

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, February 15, 2009

Schedule of Services

February 15th Sunday *Prodigal Son*

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 16th Monday

6:30 a.m. Matins

February 17th Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

February 18th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

5:30 p.m. Class: The Evening Prayers

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 19th Thursday

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 20th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins

12:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 21st Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 22nd Sunday *Last Judgment; Meatfare Sunday*

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

In my wretchedness I have wasted sinfully the wealth of grace that Thou hast given me; all to no purpose I have left my true home, and as the Prodigal I have scattered my riches deceitfully among the demons. But now on my return accept me as the Prodigal, merciful Father, and save me.
Exapostilarion of Matins

Do not let the enemy, the devil, deceive us! If anyone sees that he is stuck fast in sin, that sin has gained great power over him, taking advantage of his forgetfulness and lack of understanding, that he has sailed far off into the sea of sin and that the way back to God is long and difficult—let him not despair; he only needs the sincere desire to return to God, and He is already waiting for us. *St. Nikon of Optina*

Announcements for February 15th

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 our seminarian; next week for St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, McKinney.

Temple Wine given in memory of Audry and Herbert; **Temple Oil** given in memory of Victor Faszcyuk and for the health of Myra Ragan.

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 : We are reading through the prayers in the prayerbook in order to understand them, attempting to answer the questions "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)

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.: The Evening Prayers

Friday, 12:00 p.m. noon: Basics of Orthodoxy: Prayer

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, and Fr. & Matushka's niece Amanda and her fiance Cade, injured in a car accident. 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 \$1157.26 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$2647.24; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$38; Building Fund \$45; Bookstore \$20, Debt Reduction \$0. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 17, Liturgy 46.

From Saint Maximus

The passionate soul is impure, filled with thoughts of lust and hatred. The one who sees a trace of hatred in his own heart through any fault at all toward any man whoever he may be makes himself completely foreign to the love for God, because love for God in no way admits of hatred for man.

400 Chapters on Love, 1.14-15

Comment: *The passionate soul is one dominated by the passions rather than guided by the Spirit and full of love for God and man. The passions are a negation of love. St. Maximus defines 'lust' as 'irrational desire' for something. This means we desire something beyond its actual value. For example, we desire food not because we need it for health or nourishment, but simply for the pleasure of eating it. 'Anger' is an 'irrational hatred' towards someone or something. To have any hatred towards anyone no matter what his fault makes us alien to the love of God; God so loved the world that He gave His Son despite all our crimes and disregard for God and for our fellow man made in God's image. God loves man despite all man's sin, and He wishes to save all men. God loved man when man was still His enemy; and He sends His general blessings indiscriminately upon the evil and the good, loving all men equally. The evil and impure, however, are not able to receive this love and to benefit*

