

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday of December 2nd, 2012

Schedule of Services

December 2nd 26th Sunday After Pentecost, tone 1

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 4th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

December 5th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 6th Thursday St. Nicholas

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

10:00 a.m. Class: Sermon on the Mount

December 7th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

8:00 p.m. Russian Bible Study, St. Seraphim's, Dallas

December 8th Saturday

4:45 p.m. Pannikhida

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 9th 27th Sunday After Pentecost, tone 2

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From Saint Thalassios, the Libyan (*friend of St. Maximus*)

Genuine love gives birth to the spiritual knowledge of the created world. This is succeeded by the desire of all desires: the grace of theology.

When (he intellect controls the passions it is doubtless. out of fear that it does so, for it believes in God's threats and promises.

When you have been given faith, self-control is demanded from you; when self-control has become habitual, it gives birth to patient endurance, a disposition that gladly accepts suffering.

The sign of patient endurance is delight in suffering; and the intellect, trusting in this patient endurance, hopes to attain what is promised and to escape what is threatened.

400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 4.62-65

Announcements for December 2nd

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door.

To All: Please be aware that Holy Communion is open only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves for worthy participation in the Mystery through prayer, fasting, and a recent confession to a priest (within the last month or so). We should be modestly dressed (so as not to distract others) and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

The Special Offering today will go for our hall expansion.

The Coffee Hour offering this month will go to help raise money for the teens going on the service retreat in Pharr, Texas, after Nativity.

The Myrrhbearers Society, our Christian burial ministry, will meet next Sunday during coffee hour.

The Mission Council will (finally) be installed next week at the end of the Liturgy and will meet. Meetings are open to members of the parish.

Temple Oil is given for the health and salvation of Michael Rodgers.

Classes this Week

Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Sermon on the Mount.

The Nativity Fast lasts through the Liturgy on Nativity morning (Dec 25). We abstain from meat and dairy for the whole fast, and fish, wine (alcohol), and oil (except when permitted per the wall calendar) so that we can give more in alms, pray more effectively, and open our hearts more widely to God.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: for Joel and Mindy Brown and their children Daniel, Anya, and Elijah, Gary & Olivia Reynolds and their children Ariel, Analise, and Alexandra, Jacob Neff, Lauren Williams, Elizabeth Dakak, Philip, Sean, and for our inquirers Faith Neff and Jason. Please pray for the novice Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher, (Olga's husband).

Hall Expansion Update: The wall between the addition and the old building has been opened. A pony wall will be framed in the opening, and then the sheetrock will be installed, this week we trust. The carpenter will build the back deck and handicap ramp.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God, which

also 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 basket on the candle table, where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for our building fund.

Last week we gave \$1096.14; this month we have given \$6655.79; our monthly budget is \$9187 (\$2297 per week. (To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$41.50, Expansion, \$5, Renovation (soda) \$3, Building Fund \$26, Special Offering for St. Basil's, Weatherford \$36.78. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 27, Liturgy 85.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of **\$65,625.78** has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this until December.

From Saint Maximus

The apostle gives us the following definition of faith: 'Faith makes real for us things hoped for, gives assurance of things not seen' (Heb. 11:1). One may also justly define it as an engrained blessing or as true knowledge disclosing unutterable blessings.

Faith is a relational power or a relationship which brings about the immediate perfect and supranatural union of the believer with the God in whom he believes.

Since man is composed of body and soul, he is moved by two laws, that of the flesh and that of the spirit (cf. Rom. 7:23). The law of the flesh operates by virtue of the senses; the law of the Spirit operates by virtue of the intellect. The first law, operating by virtue of the senses automatically binds one closely to matter; the second law, operating by virtue of the intellect, brings about direct union with God. Suppose there is someone who does not doubt in his heart (cf. Mark 11:23) - that is to say, who does not dispute in his intellect - and through such doubt sever that immediate union with God which has been brought about by faith, but who is dispassionate or, rather, has already become god through union with God by faith: then it is quite natural that if such a person says to a mountain, 'Go to another place', it will go (cf. Matt. 17:20). The mountain here indicates the will and the law of the flesh, which is ponderous and hard to shift, and in fact, so far as our natural powers are concerned; is totally immovable and unshakeable.

Various Texts, Second Century 7-9

Troparia and Kontakia for November 25th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

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.

Prophet Habakkuk, tone 4

Of old thou didst describe the Virgin Mother of God / as a mountain from which the God of all would shine forth in the flesh for our sake. / Hence we honor thee as a God-prophesying prophet / and beseech thee to make us partakers of grace // by thine intercessions, O glorious Habbakuk.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

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.

Prophet Habakkuk, Kontakion, tone 2

O God-proclaiming Habbakuk, / thou didst discern the disciples as horses trampling the seas of ignorance / and submerging terror by their doctrine of piety. // Wherefore we praise thee as a true prophet and beseech thee to intercede for our souls.