

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday December 28th, 2014

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Schedule of Services

December 28th Sunday After Nativity, tone 4

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 31st Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Little Vespers

8:30 p.m. Meal

10:00 p.m. All-Night Vigil

January 1st Thursday St. Basil, Circumcision of Our Lord

2:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 2nd Friday

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 3rd Saturday

3:00 p.m. Baptisms

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 4th Sunday Before Theophany, tone 5

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 Mission Council Meeting

I am ashamed to see that my discourse oversteps the accustomed limits . . . Nevertheless, I have not detained you so long without profit. For what would you have done until the evening? . . . You have often served the flesh for pleasure, today persevere in the ministry of the soul. . . . Do you love riches? Here are spiritual riches. . . . Do you love enjoyment and pleasures? Behold the oracles of the Lord, which, for a healthy soul, are 'sweeter than honey and the honeycomb.' If I let you go, and if I dismiss this assembly, some will run to the dice, where they will find bad language, sad quarrels, and the pangs of avarice. There stands the devil, inflaming the fury of the players with the dotted bones. . . . Or what use is bodily fasting and filling the soul with innumerable evils? He who does not play spends his leisure elsewhere. What frivolities come from his mouth! What follies strike his ears! Leisure without the fear of the Lord is, for those who do not know the value of time, a school of vice. I hope that my words will be profitable; at least by occupying you're here they have prevented you from sinning. Thus the longer I keep you, the longer you are out of the way of evil. *St. Basil the Great, Hexameron, Homily 8*

Announcements for December 28

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 if we are communing), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

The Special Offering this week will be for alms.

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Brian and Amber.

Classes this Week

No Basics of Orthodoxy class today or next week.

Today, we honor the Resurrection of Christ and Joseph the Betrothed, the Prophet and King David, and James the Brother of the Lord. O Holy Ones, pray to Christ God for us!

Candle Box: Please pay for candles only in the payment compartment of the new candle box. Offerings for prosphora, temple wine, temple oil, and general offerings may go in the basket on the candle table. Put your commemorations and temple wine/oil slips in the basket. Alms (for those in need) go in the alms box on the shelf above the candle box. Gifts to the building fund go in the building fund box on the stand in the narthex. The basket passed during Liturgy is for general tithes and offerings. Checks, so long as the memo line indicates the intention, may go anywhere. If you are not sure what to do, see the priest or the treasurer, Jordan Rovny.

No Fasting until January 5. Keep the feast with joy—and due restraint!

Mission Council will meet next Sunday.

Holy Baptism will be administered to Rick Hollembeak, Seth Williams, and Holly Bellan next Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

An All-Vigil will be served this Wednesday evening to celebrate St. Basil, the Circumcision of the Lord, and the New Year. Little Vespers will be served at 8:00, followed by a potluck meal at 8:30. The Vigil will begin at 10:00 with Little Compline, followed by Great Vespers, Matins, the Hours and Divine Liturgy, concluding no later than 4:00 a.m. Man keeps all sorts of vigils during his life: at bars,

at dance halls, at movies, in front of screens, with books, with sick loved ones, etc. It will be good to begin the new year with a vigil before the Lord in His Father's house.

The New Year: This season after the fast, as we celebrate the Savior's birth, is a good time to reflect upon the direction of our lives. Take some time in the next three days to set some spiritual goals for the New Year. Small corrections in course now will change the whole trajectory and outcome of our lives. Seize the opportunity to make beginning of good!

Nativity Almsgiving: Many thanks to those who gave alms and brought food for our food bank during the Nativity Fast. May the Lord bless your giving.

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 about \$2810 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$6544.85 our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles approx.. \$73; Special offering for IOCC \$87.08; Renovation (soda) \$7.50. Attendance: Liturgy 82, Vigil 45.

Please Pray: for catechumens Holly Bellan, Seth Williams, and Rick Hollembeak who will be received into the Church by Holy Baptism this Saturday, January 3, at 2:30 p.m., the novice Elias, the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin who is in the hospital still, having lost use of one eye and having difficulty with the other.

From Saint Maximus

Examine your conscience scrupulously, in case it is your fault that your brother is still hostile. Do not cheat your conscience, for it knows your secrets, and at the hour of your death it will accuse you and in time of prayer it will be a stumbling-block to you.

In times of peaceful relationships do not recall what was said by a brother when there was bad feeling between you, even if offensive things were said to your face, or to another person about you and you subsequently heard of them. Otherwise you will harbor thoughts of rancor and revert to your destructive hatred of your brother.

The deiform soul cannot nurse hatred against a man and yet be at peace with God, the giver of the commandments. 'For', He says, 'if you do not forgive men their faults, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your faults' (cf. Matt. 6:14-15). If your brother does not wish to live peaceably with you, nevertheless guard yourself against hatred, praying for him sincerely and not abusing him to anybody.

The perfect peace of the holy angels lies in their love for God and their love for one another. This is also the case with all the saints from the beginning of time. Most truly therefore is it said that 'on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets' (Matt. 22:40).

400 Chapters on Love, 4.33-36

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 28

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

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!