

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton  
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**Bulletin for Sunday December 29<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**  
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

**Schedule of Services**

**December 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Nativity**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**December, 31<sup>st</sup> Tuesday**

7:30 a.m. Matins

10:00 p.m. All-Night Vigil

**January 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil**

2:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Parish Open House at Rectory

**January 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**

7:30 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday No Fast**

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours for Theophany

**January 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**January 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Before Theophany**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vigil for Theophany

**The Optina Elders on Spiritual Warfare**

We are spiritual soldiers, and we have irreconcilable and invisible enemies who are dauntless, most evil, and who endlessly try to conquer and destroy that city which is our soul. We must not continue our life of laziness and sinful slumber, but imploring the help of God, we must stand up against our enemy. He only has power against us when we are confident and become proud of ourselves; but if we conduct ourselves with humility in every situation, then all the snares and power of the enemy are destroyed. *St. Macarius*

## Announcements for December 29

**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 St. Basil's Mission in Weatherford, OK.

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

### Classes this Week

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

**Classes Coming Up:** Beginning January 15 on Wednesday nights at 6:15, we'll do a study on the Gospel of John. Vespers will be served at 7:30. One last Russian class will be held on Wednesday, January 8. It will be decided at that time whether to continue Russian, and when. The Friday night class in Dallas will resume a couple times a month, and a daytime class during the week will be scheduled.

**All-Night New Year's Vigil:** For the first time at St. Maximus, you have the opportunity to ring in the New Year while keeping vigil in the church. Vigil will begin at 10:00 p.m., and we'll finish Liturgy about 3:30 a.m.—a much better way to start *Anno Domini* 2014 than watching a silly ball drop and blowing party horns. If you wish to receive Holy Communion, begin the Eucharistic fast by 9:00 p.m.

**An Open House** will be held at the rectory New Year's Day starting at 4:00 p.m. to celebrate the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Nativity and the New Year. All are welcome.

**Feast of St. Maximus** will be celebrated January 20-21 with a fuller than usual Vigil Monday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m. (a holiday) and Divine Liturgy Tuesday, January 21 at 9:00.

**Please Pray:** Holly Bellan, catechumens Shannon Goodson, Holly Bellan, and Sean Chaney, for inquirers Destiny Marcott, Rebecca Marcott, 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, and for Patricia.

**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 \$3262.55; In December we have given \$7910.64; Our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$137; Renovation (soda) \$2; Building Fund \$27; Special Offering for Debt Reduction \$10.01. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 41, Sunday Liturgy 92, Royal Hours 10, Vespers Liturgy 18, Nativity Vigil 45, Liturgy 73.

### From Saint Maximus

If a man is not envious or angry, and does not bear a grudge against someone who has offended him, that does not necessarily mean that he loves him. For, while still lacking love, he may be capable of not repaying evil with evil, in accordance with the commandment (cf. Rom. 12:17), and yet by no means be capable of rendering good for evil without forcing himself. To be spontaneously disposed to 'do good to those who you hate you' (Matt. 5:44) belongs to perfect spiritual love alone.

If a man does not love someone, it does not necessarily mean that he hates him; and conversely, if he does not hate him, it does not necessarily mean that he loves him, since he can be neutral towards him, that is, neither love him nor hate him. For the disposition to love is created only in the five ways listed in the ninth text of this Century, one commendable, one of an intermediate kind, and three reprehensible.

When you find your intellect occupied pleasurably with material things and becoming fondly attached to its conceptual images of them, you may be sure that you love these things more than God. 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also' (Matt. 6:21).

The intellect joined to God for long periods through prayer and love becomes wise, good, powerful, compassionate, merciful and long-suffering; in short, it includes within itself almost all the divine qualities. But when the intellect withdraws from God and attaches

itself to material things, either it becomes self-indulgent like some domestic animal, or like a wild beast it fights with men for the sake of these things.  
*400 Chapters on Love, 2.49-52*

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 29

### 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!’

### Nativity, Troparion, tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God / hath shone upon the world the light of wisdom. / For by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of Righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

### Righteous Ones, Troparion, tone 2

O Joseph, proclaim glad tidings to David, the ancestor of God, / for thou hast seen a Virgin give birth; / with the shepherds, thou didst give glory; / with the magi thou didst worship; / by an Angel thou wast instructed. / Entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.

### Righteous Ones, Kontakion, tone 3

Today the godly David is filled with gladness, / and Joseph offereth praise with James. / They rejoice, receiving a crown through their kinship with Christ; / and they laud Him who hath ineffably been born on earth, // and cry aloud: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

### Nativity, Kontakion, tone 3 (By St. Romanos the Melode)

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offereth a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with Shepherds glorify Him! / The wise men journey with the star: // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!