smith, David and Melissa Sims and their children Carter, Molly, and Caroline, Reid Jones, Ethan Peterson, Vincent Howell, Lance Rawlinson, Delsie Bussell, Amanda Putnam and Haydon Grosch, and for our inquirers Ryan McDowell, Douglas Burr, Janelle Schnulle. Pray for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, and for all in need. Thank God for Adam Kaufman's successful surgery!

### 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 July: \$379,869.88

### From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

- 3.61 Self-esteem, whether it is eradicated or whether it remains, begets pride. When it is eradicated, it generates self-conceit; when it remains, it produces boastfulness.
- 3.62 Self-esteem is eradicated by the hidden practice of the virtues, pride, by ascribing our achievements to God.
- 3.63 He who has been granted knowledge of God, and fully enjoys the pleasure that comes from it, despises all the pleasures produced by the soul's desiring power.

3.64 He who desires earthly things desires either food, or things which satisfy his sexual appetite, or human fame, or wealth, or some other thing consequent upon these. Unless the intellect finds something more noble to which it may transfer its desire, it will not be persuaded to scorn these things completely. The knowledge of God and of divine things is incomparably more noble than these earthly things.

3.65 Those who scorn sensual pleasures do so either from fear, or from hope, or from knowledge and love for God.

### Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

#### Dormition Troparion, tone 1

In giving birth, thou didst preserve thy virginity, / in falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. Thou wast translated to life, O thou who art the Mother of Life, / and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

#### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

#### Dormition, Kontakion, tone 2

Neither the tomb nor death could hold the Theotokos, / who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. / For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life / by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb.

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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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