

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton  
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## Bulletin for Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Schedule of Services

#### **December 8<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

#### **December, 10<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **December 11<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

7:30 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Russian Class

7:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **December 12<sup>th</sup> Thursday St. Spyridon**

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **December 13<sup>th</sup> Friday St. Herman of Alaska**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

#### **December 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **December 15<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Holy Forefathers**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 p.m. Mission Council

### The Optina Elders on Reconciliation & Joy

If you reconcile your own heart towards someone who is angry at you, the Lord will tell his heart to reconcile with you. *St. Hilarion*

We must begin with thanksgiving for everything. The beginning of joy is to be content with your situation. *St. Ambrose*

There is joy in the frequent remembrance of God, as it is written: "I remembered God, and I was gladdened." *St. Antony*

Gradually train yourself so as not to be so absent-minded. For this [in services], try to listen attentively and catch the meaning of the readings and the singing. Also frequently remember death, the judgment of God, and eternal torments. And do not give freedom to your eyes. Gaze more at the holy icons; looking at people is harmful for your soul. *St. Joseph*

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

## Announcements for December 8

**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), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

**The Special Offering** this week will be for a new chalice set.

**Temple wine and oil** given for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn.

### Classes this Week

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Russian and Lives of Martyrs

**Nativity Fast:** We fast from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil & marital relations (fish, wine, oil are noted on the wall calendar when permitted) and seek to increase in both quantity and quality our prayer (corporate and private), almsgiving, spiritual reading, and deeds of service in fulfillment of Christ's commandments that we may make more room for Christ in our lives. If you have not been to Confession and Communion in the past couple months, now is the time to prepare yourself to participate in those Mysteries. The Nativity Fast lasts through Liturgy on December 25.

**A General Holy Unction** will be served Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. to pray for healing of soul and body. Any Orthodox Christian who has had a recent Confession may receive the anointing.

**Please Pray:** for catechumen Shannon Goodson, for inquirers Rebecca and Destiny Marcott, Holly Bellan, Kathy Wells and her family, Amber Payne, Leah Saunders, and Joseph; the novice Svetlana, Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones, and Paraskeve. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale.

**Parish Food Pantry:** As part of our parish almsgiving, you may bring non-perishable foods and toiletries and place them in the labeled tub in the hall outside the bathroom. These will be made available to parishioners and sundry who have need.

**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 \$720; Our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles about \$50, building fund \$30, soda (building renovation) \$1; Special Offering for Chalice \$105.03. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 33, Sunday Liturgy 86.

### From Saint Maximus

The malice of the demon of pride takes two forms. Either he persuades the monk to ascribe his achievements to himself and not to God, the Giver of all goodness and helper in every achievement; or, if this fails, he suggests that he should belittle those of his brethren who are as yet less perfect than himself. Influenced in this way, he does not realize that the demon is persuading him to deny God's help. For if he belittles his brethren for their lack of achievement, he clearly infers that he has achieved something through his own powers. But this is impossible, since, as our Lord has said, 'Without Me you can do nothing' (John 15:5). For even when impelled towards what is good, our weakness cannot bring anything to fruition without the Giver of all goodness.

The person who has come to know the weakness of human nature has gained experience of divine power. Such a man, having achieved some things and eager to achieve others through this divine power, never belittles anyone. For he knows that just as God has helped him and freed him from many passions and difficulties, so, when God wishes, He is able to help all men, especially those pursuing the spiritual way for His sake. And if in His providence He does not deliver all men together from their passions, yet like a good and loving physician He heals with individual treatment each of those who are trying to make progress.

We grow proud when the passions cease to be active in us, and this whether they are inactive because their causes have been eradicated or because the demons have deliberately withdrawn in order to deceive us.

*400 Chapters on Love, 2.38-40*

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 8

### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

### 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. Potapius, Troparion, tone 8

In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Father; / for taking up thy cross thou didst follow Christ, / and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, / but to attend to the soul since it is immortal. // Wherefore, O righteous Patapius, thy spirit rejoiceth with the angels.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

### 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. Potapius, Kontakion, tone 3

Those who have found thy temple to be a place of spiritual healing, O holy one, / and have recourse thereto with zeal, / ask to receive the healing of their infirmities / and forgiveness of the transgressions they committed in their lives; // for thou art seen to be an intercessor for all in need, O venerable Potapius.