

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Schedule of Services

**November 20<sup>th</sup> 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, tone 6**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

6:00 p.m. Vigil for the Entrance of the Theotokos

**November 21<sup>st</sup> Monday Entrance of the Theotokos**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Russian Class

7:30 p.m. Late Vocations Class: Church History

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Church & Rational Worship

**November 24<sup>th</sup> Thursday (Thanksgiving Day)**

7:00 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**November 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**November 27<sup>th</sup> 24th Sunday after Pentecost, tone 7**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

It is an insult to the intelligence to be subject to what lacks intelligence and to concern itself with shameful desires.

For the deiform soul to abandon the Creator and worship the body is an act of depravity.

You were commanded to keep the body as a servant, not to be unnaturally enslaved to its pleasures.

Break the bonds of your friendship for the body and give it only what is absolutely necessary.

Enclose your senses in the citadel of stillness so that they do not involve the intellect in their desires.

The greatest weapons of someone striving to lead a life of inward stillness are self-control, love, prayer, and spiritual reading.

The intellect will go on looking for sensual pleasure until you subjugate the flesh and devote yourself to contemplation.

*St. Thalassios the Libyan, 400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 2.6-12*

## Announcements for November 13<sup>th</sup>

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee and conversation. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the table by the door.

**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 (so as not to distract others) and present to hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the beginning of the Liturgy (in *unusual* circumstances no later than the Gospel reading), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

**Church School** meets today after Liturgy.

**Civil Thanksgiving** will be observed with a Thanksgiving Liturgy at 8:00 a.m. (also the Feast of St. Katherine) after Matins at 7:00. Traditionally, Abp. Dmitri gave a blessing not to keep the fast on this day, especially for those who will be celebrating with non-Orthodox relatives. Leftovers may be frozen for Nativity or given to non-Orthodox relatives and friends or to those in need.

### Classes this Week

Monday, 7:30 p.m.: Late Vocations Church History

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

Session 4: The Church and the Scriptures: Interpretation

Friday: the Psalm class will not meet.

**Mission Council** meets today after Liturgy.

**The Entrance of the Theotokos** will be celebrated with a special Vigil this evening at 6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy will be served the next morning at 9:00. This is one of the Twelve Great Feasts, and we do well to make the effort to keep the feast by attending at least part of its cycle of services.

**Ministry to Shut-ins:** We currently have two shut-ins whom the priest visits and to whom he administers the Mysteries. Each would welcome visits from parishioners. To visit Nina Johnston at 5892 Mills Road in Denton, call her son Richard to set up a visit at (972) 900-0201. Sherrie Joanna Hall, a long-time parishioner at St. Barbara's in Fort Worth who now lives in Denton, may be reached at (817) 925-4183.

**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 in 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).

Last week we gave \$1327.07; in November, we have given \$2736.82; our monthly budget is \$8179 (\$2045 per week). In addition: Building Fund, \$0, Candles \$53.50. May God bless your faithful giving!  
Attendance: Vigil 29, Liturgy 74.

**Hall Expansion Fund:** A Total of \$52,095.17 has been raised so far of the estimated \$62,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

**Expansion Update:** We have approval from the city for our expansion. We need to get the construction documents stamped by the architect, who has two projects waiting ahead of us, and then we can get the building permit and start building.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** David Eaton who is preparing for Holy Illumination; Sean Chaney, Caleb Rehmet, Elizabeth Dakak, and Hunter Bellan; and for our inquirers Joel and Mindy Brown, Shane and Ashley Gibson, Philip Smith, and Virginia Warwas. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Sherrie Joanna Hall.

### The Nativity Fast

We keep the forty-day Nativity Fast by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for our spiritual benefit: for repentance, healing, cleansing, growth that we may know Christ more intimately and partake more fully of His life in the Holy 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. Please see your priest if you have any questions.

### From Saint Maximus

God, who has promised you eternal blessings (cf. Tit. 1:2) and has given you the pledge of the Spirit in your hearts (cf. 2 Cor. 1:22), has commanded you to pay attention to how you live, so that the inner man may be freed from the passions and begin here and now to enjoy these blessings.

When you have been granted the higher forms of the contemplation of divine realities, give your utmost attention to love and self-control, so that you may keep your soul's passible aspect undisturbed and preserve the light of your soul in undiminished splendor.

*400 Chapters on Love, 4.78-79*

## Troparia and Kontakia for November 20<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.

### Forefeast of Theotokos, Troparion, tone 4

Anna now beforehand doth betroth joy unto all, / bringing forth the only Ever-virgin as fruit which allayeth grief, / and today she bringeth her, rejoicing, / into the temple of the Lord, in fulfillment of her promise. // For she is the pure Mother, the temple of God the Word.

### St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

#### SS. Gregory & Proclus, Troparion, tone 4

O God of our fathers, / who ever dealest with us according to Thy gentleness, / take not Thy mercy away from us, / but by their entreaties // govern our life in peace.

### 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 8 *Serbian Melody*

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.

### SS. Gregory & Proclus, Kontakion, tone 2

The Church knoweth thee to be a sun radiant / with the beauties of the virtues, / illumining all with rays of healings, / O favorite of Christ. / Wherefore we celebrate thine honored memory / and honor thy struggles, / O most blessed // and all-wise father Gregory.

### Forefeast of Theotokos, Kontakion, tone 4

Today, on the right notable feast of the Theotokos, / hath the whole world been filled with gladness, crying: // She is the tabernacle of heaven!