

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 6, 2009

Schedule of Services

**December 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday St. Nicholas**

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**December 8<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Akathist

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Class

**December 9<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

12:30 p.m. Class: St. Theophan the Recluse

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 10<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 11<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Litia for Departed, Confession

**December 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**December 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday St. Herman of Alaska**

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

God's saints are near to the believing heart, and are ready in a moment to help those who call upon them with faith and love. For the most part, we have to send, and sometimes we have to wait long, for earthly helpers, whilst we have neither to send nor to wait long for spiritual helpers: the faith of him who prays can place them close to his heart in a moment, and he will speedily receive, through faith, spiritual help.

*St. John of Kronstadt*

## Announcements for December 6<sup>th</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).

**Please Move Forward** during the Liturgy! **Please be quiet** in the Narthex afterwards while the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion are being read in the church, or better yet, stay for the prayers lest to forget to read them on your own later.

**The Special Freewill Offering** today will be for our priest, next week for debt reduction.

**Church School** will meet as usual following the Liturgy today.

### Classes this Week

**Basics of Orthodoxy**, Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**St. Theophan the Recluse**, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. We are reading and discussing his book *The Path of Salvation*.

**NTOM Pre-Lenten Retreat:** Saturday, January 23, 2010, 8:30 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Fr. Joseph Honeycutt will be speaking at Holy Trinity in Dallas on "Kindling the Original Spark". Matins, continental breakfast, discussion groups, closing session, and Vespers at 3:00 also included. Plan now to attend.

**Monastery Trip:** Anyone interested in going to Holy Archangels Greek Monastery near San Antonio, please let Fr. Justin know. We may try to go down Jan 10-13 or 14 or so. Women can go to, but they cannot spend the night on monastery grounds.

**Icon of St. Herman:** The iconographer is about to begin the large icon of St. Herman we have commissioned which will occupy the alcove with our relic. The icon will cost us \$500. If anyone wishes to sponsor this offering in honor of our first North American Saint either in full or in part, now would be a good time!

**Church Cleaners:** We also need the faithful who love the Lord's house to volunteer to clean each week.

**Alms:** Besides the alms box on the candle table and special offerings, we have bins under the bookstore for two local charities: Woman to Woman, which helps unwed pregnant mothers, and Interfaith Ministries, which helps local people in need. Items such as food and diapers may be brought (see the sheet of needs on each bin). There is also a bin for the new women's monastery. This sort of almsgiving is particularly appropriate during the upcoming Nativity Fast

**The Nativity Fast** lasts through the Liturgy on Nativity morning (Dec 25). We abstain from meat and dairy for the whole fast, and fish, wine (alcohol), and oil (except when permitted per the wall calendar) and marital relations so that we can give more in alms, pray more effectively, and open our hearts more widely to God. As always, if you have questions or problems, please talk to your priest.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Thom Anderson, and for Adam & Melanie Betz, for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Mary Moses, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire, and Ken & Pam Northam and their daughters Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Georgii. Please remember Met. Jonah in your prayers, and the nun Barbara, and Louise Newcomb, recovering from a broken hip and hip replacement surgery.

**Tithes, Offerings & Attendance:** Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God, which also 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 and placed in the basket on the candle table, where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for the building fund.

Last week, we gave \$884.585 in tithes and offerings; in November we gave \$5055.28 in regular tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$56.50; Bookstore \$68; Building fund \$107.61; Library offering \$17. Special Gifts \$175. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 20, Liturgy 57.

### From Saint Maximus

There are three things that move us to the good: natural tendencies, the holy angels, and a good will. First the natural tendencies, as when what we wish me to do to us and what we likewise do to them; or as when we see someone in distress and need and we naturally take pity. Second, the holy angels, when, for instance, we are moved to some good deed and obtain their helpful assistance and are successful.

