

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Schedule of Services

**December 19<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, tone 5**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

**December 20<sup>th</sup> Monday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

**December 21<sup>st</sup> Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers

**December 22<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Compline with Metropolitan Jonah

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Friday Nativity Eve**

7:00 a.m. Royal Hours

11:00 a.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil

6:00 p.m. Vigil

8:00 p.m. Holy Supper

**December 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday The Nativity of our Lord**

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Great Vespers

**December 26<sup>th</sup> Synaxis of the Theotokos, tone 6**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

Do not look only for delight from prayer; do not become despondent when you do not feel joy. Sometimes you stand and stand in church, and it seems that you do not have a heart within you, but a piece of wood, rough and coarse. And so what? For the piece of wood, thank You Lord! It means that that is how it should be. By experiencing sweet delights, a soul can become puffed up, and such a condition of “stony insensibility” humbles it. *St. Barsanuphius of Optina*

## Announcements for December 19<sup>th</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee, 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 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). If we are visiting from another parish, we should know that proper church etiquette is to contact the priest ahead of time if we wish to receive Holy Communion so he doesn't have to question us as to our identity in the Communion line. We should be modestly dressed and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

**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.

**The Special Offering** this week is for debt reduction.

**Church Decoration** for Nativity will take place on Tuesday. We'll need a supply of evergreen boughs. Please see Becki Stevenson or Matushka Michelle if you can supply those.

**Church School** meets today after the Divine Liturgy and Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion.

**Metropolitan Jonah** will be visiting this Wednesday at Vespers and will speak to us afterwards. If you have questions for our bishop, please bring them! The Metropolitan is addressed properly as "Your Beatitude" or "Vladyka". Please be sure to get his blessing.

**Library Books:** If you have had books or other materials out of the Library for more than a month, whether you have finished or not, please bring them back so others have a chance to use them. Thank you.

**Bookstore Gift Certificates:** The St. Maximus Bookstore now offers gift certificates in denominations of \$5, \$10, and \$20. Please see the bookstore manager Rick Joines or Fr. Justin if you want one.

**The Nativity Fast** ends next Saturday after the Divine Liturgy. Fasting is then forbidden until January 5.

**No Classes this Week and until the New Year!**

**A Sign-up Sheet for the Holy Supper** on Nativity Eve has been posted. Plan on attending and bringing one of the traditional dishes that we may eat together after the Nativity Vigil.

**House Blessings** will be happening beginning January 6. If you want your house blessed, please sign up on the posted sheet, and Father will get you scheduled. Please indicate whether you want a 'simple' blessing or will be wanting him to stay for a meal.

**Almsgiving:** Besides the almsbox on the candle table, we may use the bins, now in the coffee room, for our almsgiving during the Nativity Fast. Imperishable foods are particularly welcome. There is yet a good supply of "Bum Bags" there for your use as well.

**Copies** of the Confessor's Tongue and the weekly Bulletin may be found on our website. So too recordings of some homilies and some of the Basics of Orthodoxy Class lectures.

**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).

Last week we gave \$2251.17 in tithes and offerings (from members and catechumens), this month, we have given \$4452.50; our monthly budget is \$7975. Candles \$59; Special Gifts \$50. May God bless your giving! Attendance: Sunday Liturgy 68, Vigil 24.

**Expansion Fund:** The expansion fund has pledges for \$7000; another \$362 was raised by the male choir. We need to raise \$17,000 to build the planned hall expansion by March 1. Please make a pledge over and above your usual giving either of a one-time gift, or of a monthly gift for a designated number of months. We'd like to build without any loans. Pledge forms are to be found on the candle table. Once filled out, please place them in the building fund box.

**Coffee Hour Expansion:** The Parish Council requests that, in order to raise the money we need to build the expansion to our hall, that each family donate \$5 per coffee hour. All such donations will go to building the space that will make coffee hour more comfortable and will keep us from having to meet in the church. If we can average twenty families/individuals giving \$5 a week as they go through the coffee hour line, we'll raise \$5000 in the course of one year. If you simply can't give \$5, give what you can: the \$1 bills in your wallet, your spare change, whatever you can. This is not a charge for coffee

hour, merely a suggested donation. If you can't or won't give you are still welcome to eat!

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Thom Anderson, Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, Samuel Vanderburg, Michael, Gina, and Ian Rehmet, and Jeremy Pike. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, for Michael Rodgers at St. Tikhon's Seminary, and for Svetlana Birthisel.

#### From Saint Maximus

The one who meddles in the sins of others or even judges his brother on a suspicion has not yet laid the foundation of repentance nor sought to know his own sins (which are truly heavier than an enormous weight of lead). Neither does he know how it comes about that the man who loves vanities and seeks after lies becomes heavy-headed. Thus as a foolish person going about in the dark, he takes no mind of his own sins and imagines those of others whether they actually exist or he only suspects them.

*400 Chapters on Love, 3.55*

### Troparia and Kontakia for December 19<sup>th</sup>



#### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

#### Holy Forefathers, Troparion, tone 2

Great are the achievements of faith! / In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. / And the Prophet Daniel / proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

#### Kontakion, Holy Forefathers, tone 6

Ye would not worship a hand-wrought image, O thrice blessed ones; / but armed by the Undepictable Essence, / ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire. / Standing in the midst of the irresistable flame, ye called upon God: / Speed Thou, O Compassionate One, since Thou art merciful, / and hasten to come unto our aid; for Thou art able, if it be Thy will.