

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, November 30, 2008

Schedule of Services

**November 30<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**December 1<sup>st</sup> Monday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

5:30 p.m. Class: St. Gregory Theologian: Theological Orations

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

**December 5<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: *The Church & Holy Scripture*

**December 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday St. Nicholas**

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**December 7<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

The Lord cares for the salvation of your soul more than you think. He will save you if you just turn to Him with humility and hope and do even what seems to be little. The Lord God greatly values even the little, if it is done for His sake. *St. Moses of Optina*

The Lord arranges everything for our spiritual benefit. For how could we be humbled if we continually felt spiritual consolation? So the Lord withdraws from us so that we see our infirmity and spiritual nakedness. *St. Joseph of Optina*

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission  
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

## Announcements for November 30<sup>th</sup>

**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:

Wednesday, Theological Orations of St. Gregory #3-4

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

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 Thursday at 6:00 a.m.

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

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** 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.

**Please pray** for God's will to be done as we make an offer on six acres of property on 2164 (Locust) a mile north of the Loop. This would be a place to build our church.

**The Mystery of Holy Unction** for the healing of soul and body will be generally offered, Tuesday December 16 at 7:30 p.m. To receive anointing, one must be an Orthodox Christian in communion with the Church who has made a recent Confession.

**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 \$760.23 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$5652.95; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$45; Building Fund \$50; Bookstore \$148.50, Debt Reduction \$15, St. Nicholas Church, \$103. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 15, Liturgy 54.

### From Saint Maximus

The demons of pride, self-esteem, desire for popularity, and hypocrisy, never act by trying to dampen the ardor of the virtuous man. Instead they cunningly reproach him for his shortcomings where the virtues are concerned, and suggest that he intensifies his efforts, encouraging him in his struggle. They do this in order to entice him to give his full attention to them; in this way they make him lose a proper balance and moderation, and lead him imperceptibly to a destination other than the one to which he thought he was going.

Neither do these demons hate self-restraint, fasting, almsgiving, hospitality, the singing of psalms, spiritual reading, stillness, the most sublime doctrines, sleeping on the ground, vigils, or any of the other things which characterize a life lived according to God, so long as the aim and purpose of a person trying to live such a life are tilted in their direction [towards pride, self-esteem, desire for popularity, hypocrisy].

*Various Texts 3.69, 3.70*

## Troparia and Kontakia for November 30<sup>th</sup>



### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

### 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.

### Apostle Andrew, Troparion, tone 4

As thou art the first-called of the apostles / and the brother of the preeminent one, / entreat thou the Master of all, O Andrew, / that He grant peace to the world, // and to our souls great mercy.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

### St. Maximus, Kontakion, tone 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

### Apostle Andrew, Kontakion, tone 2

The divinely eloquent namesake of manliness, / the eminent follower of the Church, the kinsman of Peter, / let us praise, for as of old he was called, / so now he calleth us: // "Come ye, we have found the Desired One!"