

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, February 7, 2010

Schedule of Services

February 7th Sunday Last Judgment Meatfare

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m. Mission Council

February 9th Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Matins
2:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 10th Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Matins
7:00 p.m. Vespers
8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

February 11th Thursday

6:30 a.m. Matins
1:00 p.m. Class: St. Theophan, *Path of Salvation*
2:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 12th Friday

6:30 a.m. Matins
7:00 p.m. *Russian Vespers, Dallas*

February 13th Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Liturgy, St. Seraphim Cathedral*
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 14th Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
6:00 p.m. Forgiveness Vespers

When the thrones are set up and the books are opened, and God sitteth in judgment, O what fear there will be then! When the angels stand trembling in Thy presence, and the river of fire floweth before Thee, what shall we do then guilty of many sins? When we hear Him call the blessed of His Father into the Kingdom, but send the sinners to their punishment, who shall endure His fearful condemnation? But, Savior, King of the ages, who alone lovest mankind, before the end cometh turn me back through repentance and have mercy on me.

Triodion, Vespers, Lord, I Have Cried

Announcements for February 7th

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 you forget to read them on your own later.

The Special Freewill Offering today will be for our Priest.

Temple Oil given for the health of Christopher.

Church School today as usual right after Liturgy.

Schedule Change: Please note that henceforward, the St. Theophan class will meet on Thursday afternoons. All are welcome.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.: Basics of Orthodoxy

Thursday, 1:00 p.m., St. Theophan, *Path of Salvation*

Mission Council will meet today at about 11:30. Meetings are open to all parishioners.

Forgiveness Vespers: February 14, 6:00 p.m. All parishioners are expected to attend this service.

Abbot Meletios's Talks from the OCA DOS Pastoral Conference were excellent and are available for hearing on-line at http://saintjohnwonderworker.org/Fr_Meletios_2010.html, or go to dosoca.org and click on the link.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: Thom Anderson, Adam & Melanie Betz, Ashley Davis, Mary Moses, Javier Largazpada, and Sean; for our new catechumens Ken and Pam Northam and their children, for **our inquirers** John Parsons, Jason O'Brien, Robert & Elisabeth Terry and their children Thomas, Calvin, Owen, and Claire. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston.

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 about \$1168 in tithes and offerings; in January we gave \$6229.81; our monthly budget is \$8835 (\$2039 per week). Candles \$53; Bookstore \$15; Building fund 32; Special Gifts \$50, Nativity Monastery, \$46. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 24, Liturgy 72.

From Saint Maximus

There are certain things which check the passions in the movement and do not allow them to advance and increase, and there are others which diminish them and make them decrease. For example, fasting, hard labor, and vigils do not allow concupiscence [lust: excessive desire for anything] to grow, while solitude, contemplation, prayer, and desire for God decrease it and make it disappear. And similarly, this is the case with anger: for example, long-suffering, the forgetting of offenses, and meekness check it and do not allow it to grow, while love, almsgiving, kindness, and benevolence make it diminish.

For the mind of the one who is continually with God, even his concupiscence abounds beyond measure into a divine desire and whose entire irascible element is transformed into divine love. For by an enduring participation in the divine illumination, it has become altogether shining bright, and having bound its passible [that which changes and is subject to decay] element to itself, as I said, [has] turned it around to a never-ending divine desire and an unceasing love, completely changing over from earthly things to divine.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.47-48

From Saint John of Kronstadt (+1908)

Health and the stomach, these are idols—particularly with men of today, of whom I myself, a great sinner, am one—the idols for which we live and which we serve continually, even to the neglect of the duties of our Christian calling, such as the reading of the word of God, which is sweeter than honey; prayer, that sweetest converse with God; and the preaching of the word. To walk a great deal for health [run, exercise, work out], and to incite the appetite, to eat

with appetite—such are the objects of many of us [for us it is usually to lose weight or to look ‘buff’]. But through our frequent walks, through our fondness for food and drink, we shall find that one thing has been neglected, and another irrevocably missed, and yet others have not even entered into our minds. It is not for health and stomach that you must care; you must strive to love God and our neighbor, for these are the two great commandments. “He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in Him” (I John).

Troparia and Kontakia for February 7^a



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / ‘O Giver of life, Christ our God, 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.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8

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.

Last Judgment, Kontakion, tone 1

When Thou comest, O God, upon the earth with glory, / the whole world will tremble. / The river of fire will bring men before Thy judgment seat, / the books will be opened and the secrets disclosed. / Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, / and count me worthy to stand on Thy right hand, O most righteous Judge.