

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201
(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org
Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Bulletin for Sunday of December 16th, 2012

Schedule of Services

December 16th Sunday of the Forefathers, tone 3

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 18th Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

December 19th Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 20th Thursday

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

December 21st Friday

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

December 22nd Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 23rd Sunday Before Nativity, tone 4

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

The sign that the intellect dwells among the blessings for which it hopes is its total oblivion to worldly things and the growth in its knowledge of what is held in store.

The dispassion taught by the God of truth is a noble quality; through it He fulfils the aspirations of the devout soul.

The blessings that lie in store for the inheritors of the promise are beyond eternity, before all ages, and transcend both intellect and thought.

Let us regulate our lives according to the rules of true faith, so that we do not deviate into the passions and thus fail to attain what we hope for.

Jesus is the Christ, one of the Holy Trinity. You are destined to be His heir.

400 Chapters on Love, Self-Control & Life, 4.69-73

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

Announcements for December 16th

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 our hall expansion.

Many Thanks to those who participated in the pan-Orthodox dinner and the offering for the IOCC.

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.

Holy Unction, one of the Mysteries, will be offered this Thursday at 7:00 for the healing of soul and body. Orthodox Christians who have had a recent Confession may receive the Sacrament, and are encouraged to do so..

Classes this Week

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

The Open House at the Rectory to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord will be held Thursday, December 27 starting at 5:00. All are invited and welcome.

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. This is a season when all the faithful should prepare carefully for and make a heart-felt Confession and prepare to receive Holy Communion. Please note the many opportunities for Confession this week and take advantage of them.

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 sheetrock is up and has been taped and bedded and awaits texturing. The lumber for the back deck and wheelchair ramp has been delivered.

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 \$2760.16 \$2336.65; this month we have given \$5096.81 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 \$62.50, IOCC Offering \$88.67. May God bless your faithful giving! Attendance: Vigil 42, Liturgy 90.

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

He who has just begun to follow a holy way of life, and has received instruction about how to act righteously, devotes himself wholly to the practice of the virtues in all obedience and faith, nourishing himself, as if on meat, on their manifest aspects, that is to say, on moral training. The inner principles of the commandments, which constitute the knowledge of the perfect, in his faith he leaves to God, for he cannot as yet embrace the full magnitude of faith.

The perfect man, who has passed beyond the category not only of beginners but also of those who are advancing, is not ignorant of the inner principles of the actions he performs in carrying out the commandments. On the contrary, he first spiritually imbibes those principles and then by means of his actions feeds upon the whole body of the virtues. In this way he transposes to the plane of spiritual knowledge actions which take place in the sensible realm.

The Lord said, 'First seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness' (Matt. 6:33). That is, seek the knowledge of truth before all things, and therefore seek training in appropriate methods of attaining it. In saying this, He showed clearly that believers must seek only divine knowledge and the virtue which adorns it with corresponding actions.

Various Texts, Second Century 14-16

Troparia and Kontakia for December 16th

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.
/ From the womb of hell hath He delivered us, // and hath granted the world great mercy.

Troparion, Holy Forefathers, tone 2

By faith, Thou didst justify the forefathers, / when through them didst betroth Thyself aforetime / to the Church from among the nations. / The Saints boast in glory / that from their seed, there is a glorious fruit, / even she that bare Thee seedlessly. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Kontakion, Holy Forefathers, 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.

