

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, January 31, 2010

Schedule of Services

January 31st Sunday Prodigal Son

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 1st Monday

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 2nd Tuesday Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

February 3rd Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Matins

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

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

February 4th Thursday

6:30 a.m. Matins

5:30 p.m. Class: Solzhenitsyn *Gulag Archipelago*

7:30 p.m. Russian Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

February 5th Friday

6:30 a.m. Matins

February 6th Saturday

7:00 a.m. Liturgy at St. Seraphim's with Elder Zacharias

9:30 a.m. Elder Zacharias Lecture at St. Seraphim Cathedral

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 7th Sunday Last Judgment

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. Mission Council

As the Prodigal I have wasted the riches which the Father gave me; I have spent them all and now am destitute, dwelling in the land of evil citizens. No longer can I bear to live among them, but turning back I cry to Thee, merciful Father: I have sinned against heaven and before Thee, and I am not worthy to be called Thy son: make me as one of the hired servants, O God, and have mercy on me. *Triodion, Praises*

Announcements for February 1st

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 you forget to read them on your own later.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for the women's monastery.

Church School today as usual right after Liturgy.

Schedule Change: Please note that the Russian Vespers and Pannikhida will be Thursday evening this week, as will the Solzhenitsyn class.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 12:30: St. Theophan *Path of Salvation*.

Wednesday, 8:00: Basics of Orthodoxy (New Session begins)

Thursday, 5:30: Solzhenitsyn, *Gulag Archipelago* chapter 2.

Mission Council will meet next Sunday after the Liturgy at about 11:30. Meetings are open to all parishioners.

Forgiveness Vespers: February 14, 6:00 p.m. All parishioners are expected to attend this service.

Abbot Meletios's Talks from the OCA DOS Pastoral Conference were excellent and are available for hearing on-line at http://saintjohnwonderworker.org/Fr_Meletios_2010.html, or go to dosoca.org and click on the link.

Elder Zacharias of St. John's Monastery, England, will be in Dallas for the last time February 6 at St. Seraphim's from 7:00 a.m. Liturgy, talk at 9:30) to noon and then at St. Sava's for Vespers at 5:00 and a talk with youth at 6:00. He is the spiritual grandson of St. Silouan of Athos. Highly recommended for all; don't miss this opportunity.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: Thom Anderson, Adam & Melanie Betz, Ashley Davis, Mary Moses, Javier Largazspada, and Sean; for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Jason O'Brien, 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-in** Nina Johnston, and remember the newly-departed servant of God Georgii.

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 about \$1000 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$5061.76; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$53; Bookstore \$; Building fund \$2; Special Gifts \$. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 19, Liturgy 75.

From Saint Maximus

Some temptations bring men pleasure, others distress, and still others bodily pain. For according to the cause of the passions rooted in the souls does the Physician of souls apply the medicine of His judgments.

The onslaughts of temptations are brought on sometimes to take away sins already committed, or those being committed in the present, or else to cut off those which could be committed. And this is apart from those which come upon one as a trial, as with Job.

The sensible man who thinks over the medicine of the divine judgments thankfully bears the misfortunes that befall him because of them, realizing that they have no other cause than his own sins.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.44-46

From Saint John of Kronstadt (+1908)

How can our soul find joy in the Holy Spirit, when we occupy ourselves all the time with earthly and empty pastimes and pleasures? So it is that by serving that which corrupts and destroys we are drawn away from life incorruptible, true and eternal.

So far as a man indulges his sensuality, so far he becomes carnal, and drives away from himself the most Holy Spirit of God, who cannot

dwell in those who lead a carnal life. When I gratify my flesh too much, I become my own greatest enemy.

In so far as a man by the grace of God lays aside the carnal life, so far he begins to trample his carnal appetites under foot—he alters his food, ceases to live for his appetite, which he cannot satisfy; gradually faith, hope, and love being to reign in his heart.

Troparia and Kontakia for January 31st



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit / thou didst pour forth Christ's sacred teachings, / thou didst expound with Divine authority / the self-emptying of God the Word / and wast radiant in thy confession of the True Faith: / O, Glorious Father Maximus / pray to Christ our God / to grant us His great mercy.

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.

Prodigal Son, Kontakion, tone 3

Foolishly have I run away from Thy glory, O Father, / wasting in sin the wealth that Thou gavest me. / Therefore with the words of the Prodigal I cry unto Thee: / I have sinned before Thee, compassionate Father. / Accept me in repentance and make me as one of Thy hired servants.