

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 January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

**Schedule of Services**

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Theophany, tone 6**  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School

**January 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**  
6:00 a.m. Royal Hours  
6:00 p.m. Vigil  
8:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy 201

**January 6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Theophany**  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Great Blessing of Water  
7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

**January 9<sup>nd</sup> Saturday**  
6:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**January 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Theophany, tone 7**  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Church School  
11:30 a.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 102 (Orthodox Way)  
12:30 p.m. Mission Council

**From Saint Maximus 500 Various Texts**

The contemplative and gnostic intellect is often committed for punishment to the devil, deservedly suffering hardship and affliction at his hands. This is so that by suffering it may learn patiently to endure affliction rather than to trifle arrogantly to no purpose with things that do not exist. 1.88

If he who suffers for having transgressed one of God's commandments recognizes the principle of divine providence which is healing him, he accepts the affliction with joy and gratitude, and corrects the fault for which he is being disciplined. But if he is insensitive to this treatment, he is justly deprived of the grace that was once given him and is handed over to the turbulence of the passions; he is abandoned so that he may acquire by ascetic labor those things for which he inwardly longs. 1.89

### Announcements for January 3

**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 St. Basil Mission in Weatherford, OK.

**Temple Wine** offered for the health and salvation of Photina and Jude; **Temple Oil** offered for the health and salvation of William, Carolyn, and Mary Grace.

#### Classes This Week

Tuesday 8:00 Basics of Orthodoxy 201 "Cultivating Christian Life: Three Tools"

Wednesday 6:15 Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses

Sunday, January 10: Basics of Orthodox 102: *Orthodox Way*

**Change to the Schedule This Week:** Vigil will be served this Saturday at 6:00 instead of 5:00 for one week only.

**Theophany:** This week we celebrate the Theophany of the Lord at His Baptism in the Jordan, one of the Twelve Great Feasts with the Royal Hours Tuesday morning at 6:00, Vigil Tuesday evening at 6:00, and Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

**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.

**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. Please pray for John Roberts and his wife Edith, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Last week, we gave \$2047.68 in tithes and offerings; in December, we have given \$9774.30; our monthly budget is \$10,350 (\$2389 per week). Candles \$102.50; building fund \$75, renovation (drinks) \$2, special offering for prison ministry \$57.11. Attendance: Sat Vespers 10, Sun Liturgy 64; All-night Vigil and Liturgy for St. Basil and New Year 16. In 2015, our average Sunday attendance was 88.1 (a record), Saturday Vigil 32.4 (not a record).

#### From Saint Maximus (*continued*)

A person who, knowing what faults he has committed, willingly and with due thankfulness endures the trials painfully inflicted on him as a consequence of these faults, is not exiled from grace or from his state of virtue; for he submits willingly to the yoke of the king of Babylon (cf. Jer. 27:17) and pays off his debt by accepting the trials. In this way, while remaining in a state of grace and virtue, he pays tribute to the king of Babylon not only with his enforced sufferings, which have arisen out of the impassioned side of his nature, but also with his mental assent to these sufferings, accepting them as his due on account of his former offences. Through true worship, by which I mean a humble disposition, he offers to God the correction of his offences. 1.90

If you do not accept gratefully the trials which, by God's permission, are inflicted on you for your correction, and do not repent and rid yourself of your conceited opinion that you are righteous, you are given up to captivity, manacles, chains, hunger, death and the sword, and dwell a complete exile from your native land; for you resist the just penalties decreed by God and refuse to submit willingly to the yoke of the king of Babylon, as God has commanded. Banished in this way from your state of virtue and spiritual knowledge as if from your native land, you suffer all these things and more besides, because in your pride and vain conceit you refuse to make full satisfaction for your offences and to 'take delight in afflictions, calamities and hardships' (cf. 2 Cor. 12:10), as St Paul did. For he knew that the humility produced by bodily sufferings safeguards the divine treasures of the soul; and for this reason he was content and endured patiently, both for his own sake and for the sake of those to whom he served as an example of virtue and faith, so that if they suffered when guilty, like the Corinthian who was censured (cf. 1 Cor. 5:1-5), they might have him who suffers innocently as an encouragement and as a model of patience. 1.91

## Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, January 3

### 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.

### Troparion of the Forefeast, tone 4

Make ready, O Zebulun! / Adorn thyself, O Naphtali! / O River Jordan, leaping up, receive thou the Master, / who cometh to be baptized! / Hide not yourselves as ye did before in Paradise; / for He that beheld you naked hath revealed Himself, / that He may clothe you in your primal raiment. / Christ hath appeared, // desiring to make all creation new!

### St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

By an outpouring of the Holy Spirit / thou didst pour forth Christ's sacred teachings, / thou didst expound with Divine authority / the self-emptying of God the Word / and wast radiant in thy confession of the True Faith: / O, Glorious Father Maximus / pray to Christ our God / to grant us His great mercy.

### Prophet Malachi, Troparion, tone 2

As we celebrate the memory / of Thy prophet Malachi, O Lord, // through him we beseech Thee to save 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 dough, / 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.

### Prophet Malachi, Kontakion, tone 4

Enriched by the gift of prophecy, / O Prophet Malachi, / thou didst manifestly proclaim salvation to the world / and the advent of Christ, // by whose radiance the world hath been illuminated.

### Kontakion of Forefeast, tone 4

In the streams of the Jordan / the Lord crieth out to John today: // "Fear not to baptize Me, for I have come to save Adam the first-created!"