

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, November 15, 2009

Schedule of Services

**November 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

Nativity Fast Begins

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**November 17<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Molieben to St. Maximus

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox: Divine Liturgy

**November 18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

12:30 p.m. Class: St. Theophan the Recluse

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**November 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**November 20<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**November 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday Entry of the Theotokos**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

When the foolish thought of counting up any of your good works enters your head, at once correct your fault, and instead count up your sins, your repeated and numberless offences, and you will find that they are as the sand of the sea, whilst your virtues in comparison are as nothing.

Keep a strict watch against every appearance of pride; it appears imperceptibly, particularly when you are vexed or irritable with others for unimportant reasons. *St. John of Kronstadt*

## Announcements for November 15<sup>th</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee and 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, i.e., those preparing for Baptism & Chrismation, 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). We should be modestly dressed and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading).

**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, or better yet, stay for the prayers so you don't have to read them later at home.

**The Special Freewill Offering** today will be for our building fund.

**Church School** will meet as usual following the Liturgy today.

**Temple Oil** brought for the health and salvation of Alexander Slepukhov.

### Classes this Week

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy, Divine Liturgy Line-by-Line: Liturgy of the Faithful, the Great Entrance

Wednesday 12:30 p.m. Adult Study. We shall start new class on St. Theophan this week, reading first his short work on prayer and then *Path of Salvation*.

**Icon of St. Herman:** The iconographer is about to begin the large icon of St. Herman we have commissioned which will occupy the alcove with our relic. He hopes to have the icon done and shipped to us by December 13, the Feast of St. Herman. The icon will cost us \$500. If anyone wishes to sponsor this offering in honor of our first North American Saint either in full or in part, now would be a good time!

**Alms:** Besides the alms box on the candle table and special offerings, we have bins under the bookstore for two local charities: Woman to Woman, which helps unwed pregnant mothers, and Interfaith Ministries, which helps local people in need. Items such as food and diapers may be brought (see the sheet of needs on each bin). There is also a bin for the new women's monastery. This sort of almsgiving is particularly appropriate during the upcoming Nativity Fast

**The Nativity Fast**, the 40-day period of preparation for the Nativity of our Lord, begins today and lasts until the Liturgy the morning of the Nativity of Our Lord, December 25. Our goal is to 'make room' in our hearts for the Lord by clearing out the junk that keeps us from knowing Him well. We keep the Fast by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, by abstaining from sin and cutting back (or out) secular entertainments which may distract us from focusing our attention on Christ; we fast for repentance, healing, cleansing, growth, and, ultimately— for knowing Christ more intimately and being filled afresh with His Spirit. We abstain from meat, dairy products, fish, wine, and oil (see wall calendar for when fish, wine, and oil are permitted) and marital relations so that we can give ourselves to prayer and spiritual reading and have extra means for almsgiving. As always, if we have questions about how to keep the fast or have difficulty with some aspect of it, we should speak with our priest.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** Thom Anderson, and for Adam & Melanie Betz, for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Mary Moses, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire, and Ken & Pam Northam and their daughters Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Georgii. Please remember Met. Jonah in your prayers, and the nun Barbara, and Louise Newcomb, recovering from a broken hip and hip replacement surgery.

**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) and a box for the building fund.

Last week, we gave \$578 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$2023 in regular tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$35; Bookstore \$4; Building fund \$0; Special Gifts \$175. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 27, Liturgy 57.

### From Saint Maximus

He is a powerful man who couples knowledge with action; for by the latter [action] he extinguishes lust and subdues anger, and by the former [knowledge] he gives wings to the mind and flies off to God.

*400 Chapters on Love, 2.28*

## Troparia and Kontakia for November 15<sup>th</sup>



### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

### 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.

### Martyrs Gurias, Samonas, Abibus, Troparion, tone 5

O Christ God, Thou hast given us an impregnable rampart / in the miracles of Thy holy martyrs. / Through their supplications destroy Thou the councils of the heathen / and strengthen the scepters of kingdoms // in that Thou art good and lovest mankind.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human race /, for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

### St. Maximus, Kontakion, tone 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

### Martyrs Gurias, Samonas, Abibus, Kontakion, tone 2

Having received grace from on high, O most lauded martyrs, / ye intercede for those amid temptations; / wherefore, ye delivered the maiden from a bitter death, / O holy ones: // for ye are truly the glory of Edessa and the joy of the world!