

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Schedule of Services

**May 29<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Blind Man**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**June 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, Leavetaking of Pascha**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vigil for Ascension, Confession

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Holy Ascension**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Class: Life after Death, Chapter 9

7:00 p.m. Russian Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

**June 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**June 5<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Fathers of First Council**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

True words from a pure conscience betoken unfeigned love.

If you tell your brother how someone else denigrates him, you conceal your own envy in the guise of goodwill.

Worldly virtues promote human glory, spiritual virtues the glory of God.

Love and self-control purify the soul, while pure prayer illumines the intellect.

A strong man is one who repels evil through the practice of the virtues and with spiritual knowledge.

He who has acquired dispassion and spiritual knowledge has been granted God's grace.

If you wish to overcome impassioned thoughts, acquire self-control and love for your neighbor.

Guard yourself from hatred and dissipation, and you will not be impeded at the time of prayer.

*St. Thalassios the Libyan, 400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 1.1-15*

## Announcements for May 29<sup>th</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee, conversation, and church school for the children. 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.

**No Special Offering** this week.

**Many Years** to the newly illumined Irena Birthisel and Ludmilla Tromanhauser and to their sponsors Michelle and Vita.

**Coffee Hour Donations** go to support building new space for Coffee Hour (our hall expansion). A few dollars a week from each of us will do much!

**Our Annual Memorial Day Picnic** will be held Monday, May 30 from noon to five at the church. Start planning to bring food and drink and friends.

**Deans' Meeting:** Fr. Justin will be in Charleston, SC, this Monday and Tuesday for a meeting of the Deans of the Diocese of the South with Bishop Nikon our *Locum Tenens*. Various issues regarding the administration of the DOS will be discussed including the process for choosing deans and how the diocese will nominate and elect a new bishop. Please pray for us at this meeting, and keep praying that God will provide a faithful bishop for our Diocese.

**Bishop Mark** will no longer serve as rector of St. Seraphim's Cathedral or as Administrator of the Diocese of the South.

**The Feast of the Ascension**, one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church, will be celebrated this week with the Festal Vigil Wednesday evening at 7:00 and the Divine Liturgy Thursday morning at 9:00. The faithful do well to keep the Feast by attending at least part of the cycle of services.

**Ministry to Shut-ins:** We currently have two shut-ins whom the priest visits and to whom he administers the Mysteries. Each would welcome visits from parishioners. To visit Nina Johnston at 5892 Mills Road in Denton, call her son Richard to set up a visit at (972) 900-0201. Sherrie Joanna Hall has been a long-time parishioner at St. Barbara's in Fort Worth who now lives in Denton. She lives right

across from the Cumberland Children's Home at 1407 Bernard apt. #1011. You may reach her by phone at (940) 381-303 or (817) 925-4183.

### Classes this Week

Wednesday: Basics of Orthodoxy will not meet this week due to the Vigil for Annunciation. Class is the Vigil service.

Friday, 4:00 p.m. *Life After Death*, chapter 9.

**The Lord's Prayer** will be the topic of the Basics of Orthodoxy Class for the next few weeks when it resumes June 9. All are encouraged to the sessions treating this most basic Christian prayer.

**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 throughout 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).

Last week we gave \$1048.52 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$6150.85; our monthly budget is \$7975 (\$1994 per week). Candles \$69.50; Special Gifts \$770, Church Building Fund \$35; Hall Expansion Fund \$18.51, Soda Jar for Building Renovation Fund \$9. May God bless your giving! Attendance: Vigil 24, Liturgy 64.

**Hall Expansion Fund:** The hall expansion fund has pledges for \$7700 of the \$17,000 we need to pay for our hall expansion, \$6300 of which has been given; a total of \$24,191.38 has been raised so far. All coffee hour donations will go for this end. All told, we have raised \$44,172.87; after the tithe we pay to the diocese, we have \$39,755 with which to build the addition, estimated most recently to cost \$62,000. Another \$20,000 has been pledged but will not be given (for tax reasons) until January of 2012 and 2013. Thus, after tithe, \$57,755 is raised and/or promised. We need to raise about \$4725 to cover the estimated cost of construction. We are working on getting permits from the city and providing the additional drawings they asked of us.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, Jeremy Pike, and David Eaton. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Sherrie Joanna Hall, and for Michael Rodgers at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

### From Saint Maximus

First the intellect marvels when it reflects on the absolute infinity of God, that boundless seas for which it longs so much. Then it is amazed at how God has brought things into existence out of nothing.

But just as ‘His magnificence is without limit’, so ‘there is no penetrating His purposes.’

God is the Creator from all eternity, and He creates when He wills, in His infinite goodness, through His coessential Logos and Spirit. Do not raise the objection: ‘Why did He created at a particular moment since He is good from all eternity?’ For I reply that the unsearchable wisdom of the infinite essence does not come within the compass of human knowledge.

When the Creator willed, He gave being to and manifested that knowledge of created things which already existing in Him from all eternity. For in the case of almighty God it is ridiculous to doubt that He can give being to anything when He so wills.

*400 Chapters on Love, 4.1, 3, 4*

## Troparia and Kontakia for May 29<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.

### Kontakion of the Blind Man, tone 4

Since my soul’s noetic eyes are blind and sightless, / I come unto Thee, O Christ, as did the man born blind. / And in repentance I cry to Thee: / Thou art the most radiant Light / of those in darkness.

### Paschal Kontakion, tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, / Thou didst destroy the power of death. / In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, / proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the myrrhbearing women, / granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.