

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday January 4th, 2015

Schedule of Services

January 4th Sunday Before Theophany, tone 5

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 noon Mission Council Meeting

January 5th Monday Eve of Theophany Strict Fast

6:00 a.m. Royal Hours

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Great Blessing of Water

January 6th Tuesday Theophany of our Lord

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 7th Wednesday Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

6:00 a.m. Hours

6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:45 p.m. Class: St. Athanasius

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 9th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

January 10th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 11th Sunday After Theophany, tone 6

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 noon Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Divine Liturgy

Christ is come to the Jordan's streams, whose herald appeared before Him; and He said to the Forerunner: "Come and wash Me with the waters; baptize Me who now go down into them, for I have come to wash away the primal fall of Adam." Blessed art Thou who hast appeared! O our God, glory to Thee!

Lo! He that is full emptieth Himself; He that is invisible hath appeared incarnate! Rejoice, O river Jordan! Fill up thy streams that thou mightest wash the Regeneration of all. *Menaion, Prefeast of Theophany*

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

Announcements for January 4

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 general alms.

Temple Wine given in memory of Archbishop Dmitri.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 5:45 p.m. St. Athanasius the Great

Next Sunday: Basics: Divine Liturgy series begins.

Many Years to the newly illumined Eugene (Rick) Hollebeak, John (Seth) Williams, and Photina (Holly) Bellan and to their sponsors.

Today, we honor the Resurrection of Christ and the holy 70 Apostles of Christ. O Holy Apostles, pray to Christ God for us!

Mission Council meets today at noon.

Strict Fast: Monday the Eve of Theophany, is a strict fast day, our first since Nativity.

The Holy Theophany, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with Royal Hours Monday morning at 6:00, Vigil Monday evening at 7:00, and Divine Liturgy Tuesday at 9:00. The Great Blessing of Water will be served at Vigil and possibly at Liturgy also. We do well to keep the feast by attending at least a part of the cycle of services celebrating it.

House Blessings: Theophany is the season for blessing houses with the newly blessed water. A sign-up sheet will be posted. It is good to consecrate our homes to God each year and to have opportunity to talk with the priest. Please take advantage of this.

Commemorations: It is good to see so many of you submitting names for commemoration at the Proskomide. Please try to submit your books or slips ahead of time at Vigil or even on Friday whenever possible.

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 \$2250.01 in tithes and offerings; we gave \$2306 electronically in December, in which we gave a total of this month we have given \$11,100.86; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$116; Building Fund \$140; Special offering for choir director \$182; Renovation (soda) \$9. Attendance: Liturgy 92, Vigil 20; St Basil All-Night Vigil & Liturgy, 25.

Please Pray: for catechumens Holly Bellan, Seth Williams, and Rick Hollebeak who will be received into the Church by Holy Baptism this Saturday, January 3, at 2:30 p.m., the novice Elias, and the novice Svetlana. 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

Stop pleasing yourself and you will not hate your brother; stop loving yourself and you will love God.

Once you have decided to share your life with spiritual brethren, renounce your own wishes from the start. Unless you do this you will not be able to live peaceably either with God or with your brethren.

He who has attained perfect love, and has ordered his whole life in accordance with it, is the person who says 'Lord Jesus' in the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Cor. 12:3).

Love for God always aspires to give wings to the intellect in its communion with God; love for one's neighbor makes one always think good thoughts about him.

The man who still loves empty fame, or is attached to some material object, is naturally vexed with people on account of transitory things, or harbors rancor or hatred against them, or is a slave to shameful thoughts. Such things are quite foreign to the soul that loves God.

If you have no thought of any shameful word or action in your mind, harbor no rancor against someone who has injured or slandered you, and, while praying, always keep your intellect free from matter and form, you may be sure that you have attained the full measure of dispassion and perfect love.

400 Chapters on Love, 4.37-42

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, January 4

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.

Troparion of the Forefeast, tone 4

Make ready, O Zebulun! / Adorn thyself, O Naphtali! / O River Jordan, leaping up, receive thou the Master, / who cometh to be baptized! / Hide not yourselves as ye did before in Paradise; / for He that beheld you naked hath revealed Himself, / that He may clothe you in your primal raiment. / Christ hath appeared, // desiring to make all creation new!

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit / thou didst pour forth Christ's sacred teachings, / thou didst expound with Divine authority / the self-emptying of God the Word / and wast radiant in thy confession of the True Faith: / O, Glorious Father Maximus / pray to Christ our God / to grant us His great mercy.

Troparion of the 70 Apostles, tone 3

O ye holy Apostles, / intercede with the merciful God / that He grant unto our souls / remission of transgressions.

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.

Kontakion of 70 Apostles, tone 2

In hymns, O ye faithful, / let us together praise the choir of the seventy Apostles: / Stephen, Prochorus, Silas, and Nicanor, / Mark, Matthias, and Herodion, / Crescens, Phlegon, Barnabas, Linas, and Olympus, / Ananias, Luke, and Asyncritus, and the rest; // for they remain beacons of the divine Faith.

Kontakion of Forefeast, tone 4

In the streams of the Jordan / the Lord crieth out to John today: // "Fear not to baptize Me, for I have come to save Adam the first-created!"