

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, January 8th, 2012

Schedule of Services

January 8th 30th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 10th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 11th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

January 12th Thursday

7:00 a.m. Matins

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 13th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

January 14th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 15th 31st Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

When the intellect is engaged in the contemplation of intelligible realities, its delight in them is such that it can hardly be dragged away.

When the intellect is rich in the knowledge of the One, the senses will be completely under control.

Prevent your intellect from pursuing sensible things, so that it does not reap the fruits of pleasure and pain which they produce.

The proper function of the soul's intelligent aspect is devotion to the knowledge of God, while that of its passible aspect is the pursuit of self-control and love.

The intellect is perfect when transformed by spiritual knowledge; the soul is perfect when permeated by the virtues.

N.B. "Intellect" and "intelligible" do not refer to the mind but to the nous.

St. Thalassios the Libyan, 400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 2.46-8,52f

Announcements for January 8th

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 is for our hall expansion.

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Metropolitan Jonah.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: The Ten Commandments Interpreted and Applied.

New Class Coming Soon: Later this month, starting January 19, on Thursday afternoons, we'll begin a class to study Deacon Mark Barna's book *A Christian Ending – A Handbook for Burial in the Ancient Christian Tradition* with a view to establishing a ministry of Christian burial in our parish. The bookstore has ordered ten copies of this book.

Houseblessings begin today. If you would like your house blessed, please indicate your desire by signing up on the sheet in the hall.

Holy Water is available in the library area to take home and used as needed. Please make use of the means of grace.

Wall Calendars for 2012 have arrived. They may be purchased from the bookstore at cost for \$4. Please fill out a bookstore receipt and write 'wall calendar' on it. If you need one (we all do!) but cannot afford it, please see the priest.

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!

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).

Last week we gave \$1318.25; our monthly budget is \$8179 (\$2045 per week). In addition: Candles \$97.50, building fund \$100. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 28, Liturgy 52.

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: Our construction plans should receive the architect's stamp Monday or Tuesday, which will allow us to secure our building permit. There is an excellent chance that work, at last! may begin next week.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: David Eaton who is preparing for Holy Illumination; Sean Chaney, Caleb Rehmet, Elizabeth Dakak, Hunter Bellan, and Philip Smith; and for our inquirers Shane and Ashley Gibson who are being received as catechumens, and for Joel and Mindy Brown and their children. Please pray for our **shut-ins** Nina Johnston and Sherrie Joanna Hall, and for the novice Svetlana.

From Saint Maximus

Only those who scrupulously keep the commandments, and are true initiates into divine judgments, do not abandon their friends when God permits these friends to be put to the test. Those who scorn the commandments and who are ignorant about divine judgments rejoice with their friend in the times of his prosperity; but when in times of trial he suffers hardships, they abandon him and sometimes even side with those who attack him.

The friends of Christ love all truly but are not themselves loved by all; the friends of the world neither love all nor are loved by all. The friends of Christ persevere in love to the end; the friends of the world persevere only until they fall out with each other over some worldly thing.

400 Chapters on Love, 4.97-98

Troparia and Kontakia for January 8th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

Theophany, Troparion, tone 1

When Thou, O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, / naming Thee His beloved Son. / And the Spirit, in the form of dove, / confirmed the certainty of that word. / O Christ our God, who hast manifested Thyself and enlightened the world // glory to Thee.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

Troparion, St. Domnica, tone 8

The image of God was preserved in thee, O Mother, / for thou didst take up thy cross and follow Christ. / Thou didst teach by thine example that the flesh is to be spurned as transient, / while the soul needs great care, as immortal. // Wherefore, O holy Domnica, thou art rejoicing with the angels.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

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.

Theophany, Kontakion, tone 4

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe / and Thy Light, O Lord, hath shone on us, / who with understanding praise Thee: / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O Light unapproachable!