

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 13, 2009

Schedule of Services

December 13th Sunday St. Herman of Alaska

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 15th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Akathist

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Class Divine Liturgy

December 16th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

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

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 17th Thursday

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 18th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Reader's, Vespers; *Russian Vespers, Dallas*

December 19th Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Vespers, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 20th Sunday

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

With sincere Christians, prayer is continual, because we continually sin; gratitude is perpetual, because every day, every moment, we receive fresh mercies from God, beside the old mercies, which are numberless. Praise is also perpetual, because we perpetually see the glory of God's works in ourselves and in the world, especially the glory of His infinite love towards us.

St. John of Kronstadt

Announcements for December 13th

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 lest to forget to read them on your own later.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for debt reduction.

Please Pray for Ash Davis as he is received into the catechumenate.

Church School will meet as usual following the Liturgy today.

Holy Unction will NOT be served Dec 22 as previously scheduled. We shall try to reschedule sometime before or during Great Lent.

Classes this Week

Basics of Orthodoxy, Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, The Lord's Prayer

St. Theophan the Recluse, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. We are reading and discussing his book *The Path of Salvation*.

NTOM Pre-Lenten Retreat: Saturday, January 23, 2010, 8:30 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Fr. Joseph Honeycutt will be speaking at Holy Trinity in Dallas on "Kindling the Original Spark". Matins, continental breakfast, discussion groups, closing session, and Vespers at 3:00 also included. Plan now to attend.

Monastery Trip: Anyone interested in going to Holy Archangels Greek Monastery near San Antonio, please let Fr. Justin know. We may try to go down Jan 10-13 or 14 or so. Women can go to, but they cannot spend the night on monastery grounds.

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

Recycling for Alms: We recycle aluminum cans, sell them, and put the money in our almsbox. If anyone would like to put their aluminum cans to good use, please bring them to the church.

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 lasts through the Liturgy on Nativity morning (Dec 25). We abstain from meat and dairy for the whole fast, and fish, wine (alcohol), and oil (except when permitted per the wall calendar) and marital relations so that we can give more in alms, pray more effectively, and open our hearts more widely to God. As always, if you have questions or problems, please talk to your priest.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: Thom Anderson, Adam & Melanie Betz, and Ashley Davis; for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Mary Moses, Jason, Sean, Javier, 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.

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 \$1137.63 884.58 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$2022.21 in regular tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$34; Bookstore \$208; Building fund \$0; Special Gifts \$150. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 13, Liturgy 50.

From Saint Maximus

Likewise, there are three things that move us to evil: passion, the demons, and a bad will. First passion, as when we desire an object beyond reason, such as food, outside the time or need, a woman outside the purpose of procreation or one not lawfully ours; or again when we are angered or grieved, for instance, against the one who offends or hurts us. Second, the demons, as when they wait for the moment of our carelessness and suddenly set upon us with much

