

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, December 11th, 2016



Schedule of Services

December 18th Sunday Before Nativity, tone 1

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 103

December 20th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

December 21st Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 22nd Thursday Great Martyr Anastasia

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 23rd Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 a.m. Royal Hours

6:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 24th Saturday Nativity Eve

6:45 a.m. Matins

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Nativity Vigil

December 25th Sunday Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

11. Memories of all the impassioned actions we have performed exert an impassioned tyranny over the soul. But when impassioned thoughts have been completely erased from our heart, so that they no longer affect it even as provocations, this is a sign that our former sinful acts have been forgiven. For so long as the heart is stimulated by passion, sin clearly reigns there.

Announcements for December 18

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 Holy Nativity Monastery in Kemp.

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

There will be no classes on Nativity or New Year.

A Crafts Fair will be held today during coffee hour to give our youth a chance to display and sell their creations.

Holy Unction, for the healing of soul and body will be offered Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. Any Orthodox Christian in communion with the Church who has had a recent confession may partake.

Decoration of Church: We will decorate and clean the church for the feast this Friday morning after the Royal Hours. We need some fresh evergreen boughs.

Nativity Liturgy: Next Sunday on the Nativity of our Lord, Divine Liturgy will be served at 8:00 a.m. to allow the faithful more of the day to spend with family.

The Nativity Fast concludes with Liturgy next Sunday.

Keep the Feast: The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord in the flesh is properly one of the Twelve Great Feasts. In it, we celebrate the great mystery and benefit to us of God humbling Himself to take human nature on Himself. We keep the feast by making time to gather to remember what God has done for us, to reflect on its meaning, to return thanks to Him who has given us everything we have, to worship Him, and to proclaim His praise to the world. Pay special attention this week to the Royal Hours on Friday and the Nativity Vigil Saturday evening. You shortchange yourself if you come only Sunday morning. Having kept the spiritual feast, we are

then properly prepared to celebrate the feast physically as well. Starting Saturday evening at Vigil, we greet one another with the words, "Christ is born!", "Glorify Him!" until the leavetaking of the Feast December 31.

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

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 \$2630.80 in tithes and offerings; in December, we have given \$5325.69. Our monthly budget is \$11,250. Candles \$75, Building Fund \$600; Special Offering for St. Sava \$142. Attendance: Liturgy 90, Vigil 34.
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Please Pray: for the novice Svetlana, who is being tonsured as a nun this week; for catechumens the Wells family and Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Dean family, for David & Sally Roberts, and for the Jones family; for the novice Elias. 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

1.48 The person who fears the Lord has humility as his constant companion and, through the thoughts which humility inspires, reaches a state of divine love and thankfulness. For he recalls his former worldly way of life, the various sins he has committed and the temptations which have befallen him since his youth; and he recalls, too, how the Lord delivered him from all this, and how He led him away from a passion-dominated life to a life ruled by God. Then, together with fear, he also receives love, and in deep humility continually gives thanks to the Benefactor and Helmsman of our lives.

1.49 Do not befoul your intellect by clinging to thoughts filled with anger and sensual desire. Otherwise you will lose your capacity for pure prayer and fall victim to the demon of listlessness.

1.50 When the intellect associates with evil and sordid thoughts it loses its intimate communion with God.

1.51 The foolish man under attack from the passions, when stirred to anger, is senselessly impelled to leave his brethren. But when

heated by desire he quickly changes his mind and seeks their company. An intelligent person behaves differently in both cases. When anger flares up he cuts off the source of disturbance and so frees himself from his feeling of irritation against his brethren. When desire is uppermost he checks every unruly impulse and chance conversation.

Troparia and Kontakia for December 18th



Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

Holy Forefathers, Troparion, tone 2

Great are the achievements of faith! / In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. / And the Prophet Daniel / proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. // By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Holy Forefathers, Kontakion, 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.