

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton


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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 20, 2009

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



Schedule of Services

December 20th Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vespers

December 21st Monday

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 22nd Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 23rd Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 24th Thursday Nativity Eve

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours

12:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

5:30 p.m. Vigil

7:30 p.m. Holy Supper

December 25th Friday Nativity of Our Lord

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 26th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 27th Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

It is evident that many live without grace, not recognizing its importance and its absolute necessity, and that they do not seek it, although the word of the Lord says, *Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*. Many live in plenty and ease, enjoy blooming health, eat, and drink with pleasure, walk, amuse themselves, write, or labor in this or that human activity, but they have not the grace of God in their hearts, that priceless treasure of the Christian, without which none can be a true Christian and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.

St. John of Kronstadt

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

Announcements for December 20th

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 our choir director, Subdeacon Anthony Stokes and his family. Also there is a need for some help with gas money to get the young people going to the annual service retreat in Pharr, Texas down there. Please see Father or Becki Stevenson if you'd like to help.

Church School will meet as usual following the Liturgy today; next Sunday the children's choir.

Holy Unction will NOT be served Dec 22 as previously scheduled.

No Classes this Week!

The Holy Supper will follow the Vigil Thursday evening on Nativity eve. Please sign up to bring a fast-worthy dish and come share the last meal of the Fast together.

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.

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 \$1755.35 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$3777.56 in regular tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$44.50; Bookstore \$; Building fund \$0; Special Gifts \$150; Debt Reduction \$8. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 20, Liturgy 65

From Saint Maximus

The reward for the labors of virtue is detachment and knowledge. For these become our patrons in the kingdom of heaven just as the passions and ignorance are patrons of eternal punishment. Thus the one who seeks these out of human glory and not for one's own good should hear the Scripture, "You ask but do not receive because you ask wrongly."
400 Chapters on Love, 2.34

Troparia and Kontakia for December 20th



Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.
/ From the womb of hell hath He delivered us, // and hath granted the world great mercy.

Troparion, Holy Forefathers, tone 2

By faith, Thou didst justify the forefathers, / when through them didst betroth Thyself aforetime / to the Church from among the nations. / The Saints boast in glory / that from their seed, there is a glorious fruit, / even she that bare Thee seedlessly. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Troparion, Forefeast of Nativity, tone 4

Make ready, O Bethlehem! / Open unto all, O Eden! / Adorn thyself, O Ephrata! / For the Tree of life hath blossomed forth from the Virgin in the cave. / Her womb is shown to be a noetic paradise, / wherein lieth a divine garden, eating from which we live, not dying like Adam. // Christ is born to raise up His image which before was fallen.

Kontakion, Holy Forefathers, tone 6

Ye would not worship a hand-wrought image, O thrice blessed ones; / but armed by the Undepictable Essence, / ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire. / Standing in the midst of the irresistible flame, ye called upon God: / Speed Thou, O Compassionate One, since Thou art merciful, / and hasten to come unto our aid; for Thou art able, if it be Thy will.

Forefeast of Nativity, Kontakion, tone 1

Be glad, O Bethlehem! / Make ready, O Ephratha! / For lo! she who beareth the Lamb and Shepherd in her womb / doth make haste to give birth. / Beholding this, the God-bearing fathers are glad // hymning with the shepherds the Virgin who giveth milk.