

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton  
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## Bulletin for Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Schedule of Services

#### **December 15<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Holy Forefathers**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
12:00 p.m. Mission Council

#### **December, 17<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession  
3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession  
7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

#### **December 18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:30 a.m. Matins  
6:00 p.m. Russian Class  
7:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **December 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

6:00 a.m. Matins  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
7:00 p.m. Vespers or Compline  
7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy Class

#### **December 20<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession  
7:00 p.m. *Russian Vespers, Confession at St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

#### **December 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*  
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **December 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Before Nativity**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

### The Optina Elders on Vainglory and Pride

Although vainglory and pride are from the same leaven and have the same nature, their actions and sympathies are different. Vainglory tries to attract the praise of men, and for this it often debases itself and tries to please men, but pride exhales scorn and disrespect towards others, although it also loves praises. *St. Ambrose*

Flee from vainglory—it corrupts all fruit.

*St. Anatoly*

## Announcements for December 15

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee, food, 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. We invite you to go first through the food line and join the priest at the table.

**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** this week will be for a new chalice set.

**Temple wine and oil** given for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn.

**The Mission Council** will meet today to plan for the upcoming diocesan pastoral conference in February which will be held here and to consider the design for our new church as it now stands. Parishioners are welcome to attend council meetings if they desire.

**A General Holy Unction** will be served this Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. to pray for healing of soul and body. Any Orthodox Christian who has had a recent Confession may receive the anointing.

### Classes this Week

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Russian Alphabet and Lives of Martyrs

Thursday 7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

**The Basics of Orthodoxy Class** will take a look at the services and hymns of the Nativity of our Lord to help us better appreciate the significance of the Son of God's incarnation—His taking human flesh, becoming man, and dwelling among us.

**Reminder:** time for Confession before Nativity is running out!

**Nativity Fast:** We fast from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil & marital relations (fish, wine, oil are noted on the wall calendar when permitted) and seek to increase in both quantity and quality our prayer (corporate and private), almsgiving, spiritual reading, and deeds of service in fulfillment of Christ's commandments that we may make more room for Christ in our lives. If you have not been to Confession and Communion in the past couple months, now is the time to prepare yourself to participate in those Mysteries. The Nativity Fast lasts through Liturgy on December 25.

**Parish Website:** The website has been updated. The daily prayers, precommunion prayers, various reader services, and other prayers have been placed on a new 'Orthodox Prayers' section. Please see the *Confessor's Tongue* for more discussion of what is there. The bulletins and *Confessor's Tongue* also are uploaded each week.

**Please Pray:** for the newly-received catechumens Rebecca Marcott and Holly Bellan, catechumen Shannon Goodson, for inquirers Destiny Marcott, Kathy Wells and her family, Amber Payne, Leah Saunders, and Joseph; the novice Svetlana, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale.

**Parish Food Pantry:** As part of our parish almsgiving, you may bring non-perishable foods and toiletries and place them in the labeled tub in the hall outside the bathroom. These will be made available to parishioners and sundry who have need.

**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 \$748; In December we have given \$1468; Our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$43.50. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 10, Sunday Liturgy 23.

### From Saint Maximus

Almost every sin is committed for the sake of sensual pleasure; and sensual pleasure is overcome by hardship and distress arising either voluntarily from repentance, or else involuntarily as a result of some salutary and providential reversal. 'For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged; but when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, so that we should not be condemned with the world' (1Cor. 11:31-32).

When a trial comes upon you unexpectedly, do not blame the person through whom it came but try to discover the reason why it came, and then you will find a way of dealing with it. For whether through this person or through someone else you had in any case to drink the wormwood of God's judgments.

As long as you have bad habits do not reject hardship, so that through it you may be humbled and eject your pride.

Sometimes men are tested by pleasure, sometimes by distress or by physical suffering. By means of His prescriptions the Physician of souls administers the remedy according to the cause of the passions lying hidden in the soul.

Trials are sent to some so as to take away past sins, to others so as to eradicate sins now being committed, and to yet others so as to forestall sins which may be committed in the future. These are distinct from the trials that arise in order to test men in the way that Job was tested.

The sensible man, taking into account the remedial effect of the divine prescriptions, gladly bears the sufferings which they bring upon him, since he is aware that they have no cause other than his own sin. But when the fool, ignorant of the supreme wisdom of God's providence, sins and is corrected, he regards either God or men as responsible for the hardships he suffers.

*400 Chapters on Love, 2.41-46*

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 15

### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, 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.