

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, January 4, 2009

Schedule of Services

January 4th Sunday Before Theophany

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 5th Monday

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours

3:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Blessing of Water

January 6th Tuesday Holy Theophany

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 7th Wednesday St. John the Baptist

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 8th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

January 9th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

January 10th Saturday St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Theophan

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 11th Sunday After Theophany

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

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*

From now on let us strive firmly to not divide the path of Christ into various branches, but to combine them into the main one: to love the Lord with our whole soul and to maintain peace and holiness with everyone, not thinking foolishly or suspiciously about anyone.

St. Ambrose of Optina

Announcements for January 4th

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.

Please Move Forward during the Liturgy! Thank you!

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for our priest, next week for our kitchen remodel.

Many Years to Basil Geoff Stevenson on his nameday.

Holy Theophany, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this Monday with the Royal Hours at 8:00, Vespers at 3:00, Vigil at 7:00 with the blessing of water, and Liturgy Tuesday morning at 9:00. Please make the effort to participate in at least a part of the celebration of this feast of Christ's baptism for our cleansing and the manifestation of the Holy Trinity to man.

House Blessings for those desiring them will begin this week. Please sign up on sheet on the bulletin board. They need to be done by February 15 if possible, so please sign up soon.

Nativity Lent Almsgiving: Thank you for your almsgiving during the Nativity Fast for Woman to Woman and Interfaith Ministries. We shall deliver what has been given after Theophany, so you still have a chance to give if you wish.

Calling handy men: There are some jobs that need doing: repairing the front door so it doesn't catch; doing the same on the side door in the church (it rubs on the floor), finishing laying flooring in the sacristy and hall, painting in the altar. Please see Fr. Justin if you have the skills and time.

Classes this Week:

Basics of Orthodox, Friday, 8:00 p.m.

Church School meets right after the Liturgy.

Please Pray for our Catechumen: Thom Anderson, **our inquirers** John Parsons and Adam Betz, & Melanie. 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, Elder Zacharias, also diagnosed with cancer, and Gareth Tikhon Barnard who is working away from us in Kansas, as well as all who are travelling. Please remember Met. Jonah in your 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 \$961.57 in tithes and offerings; in December we gave \$4577.89; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$76; Building Fund \$17,250; Bookstore \$186.50. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 8, Liturgy 41.

From Saint Maximus

The divine readings [during the Liturgy] from the sacred books reveal the divine and blessed desires and intentions of God most holy. Through them each one of us receives in proportion to the capacity which is in him the counsels by which he should act, and we learn the laws of the divine and blessed struggles in which by consistent fighting we will be judged worthy of the victorious crowns of Christ's kingdom.

The Church's Mystagogy

From Saint Thalassios (friend of St. Maximus)

Spiritual freedom is release from the passions; without Christ's mercy you cannot attain it.

If you make a habit of listening to spiritual teaching, your intellect will escape from impure thoughts.

God alone is good and wise by nature; but if you exert yourself, you intellect also becomes good and wise through participation.

Control your stomach, sleep, anger, and tongue, and you will not 'dash your foot against a stone.'

Strive to love every man equally, and you will simultaneously expel all the passions. *Second Century of Texts On Love, Self-Control, & Life in accordance with the Intellect [Nous]*

Troparia and Kontakia for January 4th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

Forefeast of Theophany, Troparion, tone 4

Make ready, O Zebulun! / Adorn thyself, O Naphtali! / O River Jordan, leaping up, receive thou the Master, / who cometh to be baptized! / Hide not yourselves as ye did before in Paradise; / for He that beheld you naked hath revealed Himself, / that He may clothe you in your primal raiment. / Christ hath appeared, // desiring to make all creation new!

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.

Apostles of the 70, Troparion, tone 3

O ye holy Apostles, / intercede with the merciful God / That He grant unto our souls // remission of transgressions.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8

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.

Apostles of the 70, Kontakion, tone 2

In hymns, O ye faithful, / let us together praise the choir of the seventy Apostles: / Stephen, Prochorus, Silas, and Nicanor, / Mark, Matthias, and Herodion, / Crescens, Phlegon, Barnabas, Linas, and Olympus, / Ananias, Luke, and Asyncritus, and the rest; // for they remain beacons of the divine Faith.

Forefeast of Theophany, Kontakion, tone 4

In the streams of the Jordan, / the Lord crieth out to John today: / "Fear not to baptize Me, / for I have come to save Adam // the first-created!"