

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Church

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Warden: Adam Skelton; Treasurer: Meghan Jones; Council Members: David Charpie,
Brian Freas, Jonathan Strand

Bulletin for Sunday, November 21st, 2021

November 21st Sunday Entrance of Theotokos. Tone 5

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

2:00 p.m. Vespers

November 22nd Monday Apostles of 70 Philemon & Archippus

6:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers

November 23rd Tuesday St. Alexander Nevsky

5:30 a.m. Matins

6:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 24th Wednesday St. Katherine

5:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Akathist: Glory to God for All Things!

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 25th Thursday Thanksgiving

6:30 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

November 26th Friday

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession, Decatur

November 27th Saturday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Decatur

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 28th Sunday. Tone 6

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

2:00 p.m. Vespers

Let not the compelling habits of sin prevail over me, O Christ, nor let the demon, ever warring against me, gain possession of me and bear me down under his will, but pluck me from his power and tyranny and reign in me Thyself, making me wholly thine, O Thou who lovest mankind, and vouchsafe me to live according to Thy will, O Word, and to have rest in Thee, finding cleansing, salvation, and great mercy. *Monday Vespers, tone 5*

Announcements for November 21

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, and fellowship. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the candle table by the door.

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 today will be for Alms.

Nativity Fast Almsgiving: There is a large box in the hall for collecting things for Loreto House to minister to young mothers. They need pullups, diapers, prenatal gummy vitamins, breastfeeding supplies, baby soap and shampoo, baby wipes, winter coats for babies and toddlers, winter clothes for babies in sizes from newborn to six months, and Similac infant formula with iron.

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Jason and for Katherine Frederick for her nameday and for Fr. Justin.

Classes this Week:

Sunday, Coffee Hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 101

Sunday, Coffee Hour, Teen Class

The I Peter class and the Thursday Basics classes will not meet.

Thanksgiving: Special Thanksgiving services will be held this week Wednesday evening and Thursday morning. They will include the Akathist "Glory to God for All Things" Wednesday evening. Both the Wells and the Fredericks have an open invitation to anyone who wishes to join them for a Thanksgiving meal.

The Nativity Fast: We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil, (unless modifications are shown on the wall calendar) and marital relations in order to give ourselves to increased prayer, almsgiving, spiritual reading, repentance, and service to others as we pursue purity of heart and being filled more fully with Christ. If you have questions about the fast, please see your priest or confessor. Everyone who communes here should make preparation for a thorough Confession during the Fast.

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 is also a box for alms at the candle table.

Last week, we gave \$4394.70 in tithes and offerings; in November, we have given \$8814.45; our monthly budget is \$19,300; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund); Building Fund, \$100; Candles \$116.50, special offering for Loreto House \$218. May God bless you for your faithful giving! Attendance: Saturday Vigil 46, Sunday Liturgy 127.

St. Leo of Optina said, "We must be certain that the Divine Providence of God always watches over us, and arranges all circumstances for our benefit, even when they are unpleasant for us."

Please Pray for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Haley Smith, David and Melissa Sims and their children Carter, Molly, and Caroline, Ethan Peterson, Vincent Howell, Lance Rawlinson, Delsie Bussell, Amanda Putnam, Haydon Grosch, Ben Pimpler, for new catechumens Janelle Schnulle, and Johnny Jelinek; and for our inquirers Ryan McDowell, Douglas Burr, Glen Farris, Rachel Simms. Pray for sick Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, Adam Kaufman, and for all whose employment is threatened by shot mandates.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance at end of October: \$404,298.93

And if blood of Martyrs is to flow on the steps

We must first build the steps;

And if the Temple is to be cast down

We must first build the Temple. *T.S. Eliot*

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.92 Our intellect lies between angel and demon, each of which works for its own ends, the one encouraging virtue and the other vice. The intellect has both the authority and the power to follow or resist whichever it wishes to.

3.93 The angelic powers urge us towards what is holy. Our natural instincts and our probity of intention assist us. But the passions and sinfulness of intention reinforce the provocations of the demons.

3.94 When the intellect is pure, sometimes God Himself approaches and teaches it; and sometimes the angelic powers, or the nature of the created things that it contemplates, suggest holy things to it.

3.95 An intellect which has been granted spiritual knowledge must keep its conceptual images free from passion, its contemplation unflinching, and its state of prayer untroubled. But it cannot always

guard these from intrusions by the flesh, because it is obscured by the ploys of demons.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 21*

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.

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. 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.

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*

Let us the faithful praise with fitting hymns / that lover of the Holy Trinity, great Maximus, / who clearly taught the divinely-given Faith: / that we should give glory unto Christ our God, / Who, but one person, hath in very truth / two natures, wills, and energies. / Let us cry to him: // Rejoice, divine herald of the Faith.

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*
