

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, February 22, 2009

Schedule of Services

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday *Last Judgment; Meatfare Sunday***

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> Monday**

6:30 a.m. Matins

**February 24<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

6:30 a.m. Matins

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

**February 25<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

5:30 p.m. Class: The Precommunion Prayers

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**February 26<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

**February 27<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:30 a.m. Matins

12:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession, Choir Rehearsal

**February 28<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

9:30 a.m. Workday: tear-out kitchen

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**March 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday *Cheesefare & Forgiveness Sunday***

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Great Fast Begins**

Alas black soul! How long wilt thou continue in evil? How long wilt thou lie in idleness? Why dost thou not think of the fearful hour of death? Why dost thou not tremble at the dread judgment seat of the Savior? What defence then wilt thou make or what wilt thou answer? Thy works will be there to accuse thee; thine actions will reproach thee and condemn thee. O my soul, the time is near at hand; make haste before it is too late, and cry aloud in faith: I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned against Thee: but I know Thy love for man and Thy compassion. O good Shepherd, in Thy great mercy, deprive me not of a place at Thy right hand. *Vespers, Last Judgment*

## Announcements for February 22<sup>nd</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 a new women's monastery being started near Dallas by sister Barbara with the blessings of Vladyka Dmitri and Metropolitan Jonah; next week for our priest.

**Temple Oil** given in for the health of James Anderson.

**Forgiveness Vespers** is next Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Everyone who attends this parish should plan on attending, as this marks the liturgical beginning to Great Lent and gives us a chance to face, forgive, and be reconciled with each other.

**Church History Class :** A class covering the second thousand years of church history meets Tuesday nights at 7:00. Leif Pierson is teaching.

**Work Day Next Saturday** at 9:30 to tear out the old kitchen. Your sweat will help cut the cost of adding the old kitchen to the church and thus expanding our space for worship.

### Classes this Week:

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

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.: The Precommunion Prayers

Friday, 12:00 p.m. noon: Basics of Orthodoxy: How to Pray

**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-in** Nina Johnston, Lois Lyda's father James Anderson, 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. Please remember Met. Jonah in your prayers and our Alaskan Seminarian Methodius Nicori. Pray for Stomatia Samantha Stateson, Theone Stateson's mother, recently reposed in the Lord. 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 \$934.50 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$3581.74; our monthly budget is \$6218 (\$1554 per week). Candles \$27.50; Building Fund \$0; Bookstore \$75, Seminarian \$33. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 18, Liturgy 63.

### From Saint Maximus

'The one who loves Me,' says the Lord, 'will keep my commandments' and 'this is My commandment, that you love one another.' Therefore, the one who does not love his neighbor is not keeping the commandment, and the one who does not keep the commandment is not able to love the Lord.

*400 Chapters on Love, I.16*

**Comment:** *It is easy to say, "I love God", "I love Jesus", and many say it. Yet on Judgment Day, many will proclaim their love and service to the Lord only to hear Him say, "I never knew you, depart from Me." As God is love and loves every single man made in His image despite man's manifold sins, for us to be known of God and like Him we must learn to love others. Love for God goes beyond words and feelings. It manifests itself in obedience to Christ's commandments, and the primary commandment is to love others. Love for others is proof of love for God. We can take this a step further, in accordance with St. Silouan's understanding: it is in dealing with our enemies that the authenticity of our faith and love for God is tested and revealed. If we can love our enemies and pray for them in accordance with Christ's command, we can say we truly love God. If we as yet do not, then we must confess our lack of love for God and man, cultivate repentance, and seek God's grace to empower us to love. He is able and willing to do this in us.*

