

## St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Church

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

### 20 Years! Bulletin for Sunday, October 3<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### **October 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday St. Dionysius the Areopagite**

9:00 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Moleben

noon Twenty-Year Anniversary Dinner, Decatur

#### **October 6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday St. Innocent**

7:00 p.m. Rreader's Vespers

#### **October 8<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **October 9<sup>th</sup> Saturday St. Tikhon of North America**

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **October 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fathers of the Seventh Council**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

#### *Banquet Schedule at the Big White Barn, Decatur, TX*

12:30 *Blessing of Food*

1:30 *Speeches*

2:20 *Question & Answer with His Grace Bishop Gerasim*

3:30 *Acknowledgments, Thanks, Closing Prayer, Group Photo*

4:00 *Picnic Games*

5:00 *Folk/Country/Line Dancing/Socializing*

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Grant unto me tears of repentance and a contrite mind, O Savior, to wash away the filth of my soul that I have sorely soiled by doing wrong at every hour. That I may obtain what I ask, I have Thy Mother who prays, I have the choirs of angels, and Thy love for mankind.

*Sunday Vespers, tone 6*

### Announcements for October 3

**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 building fund.

**We welcome His Grace Bishop Gerasim of Fort Worth** to St Maximus today, along with Protodeacon Theophan Warren and Subdeacon Misha Gladtskov and their wives.

**Group Photo:** We'd like to take a group photo on the church steps right after we venerate the cross.

### No Classes this Week

**Driving Directions** to the **banquet** at the Big White Barn: take 380 W to Decatur. Exit at Hwy 51, turn left/south on 51. Turn left onto East Walnut Street at light. Turn left onto CR 4010 across the railroad tracks. Barn is two miles down on the left. It's big and white.

**Fr. Justin** will be gone this week to Miami for the annual **Assembly** of the Diocese of the South. He will return Friday.

**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, Glen Farris. Pray for Eugene & Rachel Hollebeak, Anna Charpie, and for all in need.

Last week, we gave \$3932.82 in tithes and offerings; In September, we gave \$13,326.65 and another yet unknown amount electronically (usually about \$10,000); our monthly budget is \$19,300; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund); Building Fund, \$20; Special Offering for Seminarian Fund, \$410; Candles \$46. 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 50, Sunday Liturgy 133, Thursday Liturgy 65.

**St. Barsanuphius of Optina** said, "Guard the holy faith, that priceless treasure, and with it, enter the Kingdom: it is not for something trivial that we labor, but for acquiring a kingdom, and what a kingdom—a heavenly one! We want to be made its citizens."

### 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

3.74 It is not always for the same reason that sinners commit the same sin. The reasons vary. For example, it is one thing to sin through force of habit and another to sin through being carried away by a sudden impulse. In the latter case the man did not deliberately choose the sin either before committing it, or afterwards; on the contrary, he is deeply distressed that the sin has occurred. It is quite different with the man who sins through force of habit. Prior to the act itself he was already sinning in thought, and after it he is still in the same state of mind.

### From Saint Dionysius the Areopagite

I have said in solemn fashion that our greatest likeness to and union with God is the goal... But divine Scripture teaches us that we will only obtain this through the most loving observance of the august commandments and by the doing of sacred acts. "He who loves me will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." What, then, is the starting point for the sacred enactment of the most revered commandments? It is this, to dispose our souls to hear the sacred words as receptively as possible, to be open to the divine workings of God, to clear and uplifting path toward that inheritance which awaits us in heaven, and to accept our most divine and sacred regeneration.

Divinization consists of being as much as possible like and in union with God. Divinization is to have a divine birth.

One cannot participate in contradictory realities at one and the same time, and whoever enters into communion with the One cannot proceed to live a divided life, especially if he hopes for a real participation in the One. He must be firmly opposed to whatever may sunder this communion.

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

### 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. Dionysius, Troparion tone 4

Having learned goodness and been watchful in all things, / arrayed, as befitteth a priest, in a good conscience, / thou didst draw forth ineffable things from the chosen vessel Paul; / and, having kept the Faith, thou didst complete a course like his. / O hieromartyr Dionysius, / entreat Christ God, // that our souls be saved.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human dough, / for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

### 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. Dionysius, Kontakion, tone 8

Having, through the Spirit, passed the portals of heaven, / as a disciple of the apostle who reached the third heaven, / O Dionysius, thou wast enriched with all understanding of ineffable things / and hast illuminated those who sit in the darkness of unbelief. // Wherefore, we cry out:

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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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