

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 7, 2008

Schedule of Services

December 7th 25th Sunday After Pentecost

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

December 10th Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Class: St. Gregory Theologian: Theological Orations

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 11th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

December 12th Friday St. Spyridon of Tremethius

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Little Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: *The Church & Holy Tradition*

10:00 p.m. All-Night Vigil

December 13th Saturday St. Herman of Alaska

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 14th 25th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

If we give priority to the spiritual, we shall have no trouble with material things, since the lovingkindness of God provides us with abundant comfort in these matters. But if we grow careless of the spiritual and are eager only for material things, and, taking no account of the soul, we continually involve ourselves in what concerns our daily life, we lose the spiritual things without gaining any greater wealth of material goods. I exhort you, therefore: let us not reverse the proper order. *St. John Chrysostom, Eighth Baptismal Instruction*

Having received help or having improved for the better, beware of thoughts that praise you but condemn others. This is a trap of the enemy, beckoning you to arrogance and taking away all the fruits of virtue. *St. Mararius of Optina*

Announcements for December 7th

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and 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. Be aware that shortly after the sermon, the catechumens, i.e., those preparing for Baptism & Chrismation, will be dismissed, but you are invited to stay for the rest of the service.

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 and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not have missed Sunday Liturgy for three or more weeks in a row.

Please Move Forward during the Liturgy! Thank you!

The Mission Council meets today after Liturgy. Anyone wishing to sit in is welcome.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for our priest. Next week, for NTOM (North Texas Orthodox Missions).

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) and marital relations so that we can give more in alms, pray more effectively, and open our hearts more widely to God.

Nativity Lent Almsgiving: As is our practice, as part of our almsgiving during the Nativity Fast, we shall collect items for Woman to Woman and Interfaith Ministries, two worthy local charities. Boxes will be placed under the bookstore table with sheets describing what sort of items are needed.

Parish Membership: if you want or consider yourself to be a member of St. Maximus but have not filled out a parish membership form, please do so. They may be found on the candle table. Give it to Fr. Justin or any council member. Thank you.

The Property we were looking at on 2164 north of the Loop sold even as we were preparing to make an offer. We continue to seek God's direction and provision as to where to build a proper church.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, Theological Orations of St. Gregory #3-4

Friday, the Basics of Orthodoxy Class at 8:00 p.m.

December 12: The Church and Holy Tradition

December 19: The Church and the Ecumenical Councils

Church School for our children will meet right after Liturgy today.

Please Pray for our Catechumen: Thom Anderson, our **inquirers** John Parsons and Adam Betz. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Samantha Stateson, and Lois Lyda's father James, and for Frieda Glusheknko's mother Galina diagnosed with cancer, Elder Zacharias, also diagnosed with cancer, and Gareth Tikhon Barnard who is working away from us in Kansas. Please remember our **new Metropolitan** Jonah in our prayers, and the newly departed Patriarch Aleksei II of Russia. Memory Eternal!

The Mystery of Holy Unction for the healing of soul and body will be generally offered, Tuesday December 16 at 7:30 p.m. To receive anointing, one must an Orthodox Christian in communion with the Church who has made a recent Confession.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and an act of obedience to God, a sign that Christ is, for us, Lord of all, including our money—that it all belongs to Him and we are but stewards of it. Your worship of God through giving 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. Stamped, addressed envelopes are available on the candle table if you know you will be gone.

We Made Budget In November for the first time this year! Last week, we gave \$867.60 in tithes and offerings; in November we gave \$6520.55; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$42.50; Building Fund \$0; Bookstore \$279., Alaskan Seminarian \$27. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 16, Liturgy 36. Average Sunday attendance, 49.2; Vigil average, 16.4

From Saint Maximus

Nobody who accepts, as partners in his struggle for virtue, any of the four demons we have mentioned [pride, self-esteem, desire for popularity, hypocrisy] can build for the Lord. If he does accept any of them, as a result of his efforts he will not find God, but will be confirmed in the passion that he consolidates through his virtue.

The demons that wage war on us through our shortcomings in virtue are those that teach unchastity, drunkenness, avarice, and envy. Those who wage war on us through our excessive zeal for virtue teach conceit, self-esteem, and pride; they secretly pervert what is commendable into what is reprehensible. *Various Texts 3.76, 3.77*

Troparia and Kontakia for December 7th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, 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. Ambrose of Milan, Troparion, tone 4

Thou was revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility, and a teacher of abstinence, / Because of thy humility the heights were opened to thee, / because of thy poverty riches were granted to thee. / O holy hierarch, Father Ambrose, / intercede with Christ God // that our souls may be saved.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

St. Maximus, Kontakion, tone 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

St. Ambrose, Kontakion, tone 3

Shining with divine dogmas, / thou didst darken the deception of Arius, / O Ambrose, pastor and teacher of the mysteries. / And working wonders through the power of the Spirit, / thou didst manifestly heal divers passions. / O venerable father, // entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.