

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton  
2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201  
(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org  
Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

## Bulletin for Sunday of December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Schedule of Services

#### **December 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Nativity, tone 5**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

#### **December 31<sup>st</sup> Monday Nativity Eve**

6:00 p.m. Vespers

#### **January 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday St. Basil, Circumcision of Christ**

7:45 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

#### **January 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday St. Seraphim**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **January 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

5:00 p.m. Open House at Rectory

#### **January 4<sup>th</sup> Friday**

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours of Theophany

5:00 p.m. Vespers of the Forefeast, Confession

#### **January 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil for Theophany, Confession

#### **January 6<sup>th</sup> Holy Theophany**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, Great Blessing of Water

#### **From Saint Thalassios, the Libyan (*friend of St. Maximus*)**

Initially our search for wisdom is prompted by fear; but as we attain our goal we are led forward by love.

The divine principles contemplated by the saints do not reveal God's essence, but the qualities that appertain to Him.

Of the principles that appertain to God, some are to be understood affirmatively and others negatively.

For example, being, divinity, goodness and whatever else we attribute to God in a positive manner, or cataphatically, are to be understood affirmatively. Unoriginateness, infinity, indefinableness and so on are to be understood in a negative manner, or apophatically.

*400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 4.79, 81-83*

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission  
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

## Announcements for December 30<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.

**The Special Offering** today will go to express appreciation to our choir director, Subdeacon Anthony, in accordance with our custom.

**The Coffee Hour** offering this month will go to help raise money for the teens going on the service retreat in Pharr, Texas, after Nativity.

**No Classes this Week.** Classes will resume next week with "Orthodox Spirituality", on Wednesdays at 6:00 and the Basics of Orthodoxy Class on Thursdays at 7:30, starting January 10, when we will finish the Creed by considering the three articles that have to do with Eschatology, or "last things." The Sermon on the Mount Class will continue at a time to be determined, possibly Wednesdays at noon or thereabouts.

**Wednesday Nights** in 2013 will be organized as a time for the parish to come together for worship, prayer, fellowship, food, and ongoing instruction in the Faith. Food (potluck) will be available at 5:30. Class, using the book *Orthodox Spirituality* by Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos (see bookstore), will begin at 6:00 sharp and last until 6:50. Vespers will follow at 7:00, with open Confession afterwards. Once a month, the class will be conducted for the men in the parish, using the little book *How To Live A Holy Life* as a launching pad. We may also arrange for special activities or instruction for children. This will begin January 9.

**The Open House at the Rectory** to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord will be held this Thursday, January 3 starting at 5:00. All are invited and welcome.

**Holy Theophany**, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, falls on next Sunday. Royal Hours for the feast will be served Friday morning at 8:00 with Vigil (Great Compline & Matins) served Saturday evening at the usual time. The Great Blessing of Water will be held Sunday morning at the end of Liturgy.

**House Blessings:** With Theophany comes the yearly custom of blessing houses. If you would like your house blessed, look for a sign-up sheet in the hall, and let Fr. Justin know.

**Please Pray for our Catechumens:** for Joel and Mindy Brown and their children Daniel, Anya, and Elijah, Gary & Olivia Reynolds and their children Ariel, Analise, and Alexandria, Jacob Neff, Lauren Williams, Elizabeth Dakak, Philip, Sean, and for our inquirers Faith Neff and Jason. Please pray for the novice Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher, (Olga's husband).

**Hall Expansion Update:** The temporary back deck and wheelchair ramp have been constructed. The exterior has been painted.

**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) and a box for our building fund.

Last week we gave \$1330.15; this month we have given \$8741.46 our monthly budget is \$9187 (\$2297 per week. (To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$40.50, Renovation (Soda) \$6.40, Building Fund \$7, Special Offering for Youth Trip \$601. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 23, Liturgy 86. Nativity Vigil 25, Liturgy 76.

**Hall Expansion Fund:** A total of **\$65,709.75** has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this until December.

### From Saint Maximus

He who purges his will from the corruption of sin destroys the corrupting activity of what causes corruption. For when one's free will is itself free from corruption, it prevents nature from being corrupted by hostile forces and keeps it incorrupt through the providential grace of the Spirit within it.

Since the principles of nature and of grace are not one and the same, we should not be surprised if certain of the saints sometimes resisted the passions and sometimes succumbed to them; for we know that the miracle of resistance is due to grace, while the passion belongs to nature.

He who keeps in mind the way of the saints by imitating them not only shakes off the deadly paralysis of the passions but also takes up the life of the virtues.

God, who before all ages set the bounds of each man's life, in the manner which He wills, leads every man, whether righteous or unrighteous, towards the final end he deserves.

*Various Texts, Second Century 19-22*

### **Troparia and Kontakia for December 30<sup>th</sup>**

#### **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.

#### **Nativity, Troparion, tone 4**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God / hath shone upon the world the light of wisdom. / For by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of Righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

#### **Righteous Ones, Troparion, tone 2**

O Joseph, proclaim glad tidings to David, the ancestor of God, / for thou hast seen a Virgin give birth; / with the shepherds, thou didst give glory; / with the magi thou didst worship; / by an Angel thou wast instructed. / Entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.

#### **Righteous Ones, Kontakion, tone 3**

Today the godly David is filled with gladness, / and Joseph offereth praise with James. / They rejoice, receiving a crown through their kinship with Christ; / and they laud Him who hath ineffably been born on earth, // and cry aloud: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!"

#### **Nativity, Kontakion, tone 3 (By St. Romanos the Melode)**

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offereth a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with Shepherds glorify Him! / The wise men journey with the star: // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!