

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, February 8, 2009

Schedule of Services

February 8th Sunday *Publican & Pharisee*

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 10th Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Church History Class: the Second Millennium

February 11th Wednesday No Fast

7:00 p.m. Reader's Vespers

February 13th Friday No Fast

12:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 14th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 15th Sunday *Prodigal Son*

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

A Pharisee, overcome with vainglory, and a Publican bowed down in repentance, came to Thee, the only Master. while the other kept silent and was counted worthy of gifts. Confirm me, O Christ our God, in his cries of sorrow, for Thou lovest mankind. *Matins*

Do not start examining the deeds of people, do not judge, do not say: "Why is it this way? What is the for?" It is better to say to yourself, "What does their work {action} have to do with me? I will not answer for them and the Dread Judgment of God." Divert every thought of yours from judging the deeds of people, and pray fervently to the Lord that He help you in this, because without the help of God we can do nothing good, as the Lord Himself said: *Without Me you can do nothing.*
St. Ambrose of Optina.

Some people are prone to the sin of condemnation due to habit, others from remembering wrongs, others from envy and hatred, but for the most part, we are prone to this sin due to conceit and haughtiness. In spite of our incorrigibility and sinfulness, it still seems to us that we are better than many others. If we desire to be corrected of this sin of condemnation, we must in every way force ourselves to be humble before God and man and implore God for help in this.
St. Ambrose of Optina

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

Announcements for February 8th

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! It is safe to stand up to the forward edge of the rug.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for debt reduction, next week for our seminarian.

Fr. Justin will be going to Diocesan Pastoral Conference in Jacksonville Tuesday through Thursday. Please call another OCA priest in an emergency (see back of our phonebook or parish website). Fr. John Anderson (214)528-3741 or Fr. Joseph Fester (214) 522-4149.

House Blessings: If you want your house blessed, please sign up on sheet on the bulletin board. If you don't find a time to suit you, arrangements may be made with Fr. Justin.

Church History Class : A class covering the second thousand years of church history meets Tuesday nights at 7:00. Leif Pierson is teaching.

Wednesday Class Resumes: We shall spend the next few weeks reading through the prayers in the prayerbook in order to understand them. We shall attempt to answer the question "What do these prayers mean and why does the Church put these particular words in our mouths?"

Classes this Week:

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.: Church History: the Second Christian Millennium (Leif Pierson)

Friday, 12:00 p.m. noon: Basics of Orthodoxy: Cultivating the Christian Life by Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving, etc.

No Class or Confession this Wednesday due to Fr. Justin being at the DOS Pastoral Conference in Jacksonville, FL.

Church School meets right after the Liturgy.

Please Pray for our Catechumen: Thom Anderson, **our inquirers** John Parsons and Adam Betz, & Melanie. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, Lois Lyda's father James, Lisa Robertson's father Bobby, and for Frieda Glusheknko's mother Galina diagnosed with cancer, Elder Zacharias, also diagnosed with cancer, for Nick Gluschenko, and Gareth Tikhon Barnard who is working away from us in Kansas, as well as all who are travelling. Please remember Met. Jonah in your prayers and our Alaskan Seminarian Methodius Nicori. Pray for Stomatia Samantha Stateson, Theone Stateson's mother, recently reposed in the Lord. Memory eternal!

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.

Last week, we gave \$1490.398 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$22; Building Fund \$50; Bookstore \$10. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 15, Liturgy 47; mortgage balance with Diocese: \$109,173.45.

From Saint Maximus

The one who loves God cannot help but love also every man as himself even though he is displeased by the passions of those who are not yet purified. Thus when he sees their conversion and amendment, he rejoices with an unbounded and unspcakable joy.

400 Chapters on Love, 1.13

Comment: *God loves all men abundantly and equally. If we love God, we shall also love man made in God's image. We shall love not man in general, in the abstract, as some who proclaim their love for mankind but often hate their neighbor, but we shall love rather each particular person we encounter. We shall love them for Christ's sake who created them in His image, who loves them, who died for them. We shall love them despite their sins. In doing so we shall become like our heavenly Father.*

Troparia and Kontakia for February 8th



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.

Meeting of the Lord, Troparion, tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos full of grace: / for from thee hath shone forth the Sun of Righteousness Christ our God, / enlightening those who sat in darkness! / Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, / for thou, hast received in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, / who granteth us the Resurrection.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

Publican and Pharisee, Kontakion, tone 3

As the Publican let us bring cries of sorrow to the Lord, / and let us fall before him as sinners at the Master's feet. / For He desireth the salvation of all men; / He granteth forgiveness unto all that repent, / and He hath for our sake taken flesh, / though He is God // coeternal with the Father.

Publican and Pharisee, Kontakion, tone 4

Let us flee from the proud speaking of the Pharisee / and learn the humility of the Publican, / and with groaning let us cry unto the Savior: / Be merciful to us, // for Thou alone art ready to forgive.

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.

Feast, Kontakion, tone 1

Thou who hast sanctified by Thy birth a virgin womb / and fittingly blessed the hands of Simeon, / Thou art come, O Christ our God, and on this day hast saved us. / Give peace to thy commonwealth in time of battle / and strengthen the Orthodox people whom Thou hast loved, // O Thou who alone lovest mankind.