

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 11th, 2011

Schedule of Services

December 11th 26th Sunday after Pentecost, tone 1

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 12th Monday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:30 p.m. Great Vespers for St. Herman

7:30 p.m. Late Vocations Church History

December 13th Tuesday St. Nicholas

7:00 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 14th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Path of the Commandments

December 16th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. *Russian Vespers, Confession, Dallas*

December 17th Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 18th 27th Sunday after Pentecost, tone 2

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Do not goad your brother with obscure words; you would not put up with similar treatment at his hands.

Long-suffering and readiness to forgive curb anger; love and compassion wither it.

If you have been given spiritual knowledge, you have been given noetic light; should you dishonor that light, you will see darkness.

The keeping of God's commandments generates dispassion; the soul's dispassion preserves spiritual knowledge.

Contemplate sensible objects noetically and you will raise your sense-perception above the realm of such objects.

St. Thalassios the Libyan, 400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 2.22-26

Announcements for December 11th

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 for children from preschool to high school meets today after Liturgy.

The Mission Council meets today after Liturgy.

The Special Offering today is for our Alaskan seminarian.

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Fr. Justin, Michelle, Katherine, Thea, Zoe.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.: Basics of Orthodoxy Class: God's Plan for Man: The Path of the Commandments

Jesus Prayer: Starting this week, when you enter the church before service, venerate the icons, place your candles, and find a place either to sit or stand, and begin to pray the Jesus Prayer silently until the service begins. Please keep conversations in the narthex and anywhere else but the nave. Thank you!

We observe the Nativity Fast by abstaining from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil (modified by wall calendar) and adding prayer, almsgiving, spiritual reading and charitable works to our fasting.

Nativity Fast Almsgiving: we are collecting blankets and coats for the homeless of Denton County. A box has been placed in the hall for you to place your extra blankets and coats *of any size*. Before Christmas, we will donate the jackets and blankets to Our Daily Bread, for them to distribute. Remember our own alms box, too.

Ministry to Shut-ins: We currently have two shut-ins who 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).

A Sunday Christian Education class for adults may be offered starting in January. Please let Fr. Justin know if you are interested.

Last week we gave \$1613.71; this month we have given \$3985.20; our monthly budget is \$8179 (\$2045 per week). In addition: Building Renovation (soda jar) \$18, Candles \$73, Special offering \$78, Hall Expansion (food jar) \$17. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 32, Liturgy 71.

Hall Expansion Fund: A Total of \$52,112.17 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 Rehmert, Elizabeth Dakak, and Hunter Bellan; and for our inquirers Joel and Mindy Brown, Shane and Ashley Gibson, Philip Smith. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Sherrie Joanna Hall.

From Saint Maximus

To the extent that you pray with all your soul for the person who slanders you, God will make the truth known to those who have been scandalized by the slander.

Only God is good by nature (cf. Matt. 19:17), and only he who imitates God is good in will and purpose. For it is the intention of such a person to unite the wicked to Him who is good by nature, so that they too may become good. That is why, though reviled by them, he blesses; persecuted, he endures; vilified, he supplicates (cf. 1 Cor. 4:12-13); put to death, he prays for them. He does everything so as not to lapse from the purpose of love, which is God Himself.

400 Chapters on Love, 4.89-90

Troparia and Kontakia for December 11th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

Troparion, Holy Forefathers, tone 2

By faith, Thou didst justify the forefathers, / when through them didst betroth Thyself aforetime / to the Church from among the nations. / The Saints boast in glory / that from their seed, there is a glorious fruit, / even she that bare Thee seedlessly. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

Kontakion, Holy Forefathers, tone 6

Ye would not worship a hand-wrought image, O thrice blessed ones; / but armed by the Undepictable Essence, / ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire. / Standing in the midst of the irresistible flame, ye called upon God: / Speed Thou, O Compassionate One, since Thou art merciful, / and hasten to come unto our aid; for Thou art able, if it be Thy will.