

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, September 12th, 2021

September 12th Sunday Leavetaking of Nativity of Theotokos

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

12:30 p.m. Parish Council

3:00 p.m. Vespers

September 13th Monday

6:30 a.m. Midnight Office, Matins

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

September 14th Tuesday Elevation of the Cross

7:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

September 15th Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Midnight Office, Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

September 16th Thursday SS Eudokia & Ludmila

6:30 a.m. Midnight Office, Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

September 17th Friday

6:30 a.m. Midnight Office, Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

September 18th Saturday

10:00 a.m. Baptism

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

September 19th Sunday

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

12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

I have greatly sinned and grieved Thee, O good Master, merciful by nature. As I turn back to Thee, receive me the prodigal son, making me one of Thy hired servants, O heavenly Father.

Sunday Vespers, tone 3

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

Announcements for September 12

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 the Decatur Mission.

Temple Wine & Oil offered in thanksgiving for Adam Kaufman's health; **Temple Oil** offered for the health and salvation of Robert Terry.

Parish Council will meet today at 12:30.

The Teen Class will meet today.

Classes this Week:

Sunday, Coffee Hour, Basics 101

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 301 Creed

Class Coming in October: We plan to study the two Epistles of St. Peter this fall, starting the second week of October.

Elevation of the Cross, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with Vigil Monday night at 7:00 and Divine Liturgy Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. We do well to keep the Feast by attending at least part of its cycle of services.

The Annual Meeting will be held next 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. The meal will be catered.

St. Ambrose of Optina said, "It is a mistake to think that wealth or abundance, or even sufficient means would be beneficial or reassuring. The rich worry even more than the poor and impoverished. Poverty and being in want are closer to humility and to salvation if only the one who is poor does not become fainthearted, but with faith and hope relies on the all-good Providence of God. Until this day the Lord has fed us, and He has the power to do so in the future."

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.

In August, we gave \$24,802.81; 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, "The Lord will teach you his ways (Psalm 24:9). So it says in the psalm. God does teach man His ways, but only when that man is meek and humble. God teaches only such people."

Please Pray 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, Haydon Grosch, and Ben Pimpler 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 August: \$385,793.56

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.66 Passion-free knowledge of divine things does not persuade the intellect to scorn material things completely; it is like the passion-free thought of a sensible thing. It is therefore possible to find many men who have much knowledge and yet wallow in the passions of the flesh like pigs in the mire. Through their diligence they temporarily cleanse themselves and attain knowledge, but then they grow negligent. In this they resemble Saul: for Saul was granted the kingdom, but conducted himself unworthily and was driven out with terrible wrath (cf. 1 Sam. 10-15).

3.67 Just as passion-free thought of human things does not compel the intellect to scorn divine things, so passion-free knowledge of divine things does not fully persuade it to scorn human things. For in this world truth exists in shadows and conjectures. That is why there is need for the blessed passion of holy love, which binds the

intellect to spiritual contemplation and persuades it to prefer what is immaterial to what is material, and what is intelligible and divine to what is apprehended by the senses.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, August 15th

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.
/ He hath delivered us from the womb of hell, / and hath granted the world / great mercy.

Nativity of the Theotokos, Troparion, tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Virgin, / hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe! / The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, / hath shone from thee, O Theotokos! / By annulling the curse, / He bestowed a blessing. / By destroying, death He hath granted us eternal life.

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.

Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

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.

Nativity of the Theotokos, Kontakion, tone 4

By thy Nativity, O most pure Virgin, / Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; / Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. / And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, /celebrate and sing to thee: / the barren woman giveth birth to the Theotokos, / the Nourisher of our Life.

“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*
