

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday November 24th, 2013

Schedule of Services

November 24th 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 25th Monday Leavetaking of the Entrance

6:00 a.m. Matins

November 26th Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 27th Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Russian Class

7:15 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November, 28th Thursday Thanksgiving

6:30 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 29th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

8:00 p.m. *Liturgical Theology Class, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

November 30th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 1st 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

The Optina Elders on Repentance

With all our might we must flee and avoid sin; but if because of our carelessness we fall into sin, we only deserve greater condemnation. But when we happen to sin involuntarily or due to our weakness, let us purify ourselves with repentance. Flee from pride, for it is the cause of many terrible falls. Humble yourself, reproach yourself, consider yourself to be the least, and worse than everyone, do not condemn anyone, and then you will receive divine mercy.

St. Joseph

It is not surprising to fall, but to remain in sin is shameful and arduous.

St. Ambrose

Announcements for November 24

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, and conversation. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door. We invite you to go first through the food line and join the priest at the table.

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 (so as not to distract others) 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.

The Special Offering this week will be for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), as today has been designated IOCC Sunday by the North American Bishops.

Classes this Week

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Russian Class.

Friday 8:00 p.m. Liturgical Theology Class, St. Seraphim's, Dallas.

Nativity Fast: We fast from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil & marital relations (fish, wine, oil are noted on the wall calendar when permitted) and seek to increase in both quantity and quality our prayer (corporate and private), almsgiving, spiritual reading, and deeds of service in fulfillment of Christ's commandments that we may make more room for Christ in our lives. If you have not been to Confession and Communion in the past couple months, now is the time to prepare yourself to participate in those Mysteries. The Nativity Fast lasts through Liturgy on December 25.

Thanksgiving: Liturgy will be served at 8:00 Thanksgiving morning. A blessing has been given in the past to break the fast in order to keep the Thanksgiving feast with family.

A General Holy Unction will be served Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. to pray for healing of soul and body. Any Orthodox Christian who has had a recent Confession may receive the anointing.

Please Pray: for catechumen Shannon Goodson, for inquirers Rebecca and Destiny Marcott, Holly Bellan, Kathy Wells and her family, Amber Payne, Leah Saunders, and Joseph; the novice Svetlana, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale. **Eternal Memory** to the nun Elizabeth.

Parish Food Pantry: As part of our parish almsgiving, you may bring non-perishable foods and toiletries and place them in the labeled tub in the hall outside the bathroom. These will be made available to parishioners and sundry who have need.

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 in 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 our building fund.

Last week, we gave \$2345.68; in November we have given \$5803.44; Our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$85, Special offering for IOCC \$113, building fund \$45, soda (building renovation) \$20. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 41, Sunday Liturgy 83.

From Saint Maximus

There are three things that impel us towards what is holy: natural instincts, angelic powers and probity of intention. Natural instincts impel us when, for example, we do to others what we would wish them to do to us (cf. Luke 6:31), or when we see someone suffering deprivation or in need and naturally feel compassion. Angelic powers impel us when, being ourselves impelled to something worthwhile, we find we are providentially helped and guided. We are impelled by probity of intention when, discriminating between good and evil, we choose the good.

There are also three things that impel us towards evil: passions, demons and sinfulness of intention. Passions impel us when, for example, we desire something beyond what is reasonable, such as food which is unnecessary or untimely, or a woman who is not our wife or for a purpose other than procreation, or else when we are excessively angered or irritated by, for instance, someone who has dishonored or injured us. Demons impel us when, for example, they catch us off our guard and suddenly launch a violent attack upon us, stirring up the passions already mentioned and others of a similar nature. We are impelled by sinfulness of intention when, knowing the good, we choose evil instead. *400 Chapters on Love, 2.23-33*

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 24

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.

Feast of the Entrance, Troparion, tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, / of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. / The Virgin appeareth in the temple of God, / in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. / Let us rejoice and sing to her: / Rejoice, O Fulfillment // of the Creator's dispensation.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

St. Katherine, Troparion, tone 4

With thy virtues, as with the rays of the sun, / thou didst enlighten the unbelieving philosophers; / and, like the most radiant moon shining on those who walk at night, / thou dost drive away the darkness of unbelief. / Thou didst bring the empress to faith / and didst denounce the tyrant, O divinely elect bride. / O blessed Katherine, / with desire didst thou make haste to the heavenly bridal chamber, / to Christ the most comely Bridegroom, / and by Him hast thou been crowned with a royal crown. / Standing with angels before Him, / do thou pray for us // who keep thy most honored memory.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

St. Katherine, Kontakion, tone 2

O ye who love the martyrs / raise up an honored chorus in godly manner / honoring the most wise Katherine / for in the arena she preached Christ and trod upon the serpent // putting down the knowledge of the rhetors.

Feast of the Entrance, Kontakion, tone 4

The all-pure Temple of the Savior, / the precious Bridal Chamber and Virgin, / the sacred treasure of the glory of God, / is led today into the house of the Lord, / and with her she bringeth the grace of the divine Spirit. / Of her God's angels sing in praise: // "She is indeed the heavenly Tabernacle."