

## 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### **September 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday St. John the Theologian**

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

3:00 p.m. *Wedding, St. John's, Reception St. Maximus*

#### **September 27<sup>th</sup> Monday**

6:30 a.m. Midnight Office

3:00 p.m. *Vespers (No Confession)*

#### **September 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

6:30 a.m. Midnight Office, Matins

3:00 p.m. *Vespers, Confession*

#### **September 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:30 a.m. Midnight Office, Matins

7:00 p.m. *Vespers, Confession*

#### **September 30<sup>th</sup> Thursday Nativity of St. John the Baptist**

7:30 a.m. *Matins*

9:00 a.m. *Divine Liturgy*

6:30 p.m. *Vigil*

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

#### **October 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Protection of the Theotokos**

6:00 a.m. *Matins*

7:00 a.m. *Divine Liturgy*

6:00 p.m. *Vespers, Confession*

#### **October 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday**

6:30 a.m. *Midnight Office, Matins*

5:00 p.m. *Vigil, Confession*

#### **October 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**

9:00 a.m. *Hierarchical Divine Liturgy*

noon *Twenty-Year Anniversary Dinner, Decatur*

I have not ceased from sin, O Lord, and have taken no thought of making myself worthy of Thy love for man. Have mercy upon me and conquer my hard-heartedness, O Thou who alone art good!

*Sunday Vespers, tone 5*

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

## Announcements for September 26

**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 Seminarian.

**The Teen Class** will resume October 10.

**The Sunday Basics** class will meet today.

### Classes this Week:

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.

**Many Thanks** to those who participated in the **Annual Meeting** last week. We approved a new budget, elected a parish council, delegated the choosing of a lay representative for the All-American Council next year to the council, and decided to combine October Fest this year with our All-Saints party on Sunday, October 31.

**Our Twenty-Year Anniversary** will be celebrated with Bishop Gerasim next 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. Please let Fr. Justin know if you plan to attend. So far, 140 have reserved a spot.

**St. Moses of Optina** said, "You must bear the spiritual infirmities of your brother gladly, and without annoyance. For when someone is physically ill, we are not only not annoyed with him, but we are exemplary in our care for him; we should also set an example in cases of spiritual illness."

**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.

**Please Pray** for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Haley Smith, David and Melissa Sims and their children Carter, Molly, and Caroline, 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, Johnny. Pray for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, Anna Charpie, and for all in need.

Last week, we gave \$5049.32 in tithes and offerings; In September, we have given \$9393.83; our monthly budget is \$19,300; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund); Building Fund, \$200; Special Offering for Decatur Mission, \$31.50; Candles \$40. 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 51, Sunday Liturgy 123, Thursday Liturgy 65.

**St. Nikon of Optina** said, "A time of trial has now come; do we have faith? A person can maintain his faith who believes fervently and sincerely, to whom God is the dearest of all Only he who guard himself from every sin can guard his faith, according to the Gospel: *Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil* (John 3:19)."

### 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

3.71 The passion of love, when reprehensible, occupies the intellect with material things, but when rightly directed unites it with the divine. For the intellect tends to develop its powers among those things to which it devotes its attention; and where it develops its powers, there it will direct its desire and love. It will direct them, that is to say, either to what is divine, intelligible and proper to its nature, or to the passions and things of the flesh.

3.72 God created both the invisible and the visible worlds, and so He obviously also made both the soul and the body. If the visible world is so beautiful, what must the invisible world be like? And if the invisible world is superior to the visible world, how much superior to both is God their Creator? If, then, the Creator of everything that is beautiful is superior to all His creation, on what grounds does the intellect abandon what is superior to all and engross itself in what is worst of all – I mean the passions of the flesh? Clearly this happens because the intellect has lived with these passions and grown accustomed to them since birth, whereas it has not yet had perfect experience of Him who is superior to all and beyond all things. Thus, if we gradually wean the intellect away from this relationship by long practice of controlling our indulgence in pleasure and by persistent meditation on divine realities, the intellect will gradually devote itself more and more to these realities, will recognize its own dignity, and finally transfer all its desire to the divine.

3.73 He who speaks dispassionately of his brother's sins does so either to correct him or to benefit another. If he speaks for any other reason, either to the brother himself or to another person, he speaks to abuse him or ridicule him. In this case he will not escape being abandoned by God. On the contrary, he will fall into the same sin or other sins and, censured and reproached by other men, will be put to shame.

### Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

#### Apostle John the Theologian, Troparion, tone 2

O beloved apostle of Christ God, / haste thou to deliver a defenseless people. / He who permitted thee to recline against His breast / receiveth thee, prostrate in supplication. / Him do thou beseech, O theologian, / that He dispel the gloom of the nations which doth beset us, // asking for us peace and great mercy.

#### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

#### Apostle John the Theologian Kontakion, tone 2

Who can recount thy mighty works, / O virgin apostle? / For thou pourest out miracles / and dost cause healings to flow forth; \ and thou prayest for our souls // in that thou art a theologian and the friend of Christ.

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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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