

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, December 18th, 2011

Schedule of Services

December 18th 27th Sunday after Pentecost, tone 2

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 19th Monday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Late Vocations Church History

December 20th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

December 21st Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Vigil at Nativity Monastery

December 22nd Thursday

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Nativity Monastery

December 23rd Friday

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours

10:00 a.m. Church Decoration

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession,

December 24th Saturday Nativity Eve

8:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Nativity Vigil, Confession

December 25th 28th Sunday Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

The study of divine principles teaches knowledge of God to the person who lives in truth, longing, and repentance.

What light is to those who see and to what is seen, God is to intellectual beings and to what is intelligible.

Do not neglect the practice of the virtues; if you do, your spiritual knowledge will decrease, and when famine occurs, you will go down into Egypt.

St. Thalassios the Libyan, 400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 2.28-29,32

Announcements for December 18th

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 Special Offering today is to help those travelling to the Winter Service retreat in Pharr with gas.

Temple Oil given in memory of May Soo Hoo.

No Classes this Week

The Mystery of Holy Unction will be served this Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. for the healing of soul and body. Orthodox Christians who have had a recent confession may receive the Mystery, others are welcome to attend. Parts of the service will be done in Slavonic.

The Decoration of the Church for Nativity will take place Friday after the Royal Hours about 10:00 a.m. Evergreen boughs are needed.

Jesus Prayer: When you enter the church before a 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: thank you for the blankets and coats your gave for the homeless of Denton County. They have been taken to a local ministry Our Daily Bread for them to distribute.

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.

Temple Oil and Wine may be given for the health and salvation of the living and in memory of the departed. Bring olive oil or port wine and fill out the slip on the candle table.

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).

Last week we gave \$2558.01; this month we have given \$6543.21; our monthly budget is \$8179 (\$2045 per week). In addition: Building Renovation (soda jar) \$25, Candles \$65, Alaska Seminarian \$22, Hall Expansion (food jar) \$0. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 33, Liturgy 70.

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 Rehmet, Elizabeth Dakak, and Hunter Bellan; and for our inquirers Shane and Ashley Gibson and Philip Smith who will be received as catechumens next week, and for Joel and Mindy Brown and their children. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Sherrie Joanna Hall.

From Saint Maximus

The Lord's commandments teach us to use neutral things intelligently. Such use purifies the soul's state. A state of purity begets discrimination; discrimination begets dispassion; and it is from dispassion that perfect love is born..

If when some trial occurs you cannot overlook a friend's fault, whether real or apparent, you have not yet attained dispassion. For when the passions which lie deep in the soul are disturbed, they blind the mind, preventing it from perceiving the light of truth and from discriminating between good and evil. If you are in such a state you have likewise not yet attained perfect love, the love which expels the fear of judgment (cf. 1 John 4:18).

A faithful friend is beyond price' (Ecclus. 6:15), since he regards his friend's misfortunes as his own and suffers with him, sharing his trials until death.

Friends are many, but in times of prosperity (cf. Prov. 19:4). In times of adversity you will have difficulty in finding even one.

One should love every man from the soul, but one should place one's hope only in God and serve Him with all one's strength. For so long as He protects us against harm, all our friends treat us with respect and all our enemies are powerless to injure us. But once He abandons us, all our friends turn away from us while all our enemies prevail against us.

400 Chapters on Love, 4.91-95

Troparia and Kontakia for December 18th



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!'

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.

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.