

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, December 11th, 2016



Schedule of Services

December 11th Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, tone 8

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

December 14th Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Class: New Testament Survey: Romans
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 15th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 16th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 17th Saturday

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas
5:00 p.m. Vigil (No Confession)

December 18th Sunday Before Nativity, tone 1

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

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

9. It does not lie within our power to decide whether or not the passions are going to harass and attack the soul. But it does lie within our power to prevent impassioned thoughts from lingering within us and arousing the passions to action. The first of these conditions is not sinful, inasmuch as it is outside our control; where the second is concerned, if we fight against the passions and overcome them we are rewarded, but we shall be punished if because of laziness and cowardice we let them overcome us.

10. There are three principal passions, through which all the rest arise: love of sensual pleasure, love of riches, and love of praise. Close in their wake follow five other evil spirits, and from these five arise a great swarm of passions and all manner of evil. Thus he who defeats the three leaders and rulers simultaneously overcomes the other five and so subdues all the passions.

Announcements for December 11

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. Sava's (Plano) building program.

Temple Oil offered for the health and salvation of Mary Grace and Michael and in memory of William Frederick.

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 Romans.

Monastery: The priest and his family plan to visit Holy Archangels Monastery Monday – Wednesday this week.

N.B., there will be no confession available after Vigil next Saturday.

Mission Council has decided to use certain funds that were received to acquire a vessel in which to bless water as well as new, matching servers' vestments in several colors. Anyone who wishes to participate in giving to this end is welcome. We also have decided to approach our neighbor about his 2.5 acre lot down the street before going to the Historical Landmark Committee to try to persuade them to let us build on our present property in front of our present building. Please pray that God will provide for the long-term good of this parish and guide us into it as we seek to build a spacious, beautiful, permanent temple.

The Men's Meeting yesterday was well-attended and long-extended for a second time. We hope to continue to meet on the second Saturday of each month and that others will join us.

A Crafts Fair will be held next Sunday during coffee hour to give our youth a chance to display their creations. Some vendors who will not be present next week will be active today.

The Nativity Fast: 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 and to serve others. Please see your priest if you have any questions.

Commemorations: Please try to submit your Sunday commemorations Saturday night (or earlier) whenever you can.

Holy Unction, for the healing of soul and body will be offered Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. Please note **the change in date** from previous posts. Any Orthodox Christian in communion with the Church who has had a recent confession may partake.

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 \$2694.89 in tithes and offerings. Our monthly budget is \$11,250. Candles \$93, Building Fund \$600; Special Offering for our seminarian \$166. Attendance: Liturgy 90, Vigil 34.

Please Pray: for catechumens the Wells family and 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.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

1.43 If a man desires something, he makes every effort to attain it. But of all things which are good and desirable the divine is incomparably the best and the most desirable. How assiduous, then, we should be in order to attain what is of its very nature good and desirable.

1.44 Stop defiling your flesh with shameful deeds and polluting your soul with wicked thoughts; then the peace of God will descend upon you and bring you love.

1.45 Afflict your flesh with hunger and vigils and apply yourself tirelessly to psalmody and prayer; then the sanctifying gift of self-restraint will descend upon you and bring you love.

1.46 He who has been granted divine knowledge and has through love acquired its illumination will never be swept hither and thither by the demon of self-esteem. But he who has not yet been granted such knowledge will readily succumb to this demon. However, if in all that he does he keeps his gaze fixed on God, doing everything for His sake, he will with God's help soon escape.

1.47 He who has not yet attained divine knowledge energized by love is proud of his spiritual progress. But he who has been granted such knowledge repeats with deep conviction the words uttered by the patriarch Abraham when he was granted the manifestation of God: 'I am dust and ashes' (Gen. 18:27).

Troparia and Kontakia for December 11th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, 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.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

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.