

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday December 27th, 2015

Schedule of Services

December 27th Sunday after Nativity, tone 5

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

December 29th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

December 30th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 31st Thursday Leavetaking of Nativity

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Little Vespers, Confession

10:00 p.m. All-Night Vigil (Compline, Vespers, Matins, Hours)

January 1st Friday St. Basil, Circumcision of the Lord

2:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 2nd Saturday

6:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 3rd Sunday before Theophany, tone 6

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

From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts

When those who have acquired moral stability and contemplative knowledge employ these for the sake of human glory, merely conveying an outward impression of the virtues, and uttering words of wisdom and knowledge without performing the corresponding actions; and when in addition they display to others their vanity because of this supposed virtue and knowledge, then they are rightly handed over to commensurate hardships, in order to learn through suffering that humility which was unknown to them before because of their empty conceit. 1.81

Each demon promotes the attack of this or that particular temptation according to his innate propensity. For one demon is productive of one kind of evil, while another is clearly more abominable than his fellow and has a greater propensity for some other form of evil. 1.82

Announcements for December 27

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 Fr. Seraphim Holland's prison ministry.

Temple Wine offered for the health and salvation of Photina and Jude.

Classes This Week

Tuesday 8:00 Basics of Orthodoxy 201 "The First Command: Repent!"

Ring in the New Year with an All-Night Vigil and Liturgy this Thursday (New Year's Eve) starting at 10:00 p.m. to celebrate the feast of St. Basil the Great and the Circumcision of Christ. Divine Liturgy will begin at about 2:30 a.m. The Vigil will consist of Little Compline with the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos, Great Vespers in full, Matins in full, the Hours, and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil.

Continue to Ring in the New Year with an Open House at the rectory (the Fredericks) starting at 5:00 p.m. January first. Enjoy the fast-free Friday!

Changes to the Schedule in January: In the new year, starting the week of January third, Wednesday Vespers will be served (until Great Lent) at 7:30 p.m. to accommodate the Therapy of Spiritual Healing Class which will be offered Wednesdays at 6:15. Fridays, Vespers will be served at 3:00 with a class on the book of James at 4:00. Little Compline will be served at 7:30.

Relics of St. Herman: to the right of the icon of Christ which we venerate in the church is the large icon of St. Herman. A relic (a bit of bone) has been put out in a sliver box for veneration along with earth from his grave.

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 \$2678.45 in tithes and offerings; in December, we have given \$7726.62; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$71.60; renovation (drinks) \$1, special offering for Nativity Monastery \$26. Attendance: Vigil 33, Liturgy 97; Nativity Vigil 57; Nativity Liturgy 81.

From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

Without divine permission even the demons themselves cannot assist the devil in any way at all. For it is God Himself in His loving providence who allows the devil, in appropriate ways, to inflict various sufferings through his ministers. The book of Job shows this plainly, describing as it does how the devil was utterly unable to approach Job unless God willed it (cf. Job 1:11-12). 1.83

Real faith is faith which is manifest and active. Accordingly, to those engaged in the practice of the virtues the Logos of God is revealed embodied in the commandments, and as Logos He leads them by means of these commandments up to the Father, in whom He subsists by nature. 1.84

Reformation of life, angelic worship, the willing separation of the soul from the body, and the beginning of divine renewal in spirit — these are proclaimed in the veiled language of the New Testament. For instance, by the term 'spiritual circumcision' Scripture denotes the excision of the soul's impassioned attachment to the body (cf. Phil. 3:3; Col. 2:11). 1.85

Since God is full of goodness and wishes utterly to eradicate from us the seed of evil — that is to say, the sensual pleasure which draws our intellect away from divine love — He allows the devil to afflict us with suffering and chastisement. In this way He scrapes the poison of past pleasure from our souls; and He seeks to implant in us a hatred and complete revulsion for the things which belong to this world and pander to the senses alone, by making us realize that once we have acquired them we gain nothing from their use save chastisement. For

He wishes to make the devil's power of chastisement and hatred of men the contingent cause of the return to virtue of those who have by their own free choice lapsed from it. 1.86

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 27

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.

Nativity, Troparion, tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God / hath shone upon the world the light of wisdom. / For by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of Righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

Righteous Ones, Troparion, tone 2

O Joseph, proclaim glad tidings to David, the ancestor of God, / for thou hast seen a Virgin give birth; / with the shepherds, thou didst give glory; / with the magi thou didst worship; / by an Angel thou wast instructed. / Entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.

Righteous Ones, Kontakion, tone 3

Today the godly David is filled with gladness, / and Joseph offereth praise with James. / They rejoice, receiving a crown through their kinship with Christ; / and they laud Him who hath ineffably been born on earth, // and cry aloud: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!"

Nativity, Kontakion, tone 3 (By St. Romanos the Melode)

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offereth a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with Shepherds glorify Him! / The wise men journey with the star: // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!