

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

**Bulletin for Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**

**Schedule of Services**

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

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

**January 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

**January 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Festal Vigil, Confession

**January 6<sup>th</sup> Thursday Holy Theophany**

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Great Blessing of the Waters

**January 7<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Russian Vespers, Pannikhida

**January 8<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**January 9<sup>th</sup> 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, tone 8**

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

We are spiritual soldiers, and we have irreconcilable and invisible enemies who are dauntless, most evil, and who endlessly try to conquer and destroy that city which is our soul. We must not continue our life of laziness and sinful slumber, but imploring the help of God, we must stand up against our enemy. He only has power against us when we are confident and become proud of ourselves; but if we conduct ourselves with humility in every situation, then all the snares and power of the enemy are destroyed. *St. Macarius of Optina*

Be brave and firm in spirit in your faith and hope in the mercies of the gracious Lord, that in the situations that seem to be opposing us, he is working out our salvation. Acknowledge your weakness and your failure to submit to the will of God and to fulfill His commandments. From this acknowledgement you will obtain humility for yourself and you will see the help of God. *St. Leo of Optina*

## Announcements for January 2<sup>nd</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 our priest.

**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.

**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.

**Holy Theophany**, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with Vigil Wednesday night at 7:00 and Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Waters at 8:00 a.m. Thursday. We do well to attend at least part of the cycle of services for the Great Feasts.

### Classes this Week

Friday, 1:00 p.m. Old Testament History

**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 \$855.13 in tithes and offerings (from members and catechumens), in December, we gave \$7569.63; our monthly budget is \$7975. Candles \$98.50; Special Gifts \$325, Building Fund \$7; Expansion Fund \$62. May God bless your giving! Attendance: Sunday Liturgy 50, Vigil 9 (Vespers) 9; Nativity Vigil 43, Liturgy 47.

**Expansion Fund:** The expansion fund has pledges for \$7000; another \$638 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 (suggests \$5 per family) 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 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

The beginning of all passions is love of self, and the end is pride. Self-love is irrational love of the body, and if one eliminates this, he eliminates along with it all the passions stemming from it.

*400 Chapters on Love, 3.57*

## Troparia and Kontakia for January 2<sup>nd</sup>



### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

### Forefeast of Theophany, Troparion, tone 4

Make ready, O Zebulun! / Adorn thyself, O Naphtali! / O River Jordan, leaping up, receive thou the Master, / who cometh to be baptized! / Hide not yourselves as ye did before in Paradise; / for He that beheld you naked hath revealed Himself, / that He may clothe you in your primal raiment. / Christ hath appeared, // desiring to make all creation new!

### St. Seraphim, Troparion, tone 4

From thy youth thou hast loved Christ, O Blessed One, / and, with burning zeal to work for Him alone, / Thou hast contended in unceasing prayer and labor in the wilderness; / and gaining by compunction of heart the love of Christ, / thou hast appeared as chosen and beloved of the Theotokos. / Therefore we cry out to thee: // “Save us by thy prayers, O our Venerable Father Seraphim.”

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

### St. Seraphim, Kontakion, tone 2

Forsaking the beauty of the world and the corruption therein, / thou didst make thine in abode in the Monastery of Sarov. / And having lived there as an angel, / thou didst become for many a path to salvation. / For this cause, Christ hath glorified thee, O father Seraphim, / and enriched thee with the gift of healings and miracles. // Wherefore, we cry out to thee: Rejoice, O our venerable father Seraphim!

### Forefeast of Theophany, Kontakion, tone 4

In the streams of the Jordan, / the Lord crieth out to John today: / “Fear not to baptize Me, / for I have come to save Adam // the first-created!”