

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, January 18, 2009

Schedule of Services

January 18th Sunday *Ss Athanasius & Cyril of Alexandria*

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

January 19th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins

January 20th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

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

5:30 p.m. Class: Prayers of the Prayerbook Discussed

7:00 p.m. Vespers

January 23rd Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins

12:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

January 24th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 25th Sunday *St. Gregory the Theologian*

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

If you do good, you must do it only for God. For this reason, you must pay no attention to the ingratitude of people. Expect a reward not here, but from the Lord in heaven. If you expect it here—it will be in vain and you will endure deprivation. *St. Ambrose of Optina*

You must firmly remember this spiritual law of life: if you condemn someone for something or are disturbed by something in another person, you will experience the very same thing. You will do that which you condemned someone else for doing, or you will suffer from the same infirmity. *St. Nikon of Optina*

Our salvation and our ruin is in our neighbor. Our salvation depends on how we related to our neighbor. Do not forget to see the image of God in your neighbor. *St. Nikon of Optina*

Announcements for January 18th

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 debt reduction.

Many Years to Subdeacon Anthony on his nameday.

This 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).

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.

Wednesday Class Resumes: We shall spend the next few weeks reading through the prayers in the prayerbook in order to understand them. We shall attempt to answer the question "Why does the Church put these particular words in our mouths?"

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.: Prayers of the Prayerbook

Friday, 12:00 p.m. noon: Basics of Orthodoxy: God's Plan for Man: the Path of the Commandments.

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 \$827.22 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$2998.48; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$32.50; Building Fund \$60; Bookstore \$27; kitchen \$33. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 15, Liturgy 55.

From Saint Maximus

The one who loves God prefers knowledge of Him to all things made by Him and is constantly devoted to it by desire.

If all things have been made by God and for His sake, then God is better than what has been made by Him. The one who forsakes the better and is engrossed in inferior things shows that he prefers the things made by God to God Himself.

The one who has his mind fixed on the love of God disdains all visible things and even his own body as alien.

If the soul is better than the body and God incomparably better than the world which He created, the one who prefers the body to the soul and the world to the God who created it is no different from idolaters.

400 Chapters on Love, 1.4-7

Comment: *We should consider the man enamored with a pile of gravel to be insane if nearby there lay a neglected pile of diamonds. Yet we are guilty of the same folly when we put all our attention on the things God has made and neglect God Himself. Christians do not despise the body or the material world, but as we come to know God and taste of His goodness and fullness, our desire for created things will decline, much as a man who has feasted on fine food despises what is coarse and common; the meat lover with a good sirloin or filet mignon before him will despise any Spam that might be offered to him. To prefer the creation to the Creator, to prefer what is lesser over what is higher, is to be an idolater in essence.*

Troparia and Kontakia for January 18th



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.

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.

SS Athanasius & Cyril, Troparion, tone 3

Resplendent with the works of Orthodoxy / and reducing all heresy to ashes, / ye were victors and conquerors, O Athanasius and Cyril, / enriching all with piety; / and, having greatly adorned the Church, / ye have acquired Christ God, as is meet, // who granteth us great mercy.

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 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.

St Athanasius, Kontakion, tone 2

Planting Orthodox doctrine, / thou didst mow down the tares of heresy, / causing the seed of faith to increase / through the rain of the Spirit, O venerable one. // Wherefore we hymn thee, O Athanasius.