

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Schedule of Services

**December 26<sup>th</sup> Synaxis of the Theotokos, tone 6**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**December 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

**December 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 30<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

**December 31<sup>st</sup> Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida

**January 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Circumcision of our Lord, St. Basil**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**January 2<sup>nd</sup> 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, tone 7**

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

Stubborn disbelief and denial of the existence of God—despite obvious miracles performed, despite a multitude of facts irrefutably proving the existence of God—is called unforgivable blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, leading to perdition. Stubborn denial and disbelief are blasphemy against the Spirit of God, are not forgiven either in this life or the next one, and a person who dies in his disbelief, not having repented, has perished. *St. Barsanuphius of Optina*

One may have a good worldly relationship with non-believers, but one cannot have a relationship in prayer, and one must not carry on arguments about religion so that the name of God not be offended during an argument. *St. Nectary of Optina*

During conversation with others, it is no hindrance to be cautious in speech, and at the same time one can retain the Jesus Prayer in mind. *St. Hilarion of Optina*

## Announcements for December 26<sup>th</sup>

**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 St. George's food pantry in Pharr, TX.

**No Church School** today.

**Nativity Greeting:** Beginning with the Nativity Vigil, we greet one another with the words, "Christ is born!" "Glorify Him!", through the leavetaking of the feast on the 31<sup>st</sup>. During this time, we use the troparion and kontakion of the feast (on the back) in our morning and evening prayers. They may also replace our usual prayers before meals.

**Wall Calendars for 2011** are available in the bookstore. Three dollars will cover the cost of the calendar to the parish; please put the money in the offering basket, not in the bookstore. If you can't cover the cost, take one anyway. Everyone should have a calendar.

**Library Books:** Please return library books you have read or have had out for a long time. Thank you.

**Bookstore Gift Certificates:** The St. Maximus Bookstore now offers gift certificates in denominations of \$5, \$10, and \$20. Please see the bookstore manager Rick Joines or Fr. Justin if you want one.

**No Fasting:** the Church observes a fast-free period until January 5.

**No Classes this Week**

**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.

**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 \$2262 in tithes and offerings (from members and catechumens), this month, we have given \$6714.50; our monthly budget is \$7975. Candles \$47; Special Gifts \$0, Building Fund \$135, Expansion Fund \$576. May God bless your giving! Attendance: Sunday Liturgy 72, Vigil 15.

**Expansion Fund:** The expansion fund has pledges for \$7000; another \$576 has been given. We need to raise \$17,000 to build the planned hall expansion by March 1. Please make a pledge over and above your usual giving either of a one-time gift, or of a monthly gift for a designated number of months. We'd like to build without any loans. Pledge forms are to be found on the candle table. Once filled out, please place them in the building fund box.

**Coffee Hour Expansion:** To help fund the \$17,000 we need for our expanded hall, a jar has been placed in the coffee hour room. The Parish Council has designated that all money placed in it will go towards building the expansion and requests that we all donate something each week as we go through the line. May God bless and multiply our gifts!

**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, Jeremy Pike, and our new catechumen David Eaton. Please pray for our **shut-in** Nina Johnston, for Michael Rodgers at St. Tikhon's Seminary, and for Svetlana Birthisel.

**From Saint Maximus**

Self-love, as has frequently been said, is the cause of all passionate thoughts. From it are begotten the three capital thoughts of

concupiscence: gluttony, greed, and vanity. From gluttony, the thought of fornication arises; from greed, that of covetousness; and from vanity, that of arrogance. All the rest follow one or the other of these three: the thoughts of anger, grief, resentment, sloth, envy, back-biting, and the rest. These passions, then, bind the mind to material things and keep it down on the earth, weighing on it like a very heavy stone, though by nature it should be lighter and livelier than fire.

*400 Chapters on Love, 3.56*

## Troparia and Kontakia for December 26<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.

### Nativity, Troparion, tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God / hath shone upon the world the light of wisdom. / For by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of Righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

### Righteous Ones, Troparion, tone 2

O Joseph, proclaim glad tidings to David, the ancestor of God, / for thou hast seen a Virgin give birth; / with the shepherds, thou didst give glory; / with the magi thou didst worship; / by an Angel thou wast instructed. / Entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.

### Righteous Ones, Kontakion, tone 3

Today the godly David is filled with gladness, / and Joseph offereth praise with James. / They rejoice, receiving a crown through their kinship with Christ; / and they laud Him who hath ineffably been born on earth, // and cry aloud: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

### Nativity, Kontakion, tone 3

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offereth a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with Shepherds glorify Him! / The wise men journey with the star: // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!