

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday January 5th, 2014

Schedule of Services

January 5th Sunday Before Theophany

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vigil for Theophany, Blessing of Water

January, 6th Monday Holy Theophany

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 8th Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:15 p.m. Russian Class

7:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 9th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

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

January 10th Friday

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 p.m. Compline w/Akathist

January 11th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 12th Sunday After Theophany

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From St. Syncletica

She also said, "If you find yourself in a monastery, do not go to another place, for that will harm you a great deal. Just as the bird who abandons the eggs she was sitting on prevents them from hatching, so the monk or the nun grows cold and their faith dies, when they go from one place to another.

She also said, "My children, we all want to be saved, but because of our habit of negligence, we swerve away from salvation."

Announcements for January 5

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.

The Feast of Theophany, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be served celebrated with Vigil tonight at 6:00, the Great Blessing of Water, and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil tomorrow morning at 9:00. The faithful do well to keep the feast by attending as much of the cycle of services as possible and partaking of the newly blessed waters.

House Blessings will begin for those who desire to have their homes blessed for 2014. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hall.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. Russian

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.

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 \$1996.11; In December we made budget, giving \$9996.75; Our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$92.50 Renovation (soda) \$9; Building Fund \$1679. To build a church will require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 25, Sunday Liturgy 85.

From Saint Maximus

Scripture calls material things 'the world'; and worldly men are those who occupy their intellect with these things. It is such men that Scripture rebukes when it says: 'Do not love the world or the things that are in the world . . . The desire of the flesh, and the desire of the eyes, and pride in one's possessions, are not of God but of the world' (cf. 1 John 2:15-16).

A monk is a man who has freed his intellect from attachment to material things and by means of self-control, love, psalmody and prayer cleaves to God.)

The herdsman signifies the man practicing the virtues, for moral achievements may be represented by cattle. That is why Jacob said, 'Your servants are herdsmen' (Gen. 46:34). The shepherd signifies the gnostic, for sheep represent thoughts pastured by the intellect on the mountains of contemplation. That is why 'every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians' (Gen. 46:34), that is, to the demonic powers.

When the body is urged by the senses to indulge its own desires and pleasures, the corrupted intellect readily succumbs and assents to its impassioned fantasies and impulses. But the regenerated intellect exercises self-control and withholds itself from them. Moreover, as a true philosopher it studies how to rectify such impulses.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.53-56

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, January 5

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 of the Forefeast, tone 4

Once the River Jordan was turned back / by the mantle of Elisha when Elijah was borne aloft, / and the waters were parted on either side, / and the path which before was wet became dry for him / as a true image of baptism, / whereby we pass through the flow of life. // Christ hath appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

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. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

Let us the faithful praise with fitting hymns / that lover of the Holy Trinity, great Maximus, / who clearly taught the divinely-given Faith: / that we should give glory unto Christ our God, / Who, but one person, hath in very truth / two natures, wills, and energies. / Let us cry to him: // Rejoice, divine herald of the Faith.

Forefeast of Theophany, Kontakion, tone 4

In the streams of the Jordan, / the Lord crieth out to John today: / "Fear not to baptize Me, / for I have come to save Adam // the first-created!"

Kontakion of Forefeast, tone 2

O Christ, who in thy compassion and infinite mercy / takest away the multitude of all our transgressions, / Thou comest as a man to be baptized in the waters of the Jordan, // clothing me in the raiment of the ancient glory of which I was cruelly stripped bare.