

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

2026 W. Oak Street • Denton, TX 76201

(940) 565-6753 • www.stmaximus.org

Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Bulletin for Sunday December 13th, 2015

Schedule of Services

December 13th Sunday tone 3 St. Herman of Alaska; Forefathers

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

11:30 p.m. Mission Council

December 15th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 201

December 16th Wednesday

6:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 17th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

December 18th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers

8:00 p.m. Class: Therapy of Spiritual Healing

December 19th Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Russian Divine Liturgy, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 20th Sunday Before Nativity, tone 4

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

1:30 p.m. Vespers

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

Fear is twofold; one kind is pure, the other impure. That which is pre-eminently fear of punishment on account of offences committed is impure, for it is sin which gives rise to it. It will not last for ever, for when the sin is obliterated through repentance it too will disappear. Pure fear, on the other hand, is always present even apart from remorse for offences committed. Such fear will never cease to exist, because it is somehow rooted essentially by God in creation and makes clear to everyone His awe-inspiring nature, which transcends all kingship and power. 1.69

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

Announcements for December 13

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 his 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).

The Special Offering this week will be for IOCC.

Classes This Week

Tuesday 8:00 Basics of Orthodoxy 201 "God's Plan for Man: Made in the Image and Likeness"

Friday, 8:00: Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses, Part II chapters 1 & 2, "The Passions" and "Self-Love"

Holy Unction, this week, for the healing of soul and body will be offered here Thursday 7:00 p.m. All Orthodox Christians who have had a recent Confession are welcome to partake.

Church Decoration: We shall decorate the church for Nativity next Sunday after coffee hour. If someone will bring some evergreen boughs, please let Father know.

The Nativity Fast: We abstain from meat and dairy products. The wall calendar indicates what days we may have fish, wine, and oil. The fast is a time to turn our hearts to the Lord in repentance for our sloth, ingratitude, carelessness, and lack of love, and to seek to be renewed in Him as we contemplate the becoming man of the Son of God. It is also time to prepare for a good Confession and for Holy Communion.

Feast Day for Holy Nativity Monastery will be Saturday, December 26, with Hours at 9:30, Divine Liturgy at 10:00, and a reception and luncheon at noon. Fr. Vasile Tudora of St. John's, Eules, will speak on the subject "The Christian Family Suspended Between Tradition and Temptation". Please call to reserve a spot by December 20 to (903) 498-4474 or email nativitymonastery@gmail.com.

An All-night Vigil and Liturgy will be served again this year for St. Basil/New Year, starting about 10:00 p.m. Thursday, December 31.

St. Maximus Lecture 2016: Bishop Maxim of the Western Serbian Diocese of North America will speak about St. Maximus January 20-21, 2016.

Please Pray: for our catechumens, Adam and Jenilee Skelton and Marsha Northam, for the inquirers Dante, the Wells family, the Dean family, for the novices Elias and Svetlana. Pray for Joe Fincher and Olga, for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for former parishioner Natalya Perrin, and for our diocesan administrator, Fr. Gerasim. Pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest field here in Denton and North Texas. Remember always to pray for your priest.

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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during Liturgy), where there is also a box for alms (those in need) and a box for our building fund.

Last week, we gave \$2934.97 in tithes and offerings; in November, including electronic offerings of \$1433, we gave \$11,227.95; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$67.50; renovation (drinks) \$3, building fund \$39, special offering for alms \$45.50. Attendance: Vigil 31, Liturgy 85.

From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

From created beings we come to know their Cause; from the differences between created beings we learn about the indwelling Wisdom of creation; and from the natural activity of created beings we discern the indwelling Life of creation, the power which gives created beings their life — the Holy Spirit. 1.71

The Holy Spirit is not absent from any created being, especially not from one which in any way participates in intelligence. For being God and God's Spirit, He embraces in unity the spiritual knowledge of all created things, providentially permeating all things with His power, and vivifying their inner essences in accordance with their nature. In this way He makes men aware of things done sinfully against the law of nature, and renders them capable of choosing principles which are true and in conformity with nature. Thus we find many barbarians and nomadic peoples turning to a civilized way of life and setting aside the savage laws which they had kept among themselves from time immemorial. 1.72

The Holy Spirit is present unconditionally in all things, in that He embraces all things, provides for all, and vivifies the natural seeds within them. He is present in a specific way in all who are under the Law, in that He shows them where they have broken the commandments and enlightens them about the promise given concerning Christ. In all who are Christians He is present also in yet another way in that He makes them sons of God. But in

none is He fully present as the author of wisdom except in those who have understanding, and who by their holy way of life have made themselves fit to receive His indwelling and deifying presence. For everyone who does not carry out the divine will, even though he is a believer, has a heart which, being a workshop of evil thoughts, lacks understanding, and a body which, being always entangled in the defilements of the passions, is mortgaged to sin. I.73

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 13

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, Holy Forefathers, tone 2

By faith, Thou didst justify the forefathers, / when through them didst betroth Thyself aforetime / to the Church from among the nations. / The Saints boast in glory / that from their seed, there is a glorious fruit, / even she that bare Thee seedlessly. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

St Herman, Troparion

O righteous Father Herman of Alaska / North Star of Christ's holy Church, / the light of thy holy life and great deeds / guideth those that follow the Orthodox way. / Together we lift high the holy Cross, / which thou didst plant firmly in America. / Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ, / singing his holy Resurrection.

Kontakion, Holy Forefathers, tone 6

Ye would not worship a hand-wrought image, O thrice blessed ones; / but armed by the Undepictable Essence, / ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire. / Standing in the midst of the irresistible flame, ye called upon God: / Speed Thou, O Compassionate One, since Thou art merciful, / and hasten to come unto our aid; for Thou art able, if it be Thy will.

St. Herman, Kontakion, tone 8

O beloved of the Mother of God, who received the tonsure at Valaam, / new zealot of the struggles of the desert-dwellers of old: / wielding prayer as a spear and shield, thou didst show thyself to be terrible to demons and pagan darkness. / Wherefore, we cry out to thee: // O venerable Herman, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved!