

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, November 25th, 2018

November 25th Sunday, tone 1 Leavetaking of the Entrance

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 26th Monday

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 27th Tuesday Martyr James the Persian

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

2:30 p.m. Class: *Sermon on the Mount*

November 28th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: *400 Chapters on Love*

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 29th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 30th Friday

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Choir Singing at the Treelighting on the Square

December 1st Saturday St. Philaret the Merciful

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

9:30 a.m. Slavonic Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 2nd Sunday, tone 2

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Craft Fair, Mission Council

On Orthodox Theanthropic Culture, *St. Justin of Chelije*
Theanthropic culture transfigures man from within, and thereby likewise influences his external condition. It transfigures the soul, and by way of the soul, it transfigures the body. According to this culture, the body is the temple of the soul, and it lives, moves and has its being through the soul. Take away the soul from the body and what will remain other than a stinking corpse? The God-man first of all transfigures the soul, and subsequently also the body. The transfigured soul transfigures the body; it transfigures matter. The goal of Theanthropic culture is to transfigure not only man and humanity, but also all of nature through them. But how is this goal to be attained? Only by Theanthropic means: through the evangelic virtues of faith and love, hope and prayer, fasting and humility, meekness and compassion, love of God and neighbor. It is by means of these (*cont. p. 3*)

Announcements for November 25th

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 also invite you to go first through the line at Coffee Hour.

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).

The Special Offering this week is for the local Interfaith Ministries which help provide necessities for those in need. Part of our Nativity Almsgiving will be devoted to supporting this ministry.

Our Food Pantry appreciates the recent additions, some which came in useful this past week. Please remember it in your almsgiving.

New Catechumens: today we welcome Brian, Adrienne, and Hannah Freas into the ranks of the catechumens.

Choir on the Square: Our choir will be singing this Friday night at the Treelighting on the Square at 7:00 p.m. Come out to support them and for a festive time.

Children's Craft Fair is coming up next Sunday, December 2. All young people who have crafted things are welcome to bring them that day for display and sale.

The Nativity Fast has begun and lasts until the Nativity of our Lord, December 25. We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil, (unless modifications are shown on the wall calendar) and marital relations. If you have questions about the fast or how to apply it in your current circumstances, please speak to your priest or confessor.

Classes this Week:

Sunday at the bell during coffee hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 101

Tuesday 2:30 p.m. *Sermon on the Mount*

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. *400 Chapters on Love*, St. Maximus

Building Fund Watch

"Establish Thou this holy house, even unto the consummation of the age."

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$181,370.88.

New goal: \$200,000 by year's end. We tentatively aim to raise \$500,000 before we start building.

A Small Relic of St. Maximus given to our parish in January has been put out for veneration in the round silver box on the ledge under the large icon of St. Herman. The oblong reliquary holds a relic

of St. Herman, and the wooden box one of an unknown monk-martyr from Greece whose relics were found fragrant in the past few years.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and 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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during service). There are also boxes for alms and our building fund.

Last week, we gave \$4530.95 in tithes and offerings; in November, we have given \$12,450.29 our monthly budget is \$15,112 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$70, Building Fund \$106, Special Offering for Prison Ministry \$83. Attendance last week: Vigil 83 (a record); Sunday Liturgy 146.

Please Pray for our new catechumens Brian, Adrienne and Hannah Freas, for catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, James Blankenship, Donna Lange, Jonathan Kidd, Katelyn Davis, Chris Day, and the Heitzenrater family: John, Christina, Madeleine, Margaret, Aemelia, John "William", Isabella, Mary Elizabeth, Thomas, Charles, Charlotte, Esteban Lopez; for our inquirers the Dean family, Robert Peterson, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children, David & Anita Charpie and their children, for Robert Osborne; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

4.62 He who has been granted the grace of spiritual knowledge and yet harbors resentment, rancor or hatred for anybody, is like someone who lacerates his eyes with thorns and thistles. Hence knowledge must be accompanied by love.

4.63 Do not devote all your time to your body but apply to it a measure of asceticism appropriate to its strength, and then turn all your intellect to what is within. 'Bodily asceticism has only a limited use, but true devotion is useful in all things' (1Tim. 4:8).

4.64 He who always concentrates on the inner life becomes restrained, long-suffering, kind and humble. He will also be able to contemplate, theologize and pray. That is what St Paul meant when he said: 'Walk in the Spirit' (Gal. 5:16).

(from page 1) virtues that Theanthropic Orthodox culture is fashioned. Pursuing these virtues, man transfigures his deformed soul, making it beautiful; it is transformed from something dark into something light, something sinful into something holy, something with a dark countenance into something Godlike. And he transfigures his body into a temple that can accommodate his Godlike soul.

Troparia and Kontakia for November 25th

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

Entrance of 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. Clement of Rome, tone 4

All-gloriously amazing all the ends of the world / with divine miracles, O sacred
athlete, / in manner transcending nature, / thou didst cause the substance of the waters
of the sea to withdraw / on the day of thine honored memorial, / for those who ever
earnestly had recourse to the church erected for thee by God to shelter thy relics; / and
after the people had returned / thou didst miraculously cause the sea to return to the
shore. // O all-wondrous Clement entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the
world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath
vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage,
now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the
Resurrection!

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

St. Clement, Kontakion, tone 2

Thou hast been shown to all / as a branch of the divine vine arrayed in
sanctity, / exuding the sweetness of wisdom with thy supplications / O most
honored and holy Clement, / that we may offer the noetic hymn, / like a
woven robe of purple: // save thou thy servants.

Entrance of Theotokos, 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."

"It is not he who begins well who is perfect. It is he who ends well who
is approved in God's sight." *St. Basil the Great*
