

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 1st, 2017



Schedule of Services

January 1st Sunday, Tone 3, St. Basil, Circumcision of Christ

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 2nd Monday St. Seraphim of Sarov

6:00 a.m. Matins

January 3rd Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

January 4th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 5th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Royal Hours

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 6th Friday Theophany of the Lord

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Great Blessing of Water

6:30 p.m. Vespers

January 7th Saturday

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim, Dallas

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 8th Sunday, Tone 4

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

15. The demons, who are always waging war against us, try to prevent us from performing actions that are within our power and that would help us to acquire the virtues, while at the same time they suggest ways of accomplishing things that in fact are impossible or else out of place. They compel those progressing in obedience to follow the hesychasts' way of life; and they implant in hesychasts and hermits a desire for the coenobitic rule. They use a similar method with respect to every virtue. So let us be mindful of their designs, knowing that all things are good in their proper time and measure, while things lacking measure and out of place are noxious.

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

Announcements for January 1

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 also invite you to go first through the food line.

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 Seminarian Daniel Greeson.

Temple Oil offered in memory of William Frederick.

Many Thanks to those graced the open house at the rectory with their presence and offerings of food and drink.

Theophany, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with Royal Hours Thursday morning at 6:00, Vigil Thursday evening at 7:00, and Divine Liturgy Friday at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Great Blessing of Water. The faithful do well to keep the feast by attending as much of the cycle of services for the feast as they can.

Fasting: N.B., while Wednesday is a non-fasting day this week, Thursday, the eve of Theophany, is a day of strict fasting.

No Classes This Week. They will resume the week of January 8 with Basics of Orthodoxy 103 on Sundays, NT Survey on Wednesdays at 5:45 and Fridays at 2:00.

A Russian Divine Liturgy will be celebrated this Saturday at St. Seraphim's Cathedral in Dallas at 9:30.

Mission Council will meet next Sunday.

Parish Patronal Feast: The Feast of St. Maximus falls on Saturday, January 21. We'll observe it with an extended Vigil Friday night the 20th and Divine Liturgy Saturday morning at 9:00, followed by a meal and a possible lecture.

Commemorations: Please try to submit your Sunday commemorations Saturday night (or earlier) whenever you can.

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and 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 slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during

service). There are also boxes for alms (those in need) and our building fund.

Last week we gave \$1564.66 in tithes and offerings; in December, we have given \$9657.51; with electronic giving totally \$3506, our total giving in December was \$13,163.51. Our monthly budget is \$11,250. Candles \$157.50; Building Fund \$5.72; Special Offering for the Diocese of Aleppo \$380. Attendance: Liturgy 79, Vigil 30. In 2016, we averaged 91 on Sunday (a record, up from 88 in 2015) and 34.3 at Vigil (not quite a record).

Please Pray: for the newly tonsured nun; for catechumens the Wells family and Marsha Northam, our inquirers the Dean family, for David & Sally Roberts, and for the Jones family; for the novice Elias. Pray for Patricia, Perpetua, and James Lydon. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

1.57 If 'he who speaks evil of his brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law' (Jas. 4:11), and the law of Christ is love, surely he who speaks evil of Christ's love falls away from it and is the cause of his own perdition.

1.58 Do not listen gleefully to gossip at your neighbor's expense or chatter to a person who likes finding fault. Otherwise you will fall away from divine love and find yourself cut off from eternal life.

1.59 Do not permit any abuse of your spiritual father or encourage anyone who dishonors him. Otherwise the Lord will be angry with your conduct and will obliterate you from the land of the living (cf. Deut. 6:15).

1.60 Silence the man who utters slander in your hearing. Otherwise you sin twice over: first, you accustom yourself to this deadly passion and, second you fail to prevent him from gossiping against his neighbor.

1.61 'But I say to you,' says the Lord, 'love your enemies ... do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you' (Matt. 5:44). Why did He command this? To free you from hatred, irritation, anger and rancor, and to make you worthy of the supreme gift of perfect love. And you cannot attain such love if you do not imitate God and love all men equally. For God loves all men equally and wishes them 'to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth' (1 Tim. 2:4).

1.62 'But I say to you, do not resist evil; but if someone hits you on the right cheek, turn to him the other cheek as well. And if anyone sues you in the courts, and takes away your coat, let him have your cloak also. And if anyone forces you to go a mile, go with him for two miles' (Matt. 5:39-41). Why did He say this? Both to keep you

free from anger and irritation, and to correct the other person by means of your forbearance, so that like a good Father He might bring the two of you under the yoke of love.

Troparia and Kontakia for January 1"



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 Circumcision, tone 1

O Jesus, who in the highest dost sit with Thine unoriginate Father / and the divine Spirit upon a fiery throne, / thou was well-pleased to be born on earth of thy Mother, / a Maiden who knew not a man; / wherefore, Thou wast circumcised as a babe eight days of age. / Glory to Thine all-good counsel! / Glory, to Thy dispensation! // Glory to Thy condescension, O Thou who alone lovest mankind!

Troparion, St. Basil, tone 1

Thy sound hath gone forth into all the earth, / which hath received thy discourse, / whereby thou didst divinely teach and make clear the nature of things, / and didst adorn the ways of men. / O venerable father Basil, thou royal priesthood, // entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

Kontakion, St. Basil, tone 4

Thou hast been shown to be the unshakable foundation of the Church, / bestowing upon all men a dominion which cannot be taken away, / and sealing them with precepts, / O venerable Basil, // who revealest heavenly things.

Kontakion, Holy Circumcision, tone 3

The Lord of all endureth circumcision, / and, in that He is good, cutteth away the transgressions of men, / and today granteth salvation to the world. / And Basil, the high priest of the Creator, // the radiant and divine initiate of the mysteries of Christ, rejoiceth on high.