

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick

Bulletin for Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Schedule of Services

**January 15<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**January 18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Christ's First Command

**January 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:30 p.m. Class: Orthodox Death & Burial

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**January 20<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**January 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday Feast of St. Maximus**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**January 22<sup>th</sup> 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Mission Council

The intellect's attachment to the senses enslaves it to bodily pleasure.

The intellect falls from the realm of spiritual knowledge when the soul's passible aspect [passions] abandons its own virtues.

Although we have received the power to become the children of God, we do not actually attain this sonship unless we strip ourselves of the passions.

Let no one think that he has actually become a child of God if he has not yet acquired divine qualities.

We are sons of God or of Satan according to whether we conform to goodness or to evil.

*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, 2.55*

## Announcements for January 15<sup>th</sup>

**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 new windows upstairs.

**Temple Oil** given for the health and salvation of the Rehmet family.

**Patronal Feast:** The feast of our parish patron, St. Maximus the Confessor, falls this week on Saturday. The Divine Liturgy will be served Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and the Festal Vigil Friday at 7:00 p.m. Please come together to keep this joyous feast! The faithful do well to celebrate the patronal feast by their attendance at the services. We'll hold a festive meal after the Liturgy, so please bring something to share.

### Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Christ's First Commandment: Repent!

Thursday, 4:30 p.m. "A Christian Ending"

**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** have begun. If you would like your house blessed, please indicate your desire by signing up on the sheet in the hall.

**Jesus Prayer:** When you enter the church before a service, find your place and pray the Jesus Prayer silently until the service begins.

**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 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 \$74.50, building fund \$76.50, Special Collection for Windows, \$269, Soda for renovation \$23.29, food jar for expansion \$17. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 39, Liturgy 92.

**Hall Expansion Fund:** A Total of \$52,129.17 has been raised so far of the estimated \$62,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this.

**Expansion Update:** Construction of the hall expansion, should, God-willing, being this week. Please keep an eye on your children in regard to the construction site. Parents: we need to make a sweep of the play areas outside and move all toys away from the construction zone. Thank you.

**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

'A faithful friend is a strong defense' (Ecclus. 6:14); for when things are going well with you, he is a good counselor and a sympathetic collaborator, while when things are going badly, he is the truest of helpers and a most compassionate supporter. .

Many have said much about love, but you will find love itself only if you seek it among the disciples of Christ. For only they have true Love as love's teacher. 'Though I have the gift of prophecy', says St Paul, 'and know all mysteries and all knowledge . . . and have no love, it profits me nothing' (1 Cor. 13:2-3). He who possesses love possesses God Himself, for 'God is love' (1 John 4:8). To Him be glory throughout the ages. Amen.. *400 Chapters on Love, 4.99-100*

## Troparia and Kontakia for January 15<sup>th</sup>



### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

### St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

#### Troparion, Ss Paul & John, tone 4

O God of our fathers, / who ever dealest with us according to Thy gentleness, / withdraw not Thy mercy from us, / by their entreaties // direct our life in peace.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human race /, for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

### St. Maximus, Kontakion, tone 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

### St. Paul of Thebes, Kontakion, tone 3

Assembling today, in hymns we praise thee, / the never-waning luminary of the noetic Sun; / for thou didst shine forth upon those in the darkness of ignorance, / leading all to the divine heights, / O venerable Paul, / adornment of the Thebans, / steadfast foundation // of the fathers and the venerable.

### St. John the Hutdweller, Kontakion, tone 2

Loving the riches which cannot be stolen, / O all-wise John, / thou didst hate the riches of thy parents; / and, holding the Gospel in thy hands, // thou didst follow after Christ God, praying unceasingly for us all.