

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 20th, 2016



Schedule of Services

November 20th Sunday, 22nd after Pentecost, tone 5

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 103
6:00 p.m. Vigil

November 21st Monday Entrance of the Theotokos

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
6:00 p.m. Vespers

November 22nd Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 23rd Wednesday St. Alexander Nevsky

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
5:45 p.m. Class: New Testament Survey: Galatians
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 24th Thursday Thanksgiving Day; St. Katherine

6:30 a.m. Matins
8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 26th Saturday

4:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Molioben
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 27th Sunday, 23rd after Pentecost, tone 6

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 103

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

6. He who gives himself to desires, and sensual pleasures and lives according to the world's way will quickly be caught in the nets of sin. And sin, when once committed, is like fire put to straw, a stone rolling downhill or a torrent eating away its banks. Such pleasures, then, bring complete perdition on him who embraces them.

Announcements for November 20

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 also invite you to go first through the food line.

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).

The Special Offering this week will be for St. Michael's Monastery in New Mexico.

Temple Wine offered in memory of Rae Buckley. **Temple Oil** offered in memory of Lau Shoo Sim Toy and William Frederick.

Many Thanks to those who participated in our first annual parish Thanksgiving Meal/Picnic. It was a lovely time.

New Catechumens: today we receive the Frank and Cathy Wells and their children Joy, Charity, Patience, and Gabriel as catechumens. Please keep them in your prayers.

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, one of the Twelve Great Feasts is celebrated this week with Vigil tonight at 6:00 and Divine Liturgy Monday morning at 9:00. We do well to keep the Feast by attending as much of the cycle of services for it as we can.

Classes This Week

Sunday 11:30: Basics of Orthodoxy 103 is reading and discussing the Longer Catechism of the Eastern Orthodox Church, written by St. Philaret of Moscow. Reader Michael Rehmet conducts the class. The text may be found at http://www.pravoslavieto.com/docs/eng/Orthodox_Catechism_of_Philaret.htm

Wednesday 5:45: A Survey of the Epistles of the New Testament. This week we'll examine Galatians.

The Monthly Thanksgiving Moleben will be served next Saturday at 4:30, before Vigil. Those who have particular reason to give thanks are encouraged to come.

The Nativity Fast, the 40-day period of preparation for the Nativity of our Lord, has begun and lasts until the Liturgy the morning of the Nativity of Our Lord, December 25. We keep the Fast by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for our spiritual benefit: for repentance, healing, cleansing, growth, and, ultimately— or knowing Christ more intimately and being filled afresh with His Spirit. We abstain from meat, dairy products, fish, wine, and oil (see wall calendar for when fish, wine, and oil are permitted) and marital relations so that we can give ourselves to prayer and spiritual

reading and have extra means for almsgiving. The wholistic effort of the fast implies that we reduce or abstain from secular entertainments in order to fill our souls with what is good, honorable, pure, lovely, and true. Please see your priest if you have any questions.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and 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 the slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during service). There are also boxes for alms (those in need) and our building fund.

Last week we gave \$2356.52 in tithes and offerings. Our monthly budget is \$11,250. Candles \$79, Building Fund \$102.12, Special Offering for OCMC \$89. Attendance: Liturgy 99, Vigil 44.
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Please Pray: for our newly received catechumens the Wells family, catechumen Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Dean family, for David & Sally Roberts, and for the Jones family; for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph.

Civil Strife: Because our land is still suffering from division and civil strife, we shall continue to pray as we did before the election.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

1.28 He who has realized love for God in his heart is tireless, as Jeremiah says (cf. Jer. 17:16. LXX), in his pursuit of the Lord his God, and bears every hardship, reproach and insult nobly, never thinking the least evil of anyone.

1.29 When you are insulted by someone or .humiliated, guard against angry thoughts, lest they arouse a feeling of irritation, and so cut you off from love .and place you in the realm of hatred.

1.30 You should know that you have been greatly benefited when you have suffered deeply because of some insult or indignity; for by means of the indignity self-esteem has been driven out of you.

1.31 Just as the thought of fire does not warm the body, so faith without love does not actualize the light of spiritual knowledge in the soul.

