

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday January 19th, 2014

Schedule of Services

January 19th Sunday St. Mark of Ephesus

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 20th Monday

6:00 p.m. Vigil for St. Maximus

January 21st Tuesday Feast of St. Maximus

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 22nd Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:30 p.m. Class Gospel of John

7:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 23rd Thursday

7:00 p.m. Vespers

7:45 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

January 24th Friday St. Xenia

7:45 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 25th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 26th Sunday St. Mark of Ephesus

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From St. Mark of Ephesus

It is impossible to recall peace without dissolving the cause of the schism—the primacy of the Pope exalting himself equal to God.”

We seek and we pray for our return to that time when, being united, we spoke the same things and there was no schism between us.”

All the teachers of the Church, all the Councils, and all the Divine Scriptures, exhort us to flee those who uphold other doctrines and to separate from communion with them.

Announcements for January 19

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 our church building fund.

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

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

New Chalice: we used our new chalice for the first time last Sunday. Many thanks to those whose gifts made its purchase possible.

Renovations: our first stage of renovating the coffee hour room is completed. You'll also notice the new doors separating the narthex from the hall, and the new door separating the nursery from the library. Please keep these doors closed during services.

Classes this Week

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Gospel of John

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

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Russian

Classes Coming Up: Beginning January 29th, the daytime Bible study will resume on Wednesdays at noon with the Gospel of John.

Feast of St. Maximus will be celebrated tomorrow and Tuesday 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 [our only weekday Liturgy this week]. Vigil will include Compline with sung Akathist to the Theotokos, Great Vespers, Matins, and First Hour. We do well to participate in the services honoring our patron saint. We will have coffee and food following the Liturgy, so please bring something to share.

Many Thanks to Anna Stokes for sewing new communion cloths and for decorating the festal icons, and to all who worked at yesterday's work day.

Church Cleaning is needed each week. Please sign up and take a week.

Giving Statements for 2013 are available on the candle table. Please pick yours up today.

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 \$886.24 \$1996.11; this month we have given \$2882.35; our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$59; Special Offering for debt relief \$45.66 To build a church will likely require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 38, Sunday Liturgy 83.

From Saint Maximus

Love for God leads him who shares in it to be indifferent to every transient pleasure and every labor and distress. Let all the saints, who have suffered joyfully so much for Christ, convince you of this.

Guard yourself from that mother of vices, self-love, which is mindless love for the body. For it gives birth with specious justification to the three first and most general of the impassioned thoughts. I mean those of gluttony, avarice and self-esteem, which take as their pretext some so-called need of the body. All further vices are generated by these three. You must therefore be on your guard, as we have already said, and fight against self-love with great vigilance. For when this vice is eradicated, all the others are eradicated too.

The passion of self-love suggests to the monk [and to us!] that he should have pity on his body and in the name of its proper care and

governance should take food more often than is fitting; for in this way self-love will lead him on step by step to fall into the pit of self-indulgence. On the other hand, self-love prompts those who are not monks to fulfill the body's desires at once.

It is said that the highest state of prayer is reached when the intellect goes beyond the flesh and the World, and while praying is utterly free from matter and form. He who maintains this state has truly attained unceasing prayer.

400 Chapters on Love, 2.58-61

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, January 19

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

St. Mark of Ephesus, Troparion, tone 8

O most wise Mark, instructor of Orthodoxy / opposer of innovations, foundation of the Faith, / beacon of the Church, divinely inspired seal of teachers: / With thy writings thou hast enlightened all. // O harp of the Spirit, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 5

Thou didst descend to Hades, O my Savior; / and, having shattered its gates as all-powerful; / Thou as Creator didst raise the dead with Thee; / and Thou didst destroy the sting of death, / and Adam hath been delivered from the curse, O Lover of Man. / Wherefore, we all cry: Save us, O Lord!

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

St. Mark of Ephesus, Kontakion, tone 8

Taking the divinely wise writings of the theologians into thy heart, / as one of truly divine eloquence thou didst proclaim / the procession of the Holy Spirit as was needful, O ever-laudable one, / and didst seal the most holy Symbol of Faith; // wherefore, we chant: Rejoice, O divinely eloquent Mark!