

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, January 23rd, 2011

Schedule of Services

January 23rd 35th Sunday After Pentecost, tone 2

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

January 25th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins

January 26th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Divine Liturgy 3

January 28th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

9:00 p.m. "Hesychastic Vigil"

January 29th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 30th 36th Sunday After Pentecost, tone 3

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

Everyone bears his cross, and you bear your cross, even though it is only the size of a finger; you still bear it. The bearing of a cross is absolutely necessary for every Christian for his salvation, and not only for monks. Yes, everyone bears a cross, and has borne a cross; even the Incarnate God bore a cross, and His Cross as the heaviest, as if combining it itself all the crosses of mankind. And take note: God is carrying the cross, and a man (Simon the Cyrenian) helps Him. He takes the cross from Him and carries it himself. This means that by bearing our crosses we help the Lord to carry the cross.

St. Barsanuphius of Optina

To bear the cross does not mean only visible, external sorrows, but also internal, spiritual ones. One must endure darkness, faint-heartedness, and similar things as well. For God sends this for the destruction of our pride and acquiring of humility.

St. Macarius of Optina

Announcements for January 23rd

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

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.

Today has been designated as Sanctity of Life Sunday by the Orthodox Bishops of North America.

The Special Offering this week is for the library.

Coffee Hour Donations go to support building new space for Coffee Hour.

Feast of St. Sava, old style, will be celebrated at St. Sava's, Plano, this Monday evening with Vespers at 4:00, Dinner at 4:00, and Festal matins (Orthros) at 6:00. Our men's choir will be singing the Matins service. Divine Liturgy will be the next morning at 9:30. Here is an opportunity to support our male choir and to visit a sister parish (1501 Jupiter Road, Allen, TX, 75002).

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox 7: Divine Liturgy 3:
The Great Litany, Part One

Friday, 1:00 p.m. Old Testament History: Daniel & the Return
from Exile

A New Friday Class in February will be reading and discussing Metropolitan Hierotheos' book *Life After Death*, which treats such topics as what happens to the soul after death, the purifying fire, Christ's Second Coming, Paradise and Hell, Restoration of all things, and eternal life. The class will meet Fridays at 4:00 p.m. for ten weeks.

Friday Night 'Hesychastic' Vigil: this Friday, January 28, starting at 9:00 p.m., a special vigil will be held including Compline and the singing of the Akathist to the Theotokos, intercessions for the members of the parish, a half-hour of silent recitation of the Jesus Prayer, and the Midnight Office. While the world keeps its usual Friday evening vigil, we, too, shall keep one on its behalf and for ourselves as well.

Commemorations: Please try to submit your commemoration sheets/books the night before Liturgy. You may submit them any time during the week before Sunday. Be sure to pick up your prosphoron on the candle table after Liturgy.

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 \$1642.28 in tithes and offerings; in January we have given \$4087.89; our monthly budget is \$7975 (\$1994 per week). Candles \$46; Special Gifts \$325, Building Fund \$56; Expansion Fund \$21. May God bless your giving! Attendance: Sunday Liturgy 60, Vigil 27.

Hall Expansion Fund: The hall expansion fund has pledges for \$7000 of the \$17,000 we need to pay for our hall expansion, \$3000 of which has been given; a total of \$3821 has been raised so far. All coffee hour donations will go for this end. (Parish council suggests \$5 per family per week).

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

A person who has been honored with the knowledge of God and is abundantly enjoying the pleasure it provides disdains all the pleasures begotten from lust.

The one who lusts after earthly things lusts after food, or what serves the lower passions, or human applause, or money, or something else associated with them. And unless the mind finds something better than these to which it can transfer its desire, it will not be completely persuaded to disdain them. And better than these by far is the knowledge of God and of divine things.

Those who disdain pleasures do so either out of fear or hope or knowledge and love of God.

400 Chapters on Love, 3.63-65

Troparia and Kontakia for January 23rd



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.

New Martyrs of Russia, Troparion, tone 4

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passion bearers and pastors, / monks and laymen, ye countless new martyrs and confessors, / men, women, and children, / flowers of the spiritual meadow of Russia, / who blossomed forth wondrously in time of grievous persecutions, / bearing good fruit for Christ in your endurance: / Entreat Him as the One who planted you, / that He deliver His people from godless and evil men, / and that the Church of Russia / be made steadfast through your blood and suffering, // unto the salvation of our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 2

Thou didst rise from the grave, all –powerful Saviour; / and Hades, seeing the wonder, was affrighted; / and the dead arose; and creation, beholding, rejoiceth with Thee; / and with Thee Adam also is glad; / and the world, O my Saviour, hymneth Thee forever.

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.

New Martyrs of Russia, Kontakion, tone 2

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, / who have with you r confession finished the course of this earth, / receiving boldness through your sufferings: / Beseech Christ who strengthened you, / that we also, whenever the hour of trial find us, / may receive the gift of courage from God. / For ye are a model for us who venerate your struggle; / for neither tribulation, prison, nor death / could separate you from the love of God.