

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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## Bulletin for Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Schedule of Services

**December 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost, tone 7 St. Barbara**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 103, Mission Council

**December 5<sup>th</sup> Monday St. Sabbas**

6:30 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**December 6<sup>th</sup> Tuesday St. Nicholas**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:45 p.m. Class: New Testament Survey: Romans

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

3:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**December 9<sup>th</sup> Friday Conception of the Theotokos**

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**December 10<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

8:00 a.m. Society of Bearded Men

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**December 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, tone 8**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, 11:30 Basics of Orthodoxy 103

### St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

7. So long as the soul is in a state contrary to nature, running wild with the weeds and thorns of sensual pleasures, it is a dwelling-place of grotesque beasts. Isaiah's words apply to it: ass-centaurs shall rest there, and hedgehogs make their lair in it, and there demons will consort with ass-centaurs (cf. Isa. 34:11, 14. LXX) - for all these animals signify the various shameful passions. But the soul, so long as it is joined to the flesh, can recall itself to its natural state at any time it wishes; and whenever it does so and disciplines itself with diligent effort, living in accordance with God's law, the wild beasts that were lurking inside it will take to flight, while the angels who guard our life will come to its aid, making the soul's return a day of rejoicing (cf. Luke 15:7). And the grace of the Holy Spirit will be present in it, teaching it spiritual knowledge, so that it may be strengthened in what is good and rise to higher levels.

## Announcements for December 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 also invite you to go first through the food line.

**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).

**The Special Offering** this week will be for seminarian Daniel Greeson.

**Temple Oil** offered in memory of William Frederick.

### Classes This Week

*Sunday 11:30:* Basics of Orthodoxy 103 is reading and discussing the Longer Catechism of the Eastern Orthodox Church, written by St. Philaret of Moscow. Reader Michael Rehmet conducts the class. The text may be found at

[http://www.pravoslavieto.com/docs/eng/Orthodox\\_Catechism\\_of\\_Philaret.htm](http://www.pravoslavieto.com/docs/eng/Orthodox_Catechism_of_Philaret.htm)

*Wednesday 5:45:* A Survey of the Epistles of the New Testament. This week we'll examine Romans.

**Mission Council** will meet today. Non-council members are welcome to attend.

**Men's Meeting** this coming Saturday at 8:00 a.m. in the parish hall for coffee, doughnuts, fellowship, and a discussion of some of the less-known ways the early Church grew to inform our own ministry in our time.

**A Crafts Fair** will be held next Sunday during coffee hour to give our youth a chance to display their creations.

**The Nativity Fast:** We abstain from meat, dairy products, fish, wine, and oil (see wall calendar for when fish, wine, and oil are permitted) and marital relations so that we can give ourselves to prayer and spiritual reading and have extra means for almsgiving. The wholistic effort of the fast implies that we reduce or abstain from secular entertainments in order to fill our souls with what is good, honorable, pure, lovely, and true and to serve others. Please see your priest if you have any questions.

**Commemorations:** Please try to submit your Sunday commemorations Saturday night (or earlier) whenever you can.

**Holy Unction**, for the healing of soul and body will be offered Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. Please note **the change in**

**date** from previous posts. Any Orthodox Christian in communion with the Church who has had a recent confession may partake.

**Tithes, Offerings & Attendance:** Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and 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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during service). There are also boxes for alms (those in need) and our building fund.

Last week we gave \$1528.88 in tithes and offerings. In November we gave \$8052.61. Electronic giving for the month was \$2706. Total tithes and offerings for November, \$10,758.61. Our monthly budget is \$11,250. Candles \$98, Building Fund \$19.25; Special Offering for Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry \$70.50. Attendance: Liturgy 90, Vigil 54.

**Please Pray:** for catechumens the Wells family and Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Dean family, for David & Sally Roberts, and for the Jones family; for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph.

### From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

1.38 If love is long-suffering and kind (cf. 1 Cor. 13:4), a man who is contentious and malicious clearly alienates himself from love. And he who is alienated from love is alienated from God, for God is love.

1.39 Do not say that you are the temple of the Lord, writes Jeremiah (cf. Jer. 7:4); nor should you say that faith alone in our Lord Jesus Christ can save you, for this is impossible unless you also acquire love for Him through your works. As for faith by itself, 'the devils also believe, and tremble'(Jas. 2:19).

1.40 We actively manifest love in forbearance and patience towards our neighbor, in genuinely desiring his good, and in the right use of material things.

1.41 He who loves God neither distresses nor is distressed with anyone on account of transitory things. There is only one kind of distress which he both suffers and inflicts on others: that salutary distress which the blessed Paul suffered and which he inflicted on the Corinthians (cf. 2 Cor. 7:8-11).

1.42 He who loves God lives the angelic life on earth, fasting and keeping vigils, praying and singing psalms and always thinking good of every man.

