

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, January 11, 2009

Schedule of Services

January 11th Sunday After Theophany 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council
January 14th Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Vespers
January 16th Friday 7:30 a.m. Matins 7:00 p.m. Vespers
January 17th Saturday St. Anthony the Great 9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy, Dallas 5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession
January 18th Sunday Ss Athanasius & Cyril of Alexandria 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council
January 20th Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Vigil for St. Maximus
January 21st Wednesday Feast of St. Maximus 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for St. Maximus 10:30 a.m. Parish potluck brunch

Prayer is food for the soul. Do not starve the soul, it is better to let the body go hungry. Do not judge anyone, forgive everyone. Consider yourself worse than everyone in the world and you will be saved. As much as possible, be more quiet. *St. Joseph of Optina*

Whoever the Lord visits with a difficult ordeal, sorrow, the bereavement of a dearly loved one, such a person involuntarily prays with all his heart, all his understanding, all of his mind. Consequently, there is a wellspring of prayer in everyone, but it is revealed either by gradually going deeper and deeper into yourself, according to the teaching of the fathers, or by a sudden Divine drilling into one's soul. *St. Leo of Optina*

God does not demand undistracted prayer from beginners. It is acquired with much time and labor, as the writings of the holy fathers say "God grants prayer to those who pray..." *St. Hilarion of Optina*

Announcements for January 11th

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 kitchen remodel, next week for debt reduction.

Many Years to Rick Gregory Joines on his nameday.

Next week we celebrate our Parish Patronal Feast with the Vigil Tuesday evening at 7:30 and Divine Liturgy Wednesday morning at 9:00, followed by a potluck brunch (fastworthy, fish, wine oil).

Fr. Justin and family will be going to Holy Archangels monastery this week until Wednesday evening. Please call another OCA priest in an emergency (see back of our phonebook or parish website). Fr. John Anderson (214)528-3741 or Fr. Joseph Fester (214) 522-4149.

Relic of St. Herman: our parish has been blessed to receive a relic of St. Herman. It will be made available for veneration after the Liturgy. You may not venerate the relic if you are wearing lipstick, chapstick, or other such greasy lip applications. We plan to commission an icon of St. Herman and create a shrine in which to house both icon and relic.

House Blessings have begun. If you want your house blessed, please sign up on sheet on the bulletin board. They need to be done by February 15 if possible, so please sign up soon.

Classes this Week:

Basics of Orthodox, Friday, 12:00 p.m. noon.

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, Lisa Robertson's father Bobby, and for Frieda

Glusheknko's mother Galina diagnosed with cancer, Elder Zacharias, also diagnosed with cancer, for Nick Gluschenko, 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 \$1209.69 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$2171.26; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$37; Building Fund \$70; Bookstore \$69. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 10, Liturgy 52.

From Saint Maximus

Love is a good disposition of the soul by which one prefers no being to the knowledge of God. It is impossible to reach the habit of this love if one has any attachment to earthly things.

Love is begotten of detachment, detachment of hope in God, hope of patient endurance and long-suffering, these of general self-mastery, self-mastery of fear of God, and fear of faith in the Lord.

The one who believes the Lord fears punishment; the one who fears punishment becomes master of his passions; the one who becomes master of his passions patiently endures tribulations; the one who patiently endures tribulations will have hope in God; hope in God separates [us] from every earthly attachment; and when the mind is separated from this it will have love for God.

400 Chapters on Love, 1.1-3

From Saint Thalassios (friend of St. Maximus)

He who fears God will pay careful attention to his soul and will free himself from communion with evil.

If you abandon God and are a slave to the passions, you cannot reap God's mercy.

A soul defiled by the passions becomes obdurate: it has to undergo knife and cautery before it recovers its faith. *Second Century of Texts On Love, Self-Control, & Life in accordance with the Intellect [Nous]*

Troparia and Kontakia for January 11th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

Theophany, Troparion, tone 1

When Thou, O Lord was baptized in the Jordan / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, / naming Thee His beloved Son. / And the Spirit, in the form of dove, / confirmed the certainty of that word. / O Christ our God, who hast manifested Thyself and enlightened the world // glory to Thee.

Theodosius, Troparion, tone 8

With the streams of thy tears thou didst cultivate the barren desert; / and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst bring forth fruit a hundredfold; / and thou wast a beacon for all the world, emitting miracles. // O Theodosius our father, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

Theodosius, Kontakion, tone 8

Planted in the courts of thy Lord, thou didst flourish most beautifully in thy venerable virtues, / and didst increase in number thy children in the desert, / watering them with the torrents of thy tears, O godly chief shepherd of the flock of God. // Wherefore, we cry out: Rejoice, O father Theodosius!

Theophany, Kontakion, tone 4

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe / and Thy Light, O Lord, hath shone on us, / who with understanding praise Thee: / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O Light unapproachable!