

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Bulletin for Sunday November 1st, 2015

Schedule of Services

November 1st Sunday Twenty-Second After Pentecost, tone 5

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

November 3rd Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Molieben, Confession

November 4th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: An Orthodox Life in a Modern World

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 5th Thursday Martyrs Galacteon & Episteme

6:00 a.m. Matins

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 6th Friday

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

8:00 p.m. Class: Therapy of Spiritual Illness

November 7th Saturday

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 8th Sunday Twenty-Third After Pentecost, tone 6

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

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

It is a fearful and heinous thing for us, because of our love for things corruptible, deliberately to kill the life that was given to us by God as the gift of the Holy Spirit. Those who have trained themselves to prefer truth to self-love will certainly know this fear. 1.39

Let us use peace in the right way: repudiating our evil alliance with the world and its ruler, let us at last break off the war which we wage against God through the passions. Concluding an unbreakable covenant of peace with Him by destroying the body of sin within us (cf. Rom. 6:6), let us put an end to our hostility towards Him. 1.40

Announcements for November 1

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, and conversation. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door. We invite you to go first through the food line and join the priest at his table.

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 (so as not to distract others, please see the posting on the door to the nave) and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading if we are communing), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

The Special Offering this week will be for the Nativity Monastery in Kemp.

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Dave Eaton Sr.

Classes This Week

Sunday 11:30 Basics of Orthodoxy

Wednesday 6:00 An Orthodox Life in a Modern World

Friday, 8:00 p.m.: The Therapy of Spiritual Illness: discussion of Jean Claude Larchet's book. Bring the book if you have it. This week we'll discuss chapter two of volume one on the origin of man's illness.

Upcoming Classes: Fr. Justin will begin the second stage of the Basics of Orthodox Class the week of November 29, probably on a Tuesday evening. Please see him if you wish to attend. Russian reading for choir members may be offered on Saturdays before Vigil. See Fr. Justin.

Mission Council will meet November 15.

Many Thanks to Callum and Sophia Lyda for organizing the All Saints part yesterday.

Anointing at Vigil is done with oil blessed on the relics of saints. Recently we received oil blessed on the relics of St. Maximus and oil from the Tomb of Christ. Take advantage of these anointings.

The Nativity Fast is upon us in two weeks. Now is the time to prepare for a soul-profiting fast. Plan some extra spiritual reading and, perhaps, something to memorize from Holy Scripture. Prepare to increase your prayer privately and at church. Plan additional almsgiving in addition to your usual tithes and offerings. The fast is time to turn our hearts to the Lord in repentance for our sloth, ingratitude, carelessness, and lack of love, and to seek to be renewed

in Him. It is also time to prepare for a good Confession and for Holy Communion.

Confession should be monthly for those who commune regularly. In other words, we could say that one Confession is 'good' for roughly a month of going to Communion. If our last Confession is 'expired' by more than a week or two, we should not commune until we have been back to Confession. Our life as Christians is one of active repentance until the day we die, and Confession is an essential part of living in repentance.

St. Maximus Lecture 2016: Bishop Maxim of the Western Serbian Diocese of North America will speak about St. Maximus in January. He will be present at Vigil, January 20, 2016 and will give a brief homily after it. He will give the homily at Liturgy on January 21, will speak to those at coffee hour following, and will give his keynote address the evening of the January 21 (Thursday).

Please Pray: for our catechumens, Adam and Jenilee Skelton and Marsha Northam, for the inquirers Dante, the Wells family, the Dean family, for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin, and for our diocesan administrator, Fr. Gerasim. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest field here in Denton and North Texas. Remember always to pray for your priest.

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 in Denton County and north Texas. Checks should be made out to St. Maximus Orthodox Church and placed in slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during Liturgy), where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for our building fund.

Last week's figures are not available. Our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Attendance: Vigil 42, Liturgy 93.
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From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

Rebelling as we do against God through the passions and agreeing to pay tribute in the form of evil to that cunning tyrant and murderer of souls, the devil, we cannot be reconciled with God until we have first begun to fight against the devil with all our strength. For even though we assume the name of faithful Christians, until we have made ourselves the devil's enemies and fight against him, we continue by deliberate choice to serve the shameful passions. And nothing of

profit will come to us from our peace in the world, for our soul is in an evil state, rebelling against its own Maker and unwilling to be subject to His kingdom. It is still sold into bondage to hordes of savage masters, who urge it towards evil and treacherously contrive to make it choose the way which leads to destruction instead of that which brings salvation. 1.41

God made us so that we might become 'partakers of the divine nature' (2 Pet. 1:4) and sharers in His eternity, and so that we might come to be like Him (cf. 1 John 3:2) through deification by grace. It is through deification that all things are reconstituted and achieve their permanence; and it is for its sake that what is not is brought into being and given existence. 1.42

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 1

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

Unmercenary Healers, Troparion, tone 8

O holy unmercenary physicians and wonderworkers, / visit our infirmities. // Freely have ye received; freely give unto us.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

Kontakion of the Unmercenaries, tone 2

Having received the grace of healings, / ye extend health to those in need, / O all-glorious physicians and wonderworkers. / By your visitation cast down the audacity of the enemy, // healing the world through your miracles.