

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, November 23, 2008

Schedule of Services

November 23rd 23rd Sunday After Pentecost

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

November 24th Monday

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

November 25th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Liturgy, *St. Seraphim*
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 26th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Akathist "Glory to God for All Things"

November 27th Thursday

7:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 28th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins
7:00 p.m. Vespers
8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: *The Church & Holy Scripture*

November 29th Saturday

7:00 a.m. Matins
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 30th 24th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Pray fervently to the Lord God and warm your cold heart with His sweetest name, for God is our fire. Calling on His name destroys impure dreams and warms the heart to fulfill all of His commandments.
St. Anthony of Optina

In the beginning, the Prayer of Jesus is always difficult and not pure, but later it is pleasant.
St. Anatoly of Optina

Announcements for November 23rd

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee and 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, i.e., those preparing for Baptism & Chrismation, 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). We should be modestly dressed and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not have missed Sunday Liturgy for three or more weeks in a row.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for St. Nicholas ROCOR parish in McKinney, who are building a temple there of 1900 sq. feet at \$130 a square foot. Let's help our brethren with a few of those squares!

The Nativity Fast lasts through the Liturgy on Nativity morning (Dec 25). We abstain from meat and dairy for the whole fast, and fish, wine (alcohol), and oil (except when permitted per the wall calendar) and marital relations so that we can give more in alms, pray more effectively, and open our hearts more widely to God.

Nativity Lent Almsgiving: As is our practice, as part of our almsgiving during the Nativity Fast, we shall collect items for Woman to Woman and Interfaith Ministries, two worthy local charities. Boxes will be placed under the bookstore table with sheets describing what sort of items are needed.

Classes this Week:

No Wednesday Class

Friday, the Basics of Orthodoxy Class at 8:00 p.m.

November 28: The Church and Holy Scripture

December 5: The Church and Holy Tradition

December 12: The Church and the Ecumenical Councils

December 19: The Church and Salvation

The Weekday Liturgy this week will be on Thanksgiving Thursday at 7:30 a.m. **N.B.** Archbishop Dmitri grants a 'dispensation' from the Fast for Thanksgiving Day for those who wish to make use of it.

Church School for our children will meet right after Liturgy today.

Please Pray for our Catechumen: Thom Anderson, **our inquirers** John Parsons and Adam Betz. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Samantha Stateson, and Lois Lyda's father

James, and for Frieda Glusheknko's mother Galina diagnosed with cancer, and Elder Zacharias, also diagnosed with cancer. Please remember our **new Metropolitan** Jonah in our prayers.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and an act of obedience to God, a sign that Christ is, for us, Lord of all, including our money—that it all belongs to Him and we are but stewards of it. Your worship of God through giving 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. Stamped, addressed envelopes are available on the candle table if you know you will be gone.

Last week, we gave \$1110.75 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$4892.72; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$43.50; Building Fund \$0; Bookstore \$40; Debt Reduction \$147. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 17, Liturgy 43.

From Saint Maximus

The person who likes to be popular attends solely to the outward show of morality and to the words of the flatterer. With the first he hopes to attract the eyes and with the second the ears of those who are charmed and impressed only by what is visible and audible, and who judge virtue only with their senses. Hence the desire to be popular may be described as an outward display of moral acts and language as though for the sake of virtue, but really to impress other people.

God is the cause of created beings and of their inherent goodness. Thus he who is puffed up with his virtue and knowledge, and whose grace-given progress in virtue is not matched by a corresponding recognition of his own weakness, falls inevitably into the sin of pride. He who seeks goodness for the sake of his own reputation prefers himself to God, for he has been pierced by the nail of self-esteem. By doing or speaking what is virtuous in order to be seen by men, he sets a much higher value on the approbation of man than on that of God. In short, he is a victim of the desire to be popular. And he who immorally makes use of morality solely to deceive by his solemn display of virtue, and hides the evil disposition of his will under the outward form of piety, barter virtue for the guile of hypocrisy. He aims at something other than the cause of all things.

Various Texts 3.66, 3.68

Troparia and Kontakia for November 23rd



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

Entrance of Theotokos, Troparion, tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, / of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. / The Virgin appeareth in the temple of God, / in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. / Let us rejoice and sing to her: / Rejoice, O Fulfillment // of the Creator's dispensation.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

SS Amphilochius & Gregory, Troparion, tone 4

O God of our fathers, / who ever dealest with us according to Thy gentleness, / take not Thy mercy away from us, / but by their entreaties // govern our life in peace.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human race /, for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

St. Amphilochius, Kontakion, tone 2

O hierarch Amphilochius, / thou divine thunder, / clarion of the Spirit, / husbandman of the garden of Faith, / scythe cutting down heresies, / great favorite of the Trinity: // Standing ever with the Angels, pray thou unceasingly in behalf of us all.

Entrance of Theotokos, Kontakion, tone 4

The all-pure Temple of the Savior, / the precious Bridal Chamber and Virgin, / the sacred treasure of the glory of God, / is led today into the house of the Lord, / and with her she bringeth the grace of the divine Spirit. / Of her God's angels sing in praise: // "She is indeed the heavenly Tabernacle."