

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

**Bulletin for Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

**Schedule of Services**

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Tone 6**

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

**July 24<sup>th</sup> Monday Ss. Boris & Gleb**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

**July 26<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. Vespers

**July 29<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**July 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday Tone 7**

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

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

72. The adversary of our life, the devil, employs many devices to make our sins seem small to us. Often he cloaks them with forgetfulness, so that, after suffering a little on their account, we no longer trouble to lament over them. But, my brethren, let us not forget our offences, even if we wrongly think that they have been forgiven through repentance; let us always remember our sinful acts and never cease to mourn over them, so that we may acquire humility as our constant companion, and thus escape the snares of self-esteem and pride.

73. Let no one think that he endures suffering and achieves holiness through his own powers. For God is the cause of all the good that comes to us, just as the demon that deceives our souls is the cause of all the evils. Therefore, give thanks to their Cause for whatever good acts you perform; and attribute to their instigator the evils that trouble you.

74. He who yokes the practice of the virtues to spiritual knowledge is a skillful farmer, watering the fields of his soul from two pure springs. For the spring of spiritual knowledge raises the immature soul to the contemplation of higher realities; while the spring of ascetic practice mortifies our earthly members: 'unchastity, uncleanness, passion, evil desire' (Col. 3:5). Once these are dead, the virtues come into flower and bear the fruits of the Spirit: 'love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control' (Gal. 5:22-23). And then this prudent farmer, having 'crucified the flesh together with the passions and desires' (Gal. 5:24), will say together with St Paul: 'I no longer live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live ... I live through faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me' (Gal. 2:20).

## Announcements for July 23<sup>rd</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee, food, 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. We also invite you to go first through the food line.

**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).

**Temple Oil** in memory of William Frederick.

**The Special Offering** this week is for Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry.

**No Classes This Week**

**Diocesan Assembly:** Fr. Justin will be out of town this week Tuesday through Friday to attend the Diocesan Assembly in Chattanooga. There will be no classes on Thursday.

**The Dormition Fast** begins August 1 and lasts through August 14. We break the fast after Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Dormition, August 15. This is a short fast—two weeks—but stricter than any but Great Lent. Plan now how to use the Fast for your spiritual benefit: how you may increase and improve your prayer, increase your almsgiving, keep the fast in terms of food for body and soul, and what you may read for edification and inspiration. Christ commands us to work for the food which endures unto everlasting life, and the Fast is a time during which to carry out that command with increased intensity and purpose.

**Rejoice** with Mike Rodgers. He passed his test yesterday to become officially a master electrician.

**Children in Church:** As we are blessed with an abundance of young children in our parish, the priest asks everyone to read the article of the same title in last week's *The Confessor's Tongue*, available on our website under "Media", then "Bulletins & News". The bulletin and *Confessor's Tongue* are posted there each week.

**Green Pecans:** Please do not pick the green pecans off the pecan trees.

**Yard Work:** There is always something to do to keep nature from reclaiming our property. It seems a shame to pay strangers to take care of what God has giving us. Weeding, cutting grass, pulling weeds, watering, cutting back bushes, sweeping walks, keeping access open to the back parts of the property (trails) are all things that can be done to care for our property and make it look more beautiful. Even just ten or fifteen minutes can make a difference.

The same is true for cleaning the inside of our building. Please see Fr. Justin if you are moved to help.

**Building Fund Watch:** Building fund balance: \$94,433. We are aiming to break \$100k by September 1. Special, designated gifts are welcome (and needed!), but the most important regular giving is our tithe. If all who have regular income tithe, we shall have plenty, for whatever we take in over our budget will go to the building fund.

**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 are also boxes for alms (those in need) and our building fund.

Last Sunday, we gave \$1837 in tithes and offerings; in July we have given \$6879; our monthly budget is \$11,250; candles \$52.50; Building Fund \$612.87. Attendance: Vigil 44; Sunday Liturgy 91.
--

**Commemorations:** Please try to submit your Sunday commemorations Saturday night (or earlier) whenever you can.

**Please Pray** for Cassian (pneumonia on top of cancer) and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for our catechumens Miguel Dean and Marsha Northam, for our inquirers Joel and Alta Morris, Connor, and the Dean family; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, for Eugene and Rachel, for Jeremy Gleb Rovny, travelling in India, for Ricky Dean and Adam Bramlett looking for work.

### From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.49 If a man is not envious or angry, and does not bear a grudge against someone who has offended him, that does not necessarily mean that he loves him. For, while still lacking love, he may be capable of not repaying evil with evil, in accordance with the commandment (cf. Rom. 12:17), and yet by no means be capable of rendering good for evil without forcing himself. To be spontaneously disposed to 'do good to those who you hate you' (Matt. 5:44) belongs to perfect spiritual love alone.

2.50 If a man does not love someone, it does not necessarily mean that he hates him; and conversely, if he does not hate him, it does not necessarily mean that he loves him, since he can be neutral towards him, that is, neither love him nor hate him. For the disposition to love is created only in the five ways listed in the ninth

text of this Century, one commendable, one of an intermediate kind, and three reprehensible.

**Troparia and Kontakia for July 23<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.

**Holy Martyrs Tropohimus, Theophilus, et al., tone 4**

In their sufferings, O Lord, / Thy Martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee, our God. / For possessed of Thy might, / they cast down the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By their supplications save Thou our souls.

**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.  
Save us, O Lord!

**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.