

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday of December 9th, 2012

Schedule of Services

December 9th 27th Sunday After Pentecost, tone 2

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 11th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

December 12th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 13th Thursday St. Herman of Alaska

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

10:00 a.m. Class: Sermon on the Mount

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Creed: One Baptism

December 14th Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

December 15th Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

4:45 p.m. Pannikhida

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 16th 28th Sunday After Pentecost, tone 3

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From Saint Thalassios, the Libyan (*friend of St. Maximus*)

The expectation of the blessings held in store links the intellect with what it expects. When it continually meditates on these blessings, it forgets the things of this world.

He who has tasted the things for which he hopes will spurn the things of this world: all his longing will be spent on what he hopes for.

It is God who has promised the blessings held in store; and the self-disciplined person who has faith in God longs for what is held in store as though it were present.

400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 4.66-68

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

Announcements for December 9th

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee 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.

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 today will go for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) as part of our almsgiving for the fast.

IOCC Fundraising Dinner will be tonight 6:00 to 8:00 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas.

The Coffee Hour offering this month will go to help raise money for the teens going on the service retreat in Pharr, Texas, after Nativity.

The Myrrhbearers Society, our Christian burial ministry, will meet today during coffee hour.

The Mission Council will (finally) be installed today at the end of the Liturgy and will meet. Meetings are open to members of the parish.

Temple Oil is given for the health and salvation of Michael Rodgers.

Classes this Week

Thursday, 10:00 a.m. Sermon on the Mount.

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Creed: One Baptism

The Open House at the Rectory to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord will be held Thursday, December 27 at 6:00 rather than Friday the 28th.

The Nativity Fast lasts through the Liturgy on Nativity morning (Dec 25). We abstain from meat and dairy for the whole fast, and fish, wine (alcohol), and oil (except when permitted per the wall calendar) so that we can give more in alms, pray more effectively, and open our hearts more widely to God.

Please Pray for our Catechumens: for Joel and Mindy Brown and their children Daniel, Anya, and Elijah, Gary & Olivia Reynolds and their children Ariel, Analise, and Alexandra, Jacob Neff, Lauren Williams, Elizabeth Dakak, Philip, Sean, and for our inquirers Faith

Neff and Jason. Please pray for the novice Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher, (Olga's husband).

Hall Expansion Update: The back steps have been constructed; we expect sheetrock to go up this week along with insulation in the attic and the wheelchair ramp in back. We are pushing to finish this and make it useable.

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 \$2336.65; our monthly budget is \$9187 (\$2297 per week. (To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) In addition: Candles \$68, Expansion, \$18, Renovation (soda) \$4.95, Building Fund \$15. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 36, Liturgy 84.

Hall Expansion Fund: A total of **\$65,625.78** has been raised so far of the estimated \$79,000 it will cost. All **Coffee Hour Donations** go to support this until December.

From Saint Maximus

The capacity for unintelligence is rooted so deeply in human nature through the senses that the majority think that man is nothing more than flesh, which possesses sense faculties so that he can enjoy this present life.

'All things are possible', says Scripture, 'for the person who believes' (Mark 9:23) and does not doubt - that is to say, for the person who is not dominated by his soul's attachment to the body through the senses, and so does not separate himself from the union with God which faith has brought about in him through the intellect. Whatever alienates the intellect from the world and the flesh brings it, perfected by its spiritual achievements, close to God. That is what should be understood as implied in the saying, 'All things are possible for the person who believes.'

Faith is knowledge that cannot be rationally demonstrated. If such knowledge cannot be rationally demonstrated, then faith is a supernatural relationship through which, in an unknowable and so undemonstrable manner, we are united with God in a union which is beyond intellection.

Various Texts, Second Century 10-13

Troparia and Kontakia for December 9th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / ‘O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!’

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.

St. Anna’s Conception of the Theotokos, Troparion, tone 4

Today the bonds of barrenness are loosed; / for God listened to Joachim and Anna. / He promised them—although it was beyond hope— / that they should bear a divine child. / From this child was born the infinite God incarnate, / who told the Angel to cry to her: / “Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee.”

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 2

Thou didst rise from the grave, all –powerful Saviour; / and Hades, seeing the wonder, was affrighted; / and the dead arose; and creation, beholding, rejoiceth with Thee; / and with Thee Adam also is glad; / and the world, O my Saviour, hymneth Thee forever.

St. Maximus, Kontakion, tone 6

The thrice-radiant Light which abode in thy soul / showed thee to be a chosen vessel / revealing divine things to the ends of the earth, / O blessed Maximus, who givest utterance to concepts hard to grasp, / and manifestly proclaimest unto all // the transcendent and unoriginate Trinity.

St. Anna’s Conception of the Theotokos, Kontakion, tone 4

Today creation celebrates / Anna’s conception which was effected by God. / For she conceived the Maiden / who conceived the Word // who is beyond all words.