

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Schedule of Services

**December 12<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, tone 4**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

11:00 a.m. Special All-Parish Meeting

5:00 p.m. *Chantus Maximus* at St. Seraphim's for Vespers

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

7:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

**December 16<sup>th</sup> Thursday Conception of the Theotokos**

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

1:00 p.m. OT Class: Reform in Judah: Hezekiah, Josiah

7:00 p.m. *Russian Vespers, St. Seraphim's Dallas*

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

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**December 19<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, tone 5**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

Prayer in church is important. The best thoughts and feelings come in church, yes, and the enemy attacks more violently in church, but with the sign of the Cross and the Jesus Prayer, you drive him away. It is good to stand in some dark corner in church and to pray to God. "Let us lift up our hearts!" the priest exclaims, but our mind often creeps along the ground, thinking about indecent things. Fight against this.  
*St. Barsanuphius of Optina*

During prayer, it is not beneficial to strive for exalted feelings. One should only discern the meaning of the words pronounced, pray attentively, and then, with time, the Lord will grant spiritual insight and heartfelt contrition.  
*St. Nikon of Optina*

## Announcements for December 12<sup>th</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee, 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 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). If we are visiting from another parish, we should know that proper church etiquette is to contact the priest ahead of time if we wish to receive Holy Communion so he doesn't have to question us as to our identity in the Communion line. We should be modestly dressed and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

**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.

**The Special Offering** this week is to help restore a Romanian monastery; next week, debt reduction.

**No Church School** today due to the special parish meeting.

**A Special Parish Meeting** will be held today after Liturgy during Coffee Hour to discuss options for the hall addition.

**Many Thanks** to those who have made possible the beautification of our narthex.

**Candles:** Our treasurer requests that we pay for candles at the time we take them (check or cash) and not run up an IOU account, as that distorts and complicates bookkeeping. Thank you!

**Library Books:** If you have had books or other materials out of the Library for more than a month, whether you have finished or not, please bring them back so others have a chance to use them. Thank you.

**Confession** is available Wednesdays and Fridays after Matins, at about 8:00 a.m. in addition to other scheduled times.

### Classes this Week

Basics of Orthodoxy, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.

Old Testament History, Friday, 1:00 p.m. "Attempts at Reform"  
Hezekiah & Josiah of Judah

**A Sign-up Sheet for the Holy Supper** on Nativity Eve has been posted. Plan on attending and bringing one of the traditional dishes that we may eat together after the Nativity Vigil.

**House Blessings** will be happening beginning January 6. If you want your house blessed, please sign up on the posted sheet, and Father will get you scheduled. Please indicate whether you want a 'simple' blessing or will be wanting him to stay for a meal.

**Almsgiving:** Besides the almsbox on the candle table, we may use the bins, now in the coffee hour room, for our almsgiving during the Nativity Fast. Imperishable foods are particularly welcome. There is yet a good supply of "Bum Bags" there for your use as well.

**Copies** of the Confessor's Tongue and the weekly Bulletin may be found on our website. So too recordings of some homilies and some of the Basics of Orthodoxy Class lectures.

**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).

Last week we gave \$2201.33 in tithes and offerings (from members and catechumens); our monthly budget is \$7975. Candles \$86.50; Special Gifts \$1500. May God bless your giving! Attendance: Sunday Liturgy 54, Vigil 8.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Thom Anderson, Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, Samuel Vanderburg, Michael, Gina, and Ian Rehmet. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, for Michael Rodgers at St. Tikhon's Seminary, and for Svetlana Birthisel.

### From Saint Maximus

When you see that your mind is conducting itself devoutly and justly in representations of the world, know, then, that your body, too, remains pure and sinless. But when you see that your mind is giving itself over to sins in thought, and you do not resist, know that your body, too, will not be long into falling in with those sins.

Just as the body has material things for its world, so does the mind have representations for its world; and just as the body commits fornication with a woman's body, so does the mind commit fornication with the representation of a woman's body through its

own body's fantasies. For, in its mind, it sees the shape of its own body joined with that of a woman. In the same way, the mind wards off the picture of the one who as offended us through the shape of its own body. And similarly for other sins. For what the body does through action in the world of material reality, the mind also does in the world of representations.

There is no reason to be disturbed, shocked, or astonished by the idea that God the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son. The Son cries out, "Do not judge, lest you be judged. Do not condemn, lest you be condemned." And the Apostle likewise, "Judge not before the time until the Lord comes," and, "With the judgment that you judge another you condemn yourself." But in neglecting to lament their own sins, men take judgment away from the Son and they themselves, though sinful, judge and condemn each other. And "At this heaven is astonished," earth is disturbed, but they in their insensitivity are not ashamed.

*400 Chapters on Love, 3.52-54*

## Troparia and Kontakia for December 12<sup>th</sup>



### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

### 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.

### 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.