

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 13, 2009

Schedule of Services

**December 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday St. Herman of Alaska**

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**December 15<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Akathist

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Class Divine Liturgy

**December 16<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

12:30 p.m. Class: St. Theophan the Recluse

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 17<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 18<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Reader's, Vespers; *Russian Vespers, Dallas*

**December 19<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

9:30 a.m. *Russian Vespers, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**December 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

With sincere Christians, prayer is continual, because we continually sin; gratitude is perpetual, because every day, every moment, we receive fresh mercies from God, beside the old mercies, which are numberless. Praise is also perpetual, because we perpetually see the glory of God's works in ourselves and in the world, especially the glory of His infinite love towards us.

*St. John of Kronstadt*

## Announcements for December 13<sup>th</sup>

**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).

**Please Move Forward** during the Liturgy! **Please be quiet** in the Narthex afterwards while the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion are being read in the church, or better yet, stay for the prayers lest to forget to read them on your own later.

**The Special Freewill Offering** today will be for debt reduction.

**Please Pray** for Ash Davis as he is received into the catechumenate.

**Church School** will meet as usual following the Liturgy today.

**Holy Unction** will NOT be served Dec 22 as previously scheduled. We shall try to reschedule sometime before or during Great Lent.

### Classes this Week

**Basics of Orthodoxy**, Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, The Lord's Prayer

**St. Theophan the Recluse**, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. We are reading and discussing his book *The Path of Salvation*.

**NTOM Pre-Lenten Retreat:** Saturday, January 23, 2010, 8:30 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Fr. Joseph Honeycutt will be speaking at Holy Trinity in Dallas on "Kindling the Original Spark". Matins, continental breakfast, discussion groups, closing session, and Vespers at 3:00 also included. Plan now to attend.

**Monastery Trip:** Anyone interested in going to Holy Archangels Greek Monastery near San Antonio, please let Fr. Justin know. We may try to go down Jan 10-13 or 14 or so. Women can go to, but they cannot spend the night on monastery grounds.

**Church Cleaners:** We need the faithful who love the Lord's house to volunteer to clean it each week.

**Recycling for Alms:** We recycle aluminum cans, sell them, and put the money in our almsbox. If anyone would like to put their aluminum cans to good use, please bring them to the church.

**Alms:** Besides the alms box on the candle table and special offerings, we have bins under the bookstore for two local charities: Woman to Woman, which helps unwed pregnant mothers, and Interfaith Ministries, which helps local people in need. Items such as food and diapers may be brought (see the sheet of needs on each bin). There is also a bin for the new women's monastery. This sort of almsgiving is particularly appropriate during the upcoming Nativity Fast

**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. As always, if you have questions or problems, please talk to your priest.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Thom Anderson, Adam & Melanie Betz, and Ashley Davis; for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Mary Moses, Jason, Sean, Javier, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire, and Ken & Pam Northam and their daughters Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Georgii. Please remember Met. Jonah in your prayers, and the nun Barbara, and Louise Newcomb.

**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) and a box for the building fund.

Last week, we gave \$1137.63 884.58 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$2022.21 in regular tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$34; Bookstore \$208; Building fund \$0; Special Gifts \$150. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 13, Liturgy 50.

### From Saint Maximus

Likewise, there are three things that move us to evil: passion, the demons, and a bad will. First passion, as when we desire an object beyond reason, such as food, outside the time or need, a woman outside the purpose of procreation or one not lawfully ours; or again when we are angered or grieved, for instance, against the one who offends or hurts us. Second, the demons, as when they wait for the moment of our carelessness and suddenly set upon us with much

violence to rouse the passions of which we spoke, and similar things.  
Finally, a bad will, such as when while knowing the good we prefer  
evil.

*400 Chapters on Love, 2.33*

## Troparia and Kontakia for December 13<sup>th</sup>



### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay  
Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether  
regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: /  
'O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!'

### Troparion, Holy Forefathers, tone 2

By faith, Thou didst justify the forefathers, / when through them didst betroth  
Thyself aforetime / to the Church from among the nations. / The Saints boast in  
glory / that from their seed, there is a glorious fruit, / even she that bare Thee  
seedlessly. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

### St Herman, Torparion

O righteous Father Herman of Alaska / North Star of Christ's holy  
Church, / the light of thy holy life and great deeds / guideth those that  
follow the Orthodox way. / Together we lift high the holy Cross, / which  
thou didst plant firmly in America. / Let all behold and glorify Jesus  
Christ, / singing his holy Resurrection.

### Kontakion, Holy Forefathers, tone 6

Ye would not worship a hand-wrought image, O thrice blessed ones; / but armed  
by the Undepictable Essence, / ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire. /  
Standing in the midst of the irresistible flame, ye called upon God: / Speed  
Thou, O Compassionate One, since Thou art merciful, / and hasten to come unto  
our aid; for Thou art able, if it be Thy will.

### St. Herman, Kontakion, tone 8

O beloved of the Mother of God, who received the tonsure at Valaam, / new  
zealot of the struggles of the desert-dwellers of old: / wielding prayer as a spear  
and shield, thou didst show thyself to be terrible to demons and pagan darkness.  
/ Wherefore, we cry out to thee: // O venerable Herman, entreat Christ God that  
our souls be saved!

### Theotokion, tone 6

O Protection of Christians that is not put to shame, / unchanging mediation  
before the Creator, / despise not the voice of the sinner's prayer, / but in that  
thou art good come quickly to help us who call upon thee in faith, / make speed  
to intercede and make haste to supplicate, / O Theotokos, who dost ever protect  
those that honor thee.