

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, January 3, 2010

Schedule of Services

January 3rd Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 5th Tuesday Eve of Theophany

7:00 a.m. Royal Hours

12:00 p.m. Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Great Blessing of Water

January 6th Wednesday Holy Theophany of our Lord

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 7th Thursday

7:00 a.m. Matins

1:00 p.m. Class: St. Theophan "Path of Salvation"

2:30 p.m. Vespers

January 8th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 9th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 10th Sunday Ss. Gregory of Nyssa, Theophan Recluse

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. Mission Council

The devil cunningly induces us—instead of arousing us against himself—to notice our neighbors' sins, to make us spiteful and angry with others, and to awaken our contempt towards them, thus keeping us in enmity with them, and with the Lord God Himself. Therefore, we must despise the sins themselves, and not our brother, who commits them at the Devil's prompting, through infirmity and habit; we must pity him, and gently and lovingly instruct him, as one who forgets himself, or who is sick, as a prisoner and the slave of his sin.

The Devil takes an enormous part in the sins of men. Therefore, let none consider himself cast away, even if he be a great sinner: his sins are greatly the fault of the Devil. Turn at once to Jesus Christ for forgiveness....
St. John of Kronstadt

Announcements for January 3rd

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.

No Church School today.

Parish Email List: If you aren't on it, please sign up so you can be informed of prayer requests, needs, and changes in the schedule. Please give Fr. Justin or Dax Stokes your email address to be subscribed.

Classes this Week

Basics of Orthodoxy will be moving to Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. following Vespers, beginning January 13.
St. Theophan the Recluse, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. *The Path of Salvation*

Holy Theophany, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with the Royal Hours Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00 a.m., the Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil at noon, Vigil and the Great Blessing of Waters at 7:00 p.m., and Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, January 6, at 8:00 a.m. It is meet and right for the faithful to celebrate the feast by attending at least a part of the festal cycle.

Open House at the Rectory has been rescheduled for Friday, January 29.

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. Please bring to Becki Stevenson.

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.

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 \$1044.55 in tithes and offerings; in December we gave \$6187.46 in regular tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$66; Bookstore \$; Building fund \$0; Special Gifts \$1450. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 10, Liturgy 58; Nativity Vigil 35; Nativity Liturgy 13.

From Saint Maximus

The demon of pride has a twofold wickedness: either he induces [the Christian] to ascribe his virtuous deeds to himself and not to God the Bestower of good things and the helper in good behavior, or, unable to persuade him in this, he suggests that he look down on [others] who are still less advanced than himself. The one who behaves in this way does not realize that he is being induced into denying God's assistance. For if he looks down on them as those who are unable to perform good deeds, he is evidently putting himself forward as someone who acts uprightly on his own power; but this is impossible, as the Lord told us, "Without me, ye can do nothing." This is because

