

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, January 25, 2009

Schedule of Services

January 25th Sunday *St. Gregory the Theologian*

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 26th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins

January 27th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Church History Class: the Second Millennium

January 28th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

5:30 p.m. Class: Prayers of the Prayer Book Discussed

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 29th Thursday

7:30 p.m. Vigil for Three Hierarchs

January 30th Friday Three Hierarchs

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 31st Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 1st Sunday *St. Gregory the Theologian*

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:30 p.m. Vigil

February 2nd Monday Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Everyone who even thinks about entering the right path is liable to endure a multitude of all possible temptations. Blessed and most blessed are those who have entered the right path.

St. Barsanuphius of Optina

If you say something evil about your brother or sister, even if it is true, your soul suffers an unhealable wound. You can reveal the sins of another only when the sole intention in your heart is the benefit of the soul of the sinner.

St. Nikon of Optina

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

Announcements for January 25th

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! It is safe to stand up to the forward edge of the rug.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for our Alaskan Seminarian, Methodius Nicori (see letter on bulletin board).

House Blessings have begun. If you want your house blessed, please sign up on sheet on the bulletin board. If you don't find a time to suit you, arrangements may be made with Fr. Justin.

Church History Class Begins: A class covering the second thousand years of church history begins this Tuesday night at 7:00. Leif Pierson will be teaching.

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:

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.: Church History: the Second Christian Millennium (Leif Pierson)

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

Friday, 12:00 p.m. noon: Basics of Orthodoxy: Christ's First Commandment: Repent! Living a life of repentance.

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 and our Alaskan Seminarian Methodius Nicori.

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 \$1168.46 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$3205.37; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$29; Building Fund \$250; Bookstore \$25; Debt Reduction \$26.31. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 13, Liturgy 58; Vigil for St. Maximus 31, Liturgy 32.

From Saint Maximus

The one who separates his mind from love and devotedness toward God and keeps it tied to any sensible thing is the one who prefers the body to the soul and things that are made to God the Creator.

If the life of the mind is the illumination of knowledge and this is born of love for God, then it is well said that there is nothing greater than love.

When in the full ardor of its love [*eros*] for God the mind goes out of itself, then it has no perception at all either of itself or of any creatures. For once illumined by the divine and infinite Light, it remains insensible to anything that is made by Him, just as the physical eye has no sensation of the stars when the sun has risen.

400 Chapters on Love, 1.8-10

Comment: *According to St. Paul, man chose and chooses to worship the creature rather than the Creator, and this is idolatry. When we keep our minds [nous] which are made for knowing God fixed only on sensible things, created things detected by our five senses, we are preferring a much lesser good over a much greater one. Of course, we have to give attention to the duties of life, but we do it remembering God, asking His blessing, and giving thanks. Living in this world does not inherently keep us from fellowship with God. Loving God by keeping His commandments is the path to the illumination of knowledge of God. Being illumined, we see the compelling beauty of God and His glory which blinds us to all that He has made, so good and glorious it is.*

Troparia and Kontakia for January 25th



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

St. Gregory the Theologian, Troparion, tone 1

The shepherd's pipe of thy theology / drowned out the trumpets of the
philosophers; / for since thou didst search out the depths of the Spirit, / beauty of
speech was added to thee. / But intercede, with Christ God, O Father Gregory, //
that our souls be saved.

New Martyrs of Russia, Troparion, tone 4

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passion bearers and pastors, / monks and laymen, ye
countless new martyrs and confessors, / men, women, and children, / flowers of
the spiritual meadow of Russia, / who blossomed forth wondrously in time of
grievous persecutions, / bearing good fruit for Christ in your endurance: /
Entreat Him as the One who planted you, / that He deliver His people from
godless and evil men, / and that the Church of Russia / be made steadfast
through your blood and suffering, // unto the salvation of our souls.

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 8 *Serbian Melody*

St Gregory the Theologian, Kontakion, tone 3

With thy theologian's speech thou didst destroy / the entangled webs of vain
philosophers, / while beautifying the whole Church / with the robe of Orthodoxy
woven in Heaven; / and the Church, clothed in it, crieth with us, thy children: /
O wise Gregory most glorious, / rejoice, O Father, // great theological mind.

New Martyrs of Russia, Kontakion, tone 2

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, / who have with your confession finished
the course of this earth, / receiving boldness through your sufferings: / Beseech
Christ who strengthened you, / that we also, whenever the hour of trial find us, /
may receive the gift of courage from God. / For ye are a model for us who
venerate your struggle; / for neither tribulation, prison, nor death / could separate
you from the love of God.