

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 29th, 2015

Schedule of Services

November 29th Sunday Twenty-Sixth After Pentecost, tone 1

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

December 2nd Wednesday

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

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 3rd Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 4th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

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

December 5th Saturday

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 6th Sunday tone 1 St. Nicholas

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

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

A man no longer experiences pleasure and pain when, freeing his intellect from its relationship with the body, he binds or rather unites it to God, the real goal of love, longing and desire. 1.54

Just as one cannot worship God in a pure way without utterly purifying the soul, so one cannot worship creation without pampering the body. By fulfilling, out of concern for the body, that worship which causes corruption, and by thus acquiring self-love, man became subject to the unceasing action of pleasure and pain; eating always from the tree of disobedience — the tree of the knowledge of good and evil — in this way he acquired experientially through sense-perception a knowledge in which good and evil were intermingled. And it would not be untrue to say that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is the visible created world. For this world is by nature subject to that alternation which produces pleasure and pain. 1.55

Announcements for November 29

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).

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Mary Grace.

The Special Offering this week will be to help with the medical expenses of a family in the parish.

Classes This Week

Sunday 11:30 Basics of Orthodoxy

Wednesday 6:00: An Orthodox Life in a Modern World: On Distractions.

Friday, 8:00: Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses, Chapter 3.

Upcoming Classes: Fr. Justin will begin the second stage of the Basics of Orthodox Class Tuesday, December 8, Tuesday evening at 8:00. Please see him if you wish to attend.

Thank God that Ariel Reynolds has come home from the hospital.

A Russian Divine Liturgy will be served this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Confession is available from 8:30 or earlier in the week.

The Nativity Fast has begun. We abstain from meat and dairy products. The wall calendar indicates what days we may have fish, wine, and oil. The fast is a 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 as we contemplate the becoming man of the Son of God. It is also time to prepare for a good Confession and for Holy Communion.

St. Maximus Lecture 2016: Bishop Maxim of the Western Serbian Diocese of North America will speak about St. Maximus January 20-21, 2016.

Fr. Justin will be at Holy Archangels Monastery from Monday to Wednesday. You may reach him on his cell if you have an emergency.

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, we gave \$1872.27 in tithes and offerings, in November we have given \$8560.96; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$82; renovation (drinks) \$5, special offering for St. Vladimir's \$8 (\$218.47 total). Attendance: Vigil 29, Liturgy 69.

From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

Where intelligence [nous] does not rule, the senses naturally assume the dominant role. The power of sin is somehow mingled with the senses and induces the soul by means of sensual pleasure to have pity for the flesh, to which it is joined. When the soul pursues the impassioned and pleasurable cultivation of the flesh as its natural task, it is diverted from a life lived in accordance with nature and is impelled to become the author of evil, which has no substantial existence. 1.56

Evil is the noetic soul's forgetfulness of what is good according to nature; and this forgetfulness results from an impassioned relationship with the flesh and the world. When the intelligence is in control it dispels this forgetfulness through spiritual knowledge, since intelligence, having investigated the nature of the world and the flesh, draws the soul to the realm of spiritual realities which is its true home. Into this realm the law of sin cannot penetrate; for the link between the soul and the senses has now been broken, and the senses, limited to the world of sensible objects, can no longer function as a bridge conveying the law of sin into the intellect. When the intellect transcends its relationship with sensible objects and the world to which they pertain, it becomes utterly free from the sway of the senses. 1.57

When the intelligence dominates the passions it makes the senses instruments of virtue. Conversely, when the passions dominate the intelligence they conform the senses to sin. One must watchfully study and reflect how the soul can best reverse the situation and use those things through which it had formerly sinned to generate and sustain the virtues. 1.58

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 29

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.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit / thou didst pour forth Christ's sacred teachings, / thou didst expound with Divine authority / the self-emptying of God the Word / and wast radiant in thy confession of the True Faith: / O, Glorious Father Maximus / pray to Christ our God / to grant us His great mercy.

Martyr Paramon, Troparion, tone 4

In his sufferings, O Lord, / Thy Martyr Paramon received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God. / For possessed of Thy might, / he cast down the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

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.