

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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**Bulletin for Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Schedule of Services**

**January 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Theophany, tone 8 St. Gregory**

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 noon Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Divine Liturgy

**January 26<sup>th</sup> Monday**

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**January 28<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

5:45 p.m. Class: St. Athanasius

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**January 29<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**January 30<sup>th</sup> Friday Three Holy Hierarchs**

6:00 a.m. Hours

6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Pannikhida, Confession

**January 31<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

8:30 –2:00 Death, Dying & Grief, Holy Trinity GOC Dallas

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**February 1<sup>st</sup> Publican and Pharisee**

8:45 a.m. Hours

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12:00 noon Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Great Vespers w/Litia for the Meeting

Manifold indeed and beyond human conception are the instructions and gifts of grace which He has laid up in us; as the pattern of heavenly conversation, power against demons, the adoption of sons, and that exceeding great and singular grace, the knowledge of the Father and of the Word Himself, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. But the mind of man is prone to evil exceedingly; moreover, our adversary the devil, envying us the possession of such great blessings, goeth about seeking to snatch away the seed of the word which is sown within us. Wherefore as if by His prophetic warnings He would seal up His instructions in our hearts as His own peculiar treasure, the Lord said, Take heed that no man deceive you: for many shall come in My name, saying, I am he; and the time draweth near; and they shall deceive many: ye not therefore after them.

St. Athanasius, *Letter to the Bishops of Egypt*

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

## Announcements for January 25

**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 St. Arsenius Skete.

### Classes this Week

Today: Basics of Orthodoxy, Divine Liturgy: The Three Liturgies, Proskomide

Wednesday, 5:45 p.m. St. Athanasius the Great: Letter to the Bishops of Egypt

**Today**, we honor the Resurrection of Christ, St. Gregory the Theologian, and the Holy New Martyrs of Russia. O holy father Gregory, pray to Christ God for us!

**Giving Statements** for 2014, produced by our treasurer, Jordan Rovny, are available on the candle table. Please find and take yours. See Jordan if you have any questions.

**Falling Asleep in the Lord**, a local conference sponsored by North Texas Orthodox Missions (NTOM), will be held next Friday, January 30 at St. Demetrios, Fort Worth, 6:00 to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, January 31, at Holy Trinity, Dallas, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. See flyer on bulletin board or go to [ntom.org](http://ntom.org).

**House Blessings:** A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

**Forgiveness Vespers** comes in four weeks, February 22 at 6:00. All who make this their parish home should plan to attend this service

**Candle Money** goes in the candle box.

**Candle Snuffing:** Please use the candle snuffers when extinguishing candles rather than blowing them out. This is advance preparation to reducing soot and smoke damage to walls and icons in the new church when we build it.

**Commemorations:** It is good to see so many of you submitting names for commemoration at the Proskomide. Please try to submit your books or slips ahead of time at Vigil whenever possible. Put

them in the basket on the candle table.

**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 \$1800.51 in tithes and offerings; this month, we have given \$4395.37 our monthly budget is \$9502 (\$2192 per week). Candles \$59; Special offering for prison ministry \$89; drink jar (renovations) \$16.05; building fund \$8. Attendance: Liturgy 87, Vigil 36; St. Maximus Vigil, 30; Liturgy 36.

**Please Pray:** for the newly illumined Photina (Holly) Bellan, John (Seth) Williams, and Eugene (Rick) Hollembeak the novice Elias, and the novice Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Joanna (Sherri) Hale, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin.

### From Saint Maximus

He who has renounced such things as marriage, possessions and other worldly pursuits is outwardly a monk, but may not yet be a monk inwardly. Only he who has renounced the impassioned conceptual images of these things has made a monk of the inner self, the intellect. It is easy to be a monk in one's outer self if one wants to be; but no small struggle is required to be a monk in one's inner self.

Who in this generation is completely freed from impassioned conceptual images, and has been granted uninterrupted, pure and spiritual prayer? Yet this is the mark of the inner monk.

Many passions are hidden in our souls; they can be brought to light only when the objects that rouse them are present.

A man can enjoy partial dispassion and not be disturbed by passions when the objects which rouse them are absent. But once those objects are present, the passions quickly distract his intellect.

Do not imagine that you enjoy perfect dispassion when the object arousing your passion is not present. If when it is present you remain unmoved by both the object and the subsequent thought of it, you may be sure that you have entered the realm of dispassion. But even so do not be over-confident; for virtue when habitual kills the passions, but when it is neglected they come to life again.

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, January 25

### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to Thee.

### St. Gregory Theologian, Troparion, tone 1

The shepherd's pipe of thy theology / drowned out the trumpets of the philosophers; / for since thou didst search out the depths of the Spirit, / beauty of speech was added to thee. / But intercede, with Christ God, O Father Gregory, // that our souls be saved.

### 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 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

### St Gregory, Kontakion, tone 3

With thy theologian's speech thou didst destroy / the entangled webs of vain philosophers, / while beautifying the whole Church / with the robe of Orthodoxy woven in Heaven; / and the Church, clothed in it, crieth with us, thy children: / O wise Gregory most glorious, / rejoice, O Father, // great theological mind.

### 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.