

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, November 22, 2009

Schedule of Services

November 22nd Sunday

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 25th Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Akathist “Glory to God for All Things”, Confession

November 26th Thursday

7:00 a.m. Matins

November 27th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

November 28th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

November 29th Sunday

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Faith is the key to God’s treasury: “All things are possible to him that believeth.” Faith is a spiritual mouth, and the more freely it opens, the more freely may the divine streams enter in. Let it open freely, then, as does your bodily mouth; let not your lips be closed by doubt—if they are, the treasury of God’s blessing will be closed to you.

What is faith? Sureness of spiritual truth, of that which is, or of, God. To believe means to be as sure of the reality of the spiritual world as of the material world.

Nothing is impossible to those who believe: lively and unshaken faith can accomplish great miracles in the twinkling of an eye. And even without it miracles are wrought, such as those accomplished in the Sacraments; for God’s Mystery is always accomplished, even when we are lacking in faith, when it is celebrated.

Faith gives rest and joy; unbelief gives trouble and wounds.

St. John of Kronstadt

Announcements for November 22nd

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 given for the health and salvation of Monica Martinez.

No Classes this Week

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. 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!

New Vacuum Needed: The parish needs a *new* vacuum to facilitate cleaning the church.

Church Cleaners: We also need the faithful who love the Lord's house to volunteer to clean each week.

Bookstore: There are a number of catalogues from various Orthodox sources if anyone is interested in browsing them for gifts.

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 runs through December 25. We keep the Fast by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, by abstaining from sin and cutting back (or out) secular entertainments which distract us from 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 \$1475.05 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$3498.05 in regular tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$25.50; Bookstore \$164; Building fund \$77; Special Gifts \$175. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 20, Liturgy 56.

From Saint Maximus

The one who is perfect in love and has reached the summit of detachment knows no distinction between one's own and another's, between faithful and unfaithful, between slave and freeman, or indeed between male and female. But having risen above the tyranny of the passions and looking to the one nature of men he regards all equally and is equally disposed towards all. For in him there is neither Greek nor Jew, neither male nor female, neither slave nor freeman, but Christ is everything and in everything.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.30

Troparia and Kontakia for November 22nd



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 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

Apostles Philemon, Onesimus, Apphia et. al., Troparion, tone 3

O ye holy apostles, / intercede with the merciful God / that He grant unto our souls // forgiveness of our transgressions.

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

Let us the faithful praise with fitting hymns / that lover of 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.

Apostles Philemon, Onesimus, Apphia et. al., Kontakion, tone 2

Let us praise the apostles of Christ— / the glorious Philemon, the sacred Archippus, / Onesimus, Mark, and Apollos, / and with them the most wise Apphia— / as most radiant stars illumining the ends of the earth; / and let us cry out: // Pray ye unceasingly in behalf of us all!

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."