

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 5th, 2010

Schedule of Services

December 5th 28th Sunday after Pentecost, tone 3

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

11:30 a.m. Mission Council

5:30 p.m. Vespers

December 6th Monday St. Nicholas

7:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

December 7th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

December 8th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

December 9th Thursday Conception of the Theotokos

7:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 10th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

1:00 p.m. OT Class:

7:00 p.m. Compline w/Akathist, Pannikhida, Confession

December 11th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 12th 29th Sunday after Pentecost, tone 3

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

6:00 p.m. *Chantus Maximus* at St. Seraphim's for Vespers

Concerning prayer in church: know that it is higher than prayers at home, for it is raised by a whole group of people, among which many are most pure prayers, offered to God from humble hearts, which He accepts as fragrant incense. Along with these, our prayers are also accepted, even though they are feeble and worthless.

One should enter church in a spirit of humility, for prayer is not accepted if we have something against someone, or if someone has been grieved by us.

St. Macarius of Optina

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

Announcements for December 5th

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, 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 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). If we are visiting from another parish, we should know that proper church etiquette is to contact the priest ahead of time if we wish to receive Holy Communion so he doesn't have to question us as to our identity in the Communion line. We should be modestly dressed 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.

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.

The Special Offering this week is for our priest, next week to help restore a Romanian monastery.

Church School meets today following the Divine Liturgy. Please let the children and teachers go through the coffee hour line first.

Mission Council meets today after Liturgy. All welcome.

A Special Parish Meeting will be held Sunday, December 12 after church school to discuss options for the hall addition.

Many Years! to the newly-illuminated servants of God Robert, Elisabeth, Thomas, Joseph (Calvin), Patrick (Owen) and Macrina (Claire), and their sponsors, Callum (Ben), Sophia (Lois), and Photini (Louise).

Candles: Our treasurer requests that we pay for candles at the time we take them (check or cash) and not run up an IOU account, as that distorts and complicates bookkeeping. Thank you!

Confession is available Wednesdays and Fridays after Matins, at about 8:00 a.m. in addition to other scheduled times.

Classes this Week

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

Old Testament History, Friday, 1:00 p.m. "Attempts at Reform"
Hezekiah & Josiah of Judah

A Sign-up Sheet for the Holy Supper on Nativity Eve has been posted. Plan on attending and bringing one of the traditional dishes that we may eat together after the Nativity Vigil.

House Blessings will be happening beginning January 6. If you want your house blessed, please sign up on the posted sheet, and Father will get you scheduled. Please indicate whether you want a 'simple' blessing or will be wanting him to stay for a meal.

Almsgiving: Besides the almsbox on the candle table, we may use the bins, now in the coffee hour room, for our almsgiving during the Nativity Fast. Imperishable foods are particularly welcome. There is yet a good supply of "Bum Bags" there for your use as well.

Copies of the Confessor's Tongue and the weekly Bulletin may be found on our website. So too recordings of some homilies and some of the Basics of Orthodoxy Class lectures.

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).

Last week we gave \$499.24 in tithes and offerings (from members and catechumens); in November, we gave \$4168.27 (in addition, \$1101 in special gifts was given by those not members or catechumens; our monthly budget is \$7975. Candles \$68.50; Special Offering \$69.26, Special Gifts \$525. May God bless your giving! Attendance: Sunday Liturgy 66, Vigil 25.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: Thom Anderson, Sean Chaney, Ken and Pam Northam and their children Marsha, Jessica, Mariah, Emalie, Samuel Vanderburg, Michael, Gina, and Ian Rehmet. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, and for Michael Rodgers at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

From Saint Maximus

In time of prayer, chase from you mind the simple representations of human matters and the ideas of every creature, lest in creating images of lesser things you be deprived of the One who is incomparably better than them all.

If we sincerely love God, we cast out the passions by this very love. Love for Him means to prefer Him to the world, and the soul to the body. It means to despise worldly things and to devote oneself

continually to Him through self-mastery, love, prayer, psalmody, and so forth.

If we devote ourselves to God for a considerable period and give heed to the sensitive parts of the soul, we no longer run headlong into the assaults of thoughts. Rather, in very carefully considering their senses and in eradicating them, we become more perceptive and have the words fulfilled in us, "My eye also has looked down on my enemy, and my ear shall hear the malignant who rise up against me."

400 Chapters on Love, 3.49-51

Troparia and Kontakia for December 5th



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.

St. Sabbas, Troparion, tone 8

With the streams of thy tears thou didst irrigate the barren desert, / and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst make it to bear fruit a hundredfold. / Thou wast a beacon for the whole world, radiating miracles. // O Sabbas, our father, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

St. Sabbas, Kontakion, tone 8

In thy virtue thou didst offer thyself from childhood/ /unto God as an unblemished sacrifice, O blessed Sabbas, / becoming a gardener in the garden of piety. / Therefore, thou wast an adornment for the venerable, / and a right laudable citizen of the desert. // Wherefore, we cry to thee: Rejoice, O Sabbas most rich!