

### From Saint Maximus

A long-suffering man is one who waits patiently for his trial to end and hopes that his perseverance will be rewarded.

‘The long-suffering man abounds in understanding’ (Prov. 14:29), because he endures everything to the end and, while awaiting that end, patiently bears his distress. The end, as St Paul says, is everlasting life (cf. Rom. 6:22). ‘And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent’ (John 17:3).  
*400 Chapters on Love, 4.23-24*

### Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 7

#### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

#### St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

#### St. Ambrose of Milan, Troparion, tone 4

Thou was revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility, and a teacher of abstinence, / Because of thy humility the heights were opened to thee, / because of thy poverty riches were granted to thee. / O holy hierarch, Father Ambrose, / intercede with Christ God // that our souls may be saved.

#### Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

#### St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

#### St. Ambrose, Kontakion, tone 3

Shining with divine dogmas, / thou didst darken the deception of Arius, / O Ambrose, pastor and teacher of the mysteries. / And working wonders through the power of the Spirit, / thou didst manifestly heal divers passions. / O venerable father, // entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

## Announcements for December 7

**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 if we are communing), and not leave until the dismissal at the end.

**The Special Offering** this week will be for our building fund.

**Temple Wine** given in memory of Archbishop Dmitri.

### Classes this Week

Today, 11:45, Basics of Orthodoxy

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Writings of St. Athanasius of Alexandria:

#### *On the Incarnation*

Basics of Orthodoxy will not meet next Sunday.

**Today**, we honor the Resurrection of Christ and St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan O holy Hierarch Ambrose, pray to Christ God for us!

**The Monthly College-Age Dinner** will be held tonight at 6:00 at Fr. Justin's house: dinner, Compline, fellowship, etc.

**A New Roof** has been installed on the church. We await one skylight to see the job finished. Thanks be to God!

**Mission Council** will meet next Sunday after Liturgy.

**New Icons** of St. Katherine, St. Aleksandr Nevsky, St. Demetrius, and St. Sergius of Radonezh have been acquired. Look for them on the walls soon.

**Holy Unction**, the Mystery of the Church unto the healing of soul and body, will be offered generally for all Orthodox Christians who have had a recent Confession and are in communion with the Church on Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.

**Coffee Hour** is a part of our ministry to allow people to break the liturgical fast and eat together and get to know each other so that we may learn to love one another. It takes all of us bringing food and cleaning up to make this work. Please participate and don't leave the burden to others!

**Church Cleaning:** part of our love for God's house is keeping it clean and in good order. We are suffering a dearth of people signing up to clean each week. Please make time to clean. If everyone takes part, no one has to clean more than once every three months.

**Almsgiving** is an essential part of our Christian lives, and God gives much grace in response to our giving alms to those in need. For the Nativity Fast, you may give money in the alms box, but you may also bring non-perishable food for our modest food pantry, which goes to help both parishioners and those outside the Church who come with need. Please give generously with joy!

**Nativity Fast** has begun. 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.

**Please Pray:** for catechumens Holly Bellan, Seth Williams, and Rick Hollembeak, the postulant Elias, the novice Svetlana, and Elizabeth (Chandler) Jones. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioners: the newly departed Stephen and Natalya (daughter) Perrin, and for Natalya (mother) in hospital in stable condition.

**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 \$1551.01 in tithes and offerings; in November we gave \$8614.78 plus \$1585 electronically for a total of \$10,199.78; our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$55.50; Special offering for Library \$35; Soda Jar (Renovation) \$6.50; Building Fund \$3. Attendance: Liturgy 107, Vigil 38.

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Bulletin for Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Schedule of Services

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday St. Ambrose of Milan**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
noon Basics of Orthodox Class  
6:00 College-Age Dinner

**December 8<sup>th</sup> Monday**

3:00 p.m. Vespers, confession

**December 9<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Conception of the Theotokos**

6:00 a.m. Hours  
6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**December 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession  
6:00 Confession  
7:00 p.m. Vespers  
8:00 p.m. Class: St. Athanasius of Alexandria, *On The Incarnation*

**December 11<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

8:45 a.m. Hours  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**December 12<sup>th</sup> Friday**

7:00 a.m. Matins, Confession  
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

**December 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**December 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

As, then, he who desires to see God Who by nature is invisible and not to be beheld, may yet perceive and know Him through His works, so too let him who does not see Christ with his understanding at least consider Him in His bodily works and test whether they be of man or God. If they be of man, then let him scoff; but if they be of God, let him not mock at things which are no fit subject for scorn, but rather let him recognize the fact and marvel that things divine have been revealed to us by such humble means, that through death deathlessness has been made known to us, and through the Incarnation of the Word the Mind whence all things proceed has been declared, and its Agent and Ordainer, the Word of God Himself.

*St. Athanasius the Great, On the Incarnation, ¶54*