

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday, December 3rd, 2017

Schedule of Services

December 3rd Sunday Tone 1

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Mission Council
2:00 p.m. Vespers (after Mission Council)

December 4th Monday St. John of Damascus, St. Barbara

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 5th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 6th Wednesday St. Nicholas

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
5:00 p.m. Vespers
6:00 p.m. Class: Ephesians

December 7th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins
6:00 p.m. Men's Group: Stages of Spiritual Life

December 8th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
10:00 a.m. Class: Spiritual Psalter

December 9th Saturday Conception of the Theotokos

10:00 a.m. Baptism of Xenia Williams
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 10th Sunday Tone 2

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour,

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

92. Self-love, love of pleasure and love of praise banish remembrance of God from the soul. Self-love begets unimaginable evils. And when remembrance of God is absent, there is a tumult of the passions within us.

93. He who has completely uprooted self-love from his heart will, with God's help, easily conquer all the other passions. For a man dominated by self-love is under the power of other passions as well, since from it arise anger, irritation, rancor, love of pleasure, licentiousness. By self-love we mean an impassioned disposition towards and love for the body, and the fulfillment of carnal desires.

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

Announcements for December 3rd

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 line at Coffee Hour.

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 is for seminarian Deacon Daniel.

Altar Wine offered for the health and salvation of Sophia;
Temple Oil is offered for the health and salvation of Andrew Bramlett.

Today we install our **New Mission Council:** Boris (Jordan) Rovny, Reader Maximus (Shane) Gibson, Joseph (Ed) Pier, Polycarp (Adam) Skelton, Melanie Betz.

The Men's Group will meet this Thursday at the church at 6:00 p.m. for fellowship and to discuss the topic of the stages of spiritual life and why we feel we lose grace and God grows distant.

Basics of Orthodoxy on Sunday resumes today at noon. Basics 201 involves seven sessions reading and discussing *The Orthodox Way* by Timothy (Bishop Kallistos) Ware between December 3 and January 14. Basics 202 will start January 28 and run for ten weeks studying the *Longer Catechism* by St. Philaret of Moscow through Palm Sunday. The Friday Basics of Orthodox Class will NOT meet this week.

Classes This Week

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy 201

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Ephesians

Friday 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Psalter of St. Ephrem

The Nativity Fast has begun. It lasts until the Nativity of our Lord. We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil (unless modifications are shown on the wall calendar). We seek God through increased prayer, fasting, almsgiving, spiritual reading, repentance, service to others, and reducing the presence in our lives of things that distract us from God and provoke us to sin. If you have questions, please see your priest or confessor.

The Baptism of Xenia Williams will take place Saturday, December 9, at 10:00 a.m.

Craft Sale: We will have a children's crafts sale Sunday, December 17, during coffee hour, and a bake sale December 31.

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$104,050. Our goal by the end of the year is \$125,000. Petitions for the construction of a church have been added to the Augmented Litany.

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 and our building fund.

Last Sunday, we gave \$1833.46 in tithes and offerings; this month gave \$2614 electronically for a total of we have given \$11,904.15; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$86.50; Special Offering for Prison Ministry \$28; Building Fund \$51, alms \$20. Attendance: Vigil 44; Sunday Liturgy 135.

Please Pray for Cassian and Ruth Brown and their children Daniel, Anna, Elijah; for our catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, Joel and Alta Morris and their children, and Brandon and Lanie Veazey; our inquirers Donna Lange, the Dean family, Jason Matthes, Chris; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Please pray for Photina and Jude Bellan, for Olga Fincher and her husband Joseph, for Eugene and Rachel, for Jeremy Gleb Rovny, working in Georgia, and for Adam Bramlett looking for work, Elisabeth Terry, and Natalya & Robert Osborne.

Housekeeping: Many plates, dishes, bowls, knives, forks, and spoons are being found outside. If you take things out, please bring them back in. Parents, please ascertain that your children are bringing back in what they take out.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.2 'You have prepared a table before me . . .' (Ps. 23:5). In this passage, 'table' stands for the practice of the virtues, for this has been prepared for us by Christ to use 'against those who afflict' us. The 'oil' anointing the intellect is the contemplation of created things. The 'cup' of God is the knowledge of God. His 'mercy' is His divine Logos. For through His incarnation the Logos pursues us 'all the days' until He overtakes all those who are to be saved, as He did in the case of Paul (cf. Phil. 3:12). The 'house' is the kingdom in which all the saints will dwell. 'Length of days' means eternal life.

3.3 When we misuse the soul's powers their evil aspects dominate us. For instance, misuse of our power of intelligence results in ignorance and stupidity; misuse of our incensive power and of our desire produces hatred and licentiousness. The proper use of these powers produces spiritual knowledge, moral judgment, love and self-restraint. This being so, nothing created and given existence by God is evil.

Troparia and Kontakia for December 3rd

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

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 Zephaniah, Troparion, tone 2

Celebrating the memory of Thy prophet Zephaniah, / O Lord, through Him do we entreat Thee: // Save Thou our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 1

Thou hast risen from the grave as God in glory / and Thou didst raise the world with Thee, / and human nature hymneth Thee as God, / and death hath vanished. / Adam exulteth, O Master, / and Eve, delivered from her bondage, now rejoiceth, crying: / Thou, O Christ, / art He who granteth to all the Resurrection!

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 Zephaniah, Kontakion, tone 4

Thou wast shown to be illumined by the divine Spirit, O Prophet Zephaniah, / proclaiming the coming of God: / 'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! / Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem! // Behold, thy King cometh to save mankind!'