

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, February 1, 2009

Schedule of Services

<b>February 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b> <i>St. Gregory the Theologian</i> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council 7:30 p.m. Vigil
<b>February 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday</b> <b>Meeting of the Lord in the Temple</b> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
<b>February 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday</b> 6:00 a.m. Matins 7:00 p.m. Church History Class: the Second Millennium
<b>February 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday</b> 6:00 a.m. Matins 7:00 p.m. Fr. Justin of Sinai talk at UNT, reception following
<b>February 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday</b> 7:00 a.m. Liturgy
<b>February 6<sup>th</sup> Friday</b> 12:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession
<b>February 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday</b> 5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession
<b>February 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> <i>Publican &amp; Pharisee</i> 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Doubts, just like lustful and blasphemous thoughts, should be despised and not paid any attention. Despise them, and the enemy, the devil, will not endure, but will depart from you, for he is proud and will not endure scorn. But if you enter into conversation with them—for all lustful, blasphemous, and doubting thoughts are not yours—then they will overcome you, knock you down, and finish you.

You must scorn doubting, blasphemous, and lustful thoughts; then they will not harm you in any way, especially if you reveal them to your elder [or confessor]. But you should not reveal them in detail, otherwise you can harm both yourself and your elder. You should especially cover up lustful thoughts, cover this stinking cesspool with a curtain and do not dig into it. *St. Barsanuphius of Optina*

## Announcements for February 1<sup>st</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.

**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 priest, next week for debt reduction.

**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)

Friday, 12:00 p.m. noon: Basics of Orthodoxy: Cultivating the Christian Life by Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving, etc.

**No Class or Vespers this Wednesday** due to Fr. Justin of Sinai's talk at UNT.

**Church School** meets right after the Liturgy.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Thom Anderson, **our inquirers** John Parsons and Adam Betz, & Melanie. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, 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. Pray for Stomatia Samantha Stateson, Theone Stateson's mother, who reposed in the Lord last Tuesday. Memory eternal!

**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 \$1110.34 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$4315.42; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$70.50; Building Fund \$0; Bookstore \$63.25; Seminarian \$22. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 10, Liturgy 58; monthly Sunday avg. 55+, Vigil avg 12.

### From Saint Maximus

All the virtues assist the mind [*nous*] in the pursuit of divine love, but above all does pure prayer. By it the mind is given wings to go ahead to God and becomes alien to all things.

When through love the mind is ravished by divine knowledge and in going outside of creatures has a perception of divine transcendence, then, according to the divine Isaiah, it comes in consternation to a realization of its own lowliness and says with conviction to words of the prophet: "Woe is me! for I am stricken at heart; because being a man having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips, and I have seen with my eyes the King, the Lord of hosts."

*400 Chapters on Love, I.II-12*

**Comment:** *Prayer, when a man made in God's temple stands before God in the temple of his heart with attention and faith, is communion with God and growing knowledge of Him. Pure prayer is high level of prayer and deeply intimate communion with God by which we come to know Him as love and are filled with His love. All the virtues assist us in attaining love, but pure prayer, by allowing our soul to be ravished with God and be 'alien' to created things, brings us to this love most quickly.*

## Troparia and Kontakia for February 1<sup>st</sup>



### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to Thee.

### Forefeast, Troparion, tone 1

The celestial choir of the angels in heaven, / coming to earth, beheld the Firstborn of all creation, / who is come, borne into the temple as a Babe / in the arms of the Mother who knew not man. / Wherefore, with us they chant hymns // of the forefeast, rejoicing.

### St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

#### Martyr Tryphon, tone 4

In his sufferings, O Lord, / Thy Martyr Tryphon received an imperishable crown from Thee, our God. / For possessed of Thy might, / he cast down the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

### 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.

### Martyr Tryphon, Kontakion, tone 8

With the steadfastness of the Trinity / thou didst uproot polytheism from the ends of the earth, O most glorious one; / and honored in Christ, thou didst vanquish the tyrants in Christ the Savior / and receive a crown for thy martyrdom and gifts of divine healings, // in that thou, O Tryphon, art invincible.

### Forefeast, Kontakion, tone 6

The Word who is invisibly with the Father is now seen in the flesh, / ineffably born of the Virgin; / and He is given to the high priest on the arm of the elder. // Let us worship Him as our true God!