

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 23

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

Entrance of the Theotokos, 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. Alexander Nevsky, Troparion, tone 4

Recognize thy brethren, O right-believing Prince Alexander, / thou Russian Joseph who reignest not in Egypt but in heaven; / and accept their entreaties, / increasing the harvests of thy people through the fertility of thy land, / and protecting the cities of thy dominion by thy supplications. / and together with our Orthodox hierarchs // do battle against all heresies.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

St. Alexander Nevsky, Kontakion, tone 4

As thy kinsmen Boris and Gleb appeared to thee, / bringing thee help from heaven / when thou didst battle against Velgar the Swede and his warriors, / so now, O blest Alexander, come to our aid // and contend thou against those who wage war against us.

Feast, 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."

Announcements for November 23

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 if we are communing), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

The Special Offering this week will be for Father Seraphim Holland's prison ministry.

Classes this Week

Today, 11:45, Basics of Orthodoxy, Creed, "One Baptism".

Today, noon: Sbdn Anthony's Choir and Reading Class

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Writings of St. Athanasius of Alexandria:
On the Incarnation

Next Sunday, Basics of Orthodoxy, Creed, Articles 7, 11, 12: Last Things (Eschatology)

Today, we honor the Resurrection of Christ and the Holy Right-believing Prince Aleksandr Nevsky of Novgorod, Russia. O holy Prince Aleksandr, pray to Christ God for us!

This Week, we celebrate the Feast of the Great Martyr Katherine on Monday with Liturgy at 8:00 and the secular holiday Thanksgiving on Thursday with Divine Liturgy offering thanks to God at 8:00. Father Justin will hold an open house on Friday from 4:00 p.m. in honor of his 50th birthday (Nov 25). All are welcome; please bring Thanksgiving leftovers to share.

The Incarnation of the eternal Son and Word of the Father is the focus both of the Nativity season fast approaching and the work we shall be studying in our Wednesday night class, *On the Incarnation*, by St. Athanasius the Great. Please join us on Wednesday nights! If you don't have a text, Father Justin has copies. You may also find it online: <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf204.html>

Almsgiving is an essential part of our Christian lives, and God gives much grace in response to our giving alms to those in need. For the Nativity Fast, you may give money in the alms box, but you may also bring non-perishable food for our modest food pantry, which goes to

help both parishioners and those outside the Church who come with need. Please give generously with joy!

Nativity Fast has begun. 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.

Please Pray: for catechumens Holly Bellan, Seth Williams, and Rick Hollebeak, the postulant Elias, the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioners: the newly departed Stephen and Natalya (daughter) Perrin, and for Natalya (mother) in hospital in critical condition.

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 \$2773.68 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$5401.32; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$73; Building Fund \$2, Special offering for St. Arsenius Skete \$137; Soda Jar (Renovation) \$7.50. Attendance: Liturgy 87, Vigil 40.

From Saint Maximus

If in time of trial a man does not patiently endure his afflictions, but cuts himself off from the love of his spiritual brethren, he does not yet possess perfect love or a deep knowledge of divine providence.

The aim of divine providence is to unite by means of true faith and spiritual love those separated in various ways by vice. Indeed, the Savior endured His sufferings so that 'He should gather together into one the scattered children of God' (John 11: 52). Thus, he who does not resolutely bear trouble, endure affliction, and patiently sustain hardship, has strayed from the path of divine love and from the purpose of providence.

400 Chapters on Love, 4.16-17

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201
(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org
Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Bulletin for Sunday November 23rd, 2014

Schedule of Services

November 23rd Sunday St. Aleksandr Nevsky

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
noon Basics of Orthodox Class: Creed, Article 10 Baptism
3:00 p.m. Vespers

November 24th Monday St. Katherine of Alexandria

7:00 a.m. Matins
8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 26th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:00 Confession
7:00 p.m. Vespers
8:00 p.m. Class: St. Athanasius of Alexandria, *On The Incarnation*

November 27th Thursday Thanksgiving Day

7:00 a.m. Matins
8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 29th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 30th Sunday St. Andrew

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
noon Basics of Orthodox Class: Creed, Article 7, 11 12

But now that the Savior has raised His body, death is no longer terrible, but all those who believe in Christ tread it underfoot as nothing, and prefer to die rather than to deny their faith in Christ, knowing full well that when they die they do not perish, but live indeed, and become incorruptible through the resurrection. *St. Athanasius the Great, On the Incarnation, ¶27*

Water will quench a blazing fire, and almsgiving will atone for sins. He who repays kindnesses is mindful of the hereafter, and at the time of his fall he will find support. *Wisdom of Sirach, 3:28-29*