

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton  
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## Bulletin for Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### Schedule of Services

#### **January 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday New Martyrs of Russia**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

#### **January 28<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

7:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

#### **January 29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

12:00 p.m. Class: Gospel of John Session 1

6:30 p.m. Class: Gospel of John Session 2

7:30 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **January 30<sup>th</sup> Thursday Three Hierarchs**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers

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

#### **January 31<sup>st</sup> Friday**

7:30 a.m. Matins

8:00 p.m. *Liturgical Theology Class, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

#### **February 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

4:00 p.m. Russian Class

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **February 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Presentation of the Lord in the Temple**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

From St. Symeon the New Theologian on Mourning  
When the faithful man, who always pays strict attention to the commandments of God, performs all that the divine commandments enjoin and directs his mind toward their sublimity, that is, to a conduct and purity that are above reproach, he will discover his own limitations. He will find that he is weak and lacks the power to attain the height of the commandments, indeed that he is very poor, that is, unworthy to receive God and give Him thanks and glory, since he has as yet failed to attain any good of his own. One who thus reasons with himself in the perception of his soul will indeed mourn with that sorrow which is truly most blessed, which will receive comfort and make the soul meek. (Matt 5:5) *Discourse 2.7*

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

## Announcements for January 26

**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 alms.

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

**Next Sunday** we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, one of the Twelve Great Feasts.

**Renovations:** cabinets for the downstairs will be delivered this week. You'll also notice the new doors, and the new door separating the nursery from the library. Please keep the new doors separating the narthex from the hall and the nursery from the library closed during services to block noise. Thank you.

### Classes this Week

Wednesday, noon, Gospel of John Session 1

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Gospel of John Session 2

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

Friday, 8:00 p.m. Liturgical Theology, St. Seraphim, Dallas

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Russian

**The Russian** class is wrapping up its learning of the alphabet. In the next couple weeks, it will begin using a standard first-year textbook to learn vocabulary and grammar. This new segment will begin with a review of the alphabet. Now is a good time for those who know the alphabet, have been exposed to it, or are motivated to learn the language to jump in. We'll be using Ben Clark's *Russian*, third edition.

**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 \$2291.32; this month we have given \$5373.67; our monthly budget is \$8700 (\$2008 per week.) Candles \$62; Special Offering for building fund \$8.25 To build a church will likely require a monthly income in the neighborhood of \$11,000 a month.) Attendance: Saturday Vigil 42, Sunday Liturgy 82.

### From Saint Maximus

Let no one deceive you, monk, with the notion that you can be saved while a slave to sensual pleasure and self-esteem.

When the body sins through material things, it has the bodily virtues to teach it self-restraint. Similarly, when the intellect sins through impassioned conceptual images, it has the virtues of the soul to instruct it, so that by seeing things in a pure and dispassionate way, it too may learn self-restraint.

Just as night follows day and winter summer, so distress and pain follow self-esteem and sensual pleasure, either in this life or after death.

No sinner can escape future judgment without experiencing in this life either voluntary hardships or afflictions he has not chosen.

There are said to be five reasons why God allows us to be assailed by demons. The first is so that, by attacking and counterattacking, we should learn to discriminate between virtue and vice. The second is so that, having acquired virtue through conflict and toil, we should keep it secure and immutable. The third is so that, when making progress in virtue, we should not become haughty but learn humility. The fourth is so that, having gained some experience of evil, we should 'hate it with perfect hatred' (cf. Ps. 139:22). The fifth and most important is so that, having achieved dispassion, we should forget neither our own weakness nor the power of Him who has helped us.

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, January 26

### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

### St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

#### New Martyrs of Russia, Troparion, tone 4

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passion bearers and pastors, / monks and laymen, ye countless new martyrs and confessors, / men, women, and children, / flowers of the spiritual meadow of Russia, / who blossomed forth wondrously in time of grievous persecutions, / bearing good fruit for Christ in your endurance: / Entreat Him as the One who planted you, / that He deliver His people from godless and evil men, / and that the Church of Russia / be made steadfast through your blood and suffering, // unto the salvation of our souls.

### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human race /, for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

### 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.

#### New Martyrs of Russia, Kontakion, tone 2

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, / who have with you r confession finished the course of this earth, / receiving boldness through your sufferings: / Beseech Christ who strengthened you, / that we also, whenever the hour of trial find us, / may receive the gift of courage from God. / For ye are a model for us who venerate your struggle; / for neither tribulation, prison, nor death / could separate you from the love of God.