

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick

**Bulletin for Sunday, December 27, 2009**

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

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**Schedule of Services**

**December 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**December 29<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: End of Divine Liturgy

**December 30<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

12:30 p.m. Class: St. Theophan the Recluse, Path of Salvation

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 31<sup>st</sup> Thursday**

3:30 p.m. Vespers

5:00 p.m. Open House at Rectory

**January 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Circumcision of Christ; St. Basil the Great**

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**January 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday St. Seraphim**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

What is faith? Sureness of spiritual truth, of that which is, or of, God. To believe means to be as sure of the reality of the spiritual world as of the material world.

Faith gives rest and joy; unbelief troubles and wounds.

If from time to time we do not stir up the fervor of faith in our heart, eventually faith may become entirely extinct in us. The enemy takes pains to attain this end, which is why we see men who are Christians in name only, while their actions are quite heathen.

Men have fallen into unbelief because they have either completely lost the spirit of prayer, or never had it—in short, because they do not pray.

*St. John of Kronstadt*

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

## Announcements for December 27<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 choir director, Subdeacon Anthony Stokes and his family. Also, if anyone would like to support the charitable work of St. George Orthodox Church in Pharr, Texas, where our young people are going on retreat, please see Fr. Justin or Becki Stevenson.

**Church School** for teens will meet as usual following the Liturgy today; children's choir for elementary, no preschool class.

### Classes this Week

Basics of Orthodoxy, Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. We finish our study of the Divine Liturgy.

St. Theophan the Recluse, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. *The Path of Salvation*

**Open House:** On New Year's Eve, Fr. Justin and Matushka Michelle will host an open house at the rectory. Come to Vespers at 3:30 and stick around afterwards or come about 5:00. All welcome!

**House Blessings** begin January 6. If you want your house blessed, please sign up. A house blessing need take no longer than 15 minutes; but allow a half hour. If you have particular questions you'd like to discuss with a priest, this is a good time for them.

**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.

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

**Recycling for Alms:** We recycle aluminum cans, sell them, and put the money in our almsbox. If anyone would like to put their aluminum cans to good use, please bring them to the church.

**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.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Thom Anderson, Adam & Melanie Betz, and Ashley Davis; for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Mary Moses, Jason, Sean, Javier, 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.

**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 \$1365.35 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$5142.91 in regular tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$36; Bookstore \$; Building fund \$25; Special Gifts \$650. May God bless your faithful giving!  
Attendance: Vigil 13, Liturgy 68

### From Saint Maximus

There are many things done by men which are noble in themselves but still because of some reason are not noble. For example, fasts and vigils, prayer and psalmody, almsgiving and hospitality are noble in themselves, but when they are done out of vainglory they are no longer noble.

God searches the intention of everything that we do, whether we do it for him or for any other motive.

