

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, December 10th, 2017

Schedule of Services

December 10th Sunday Tone 2

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

December 11th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:30 p.m. Compline

December 12th Tuesday St. Spyridon

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 13th Wednesday St. Herman of Alaska

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 14th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 15th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

10:00 a.m. Class: Spiritual Psalter

6:30 p.m. Compline

7:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: A Prayer Rule

December 16th Saturday Conception of the Theotokos

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

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 17th Sunday Tone 3 Holy Forefathers

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

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

94. Whatever a man loves, he desires at all costs to be near to continuously and uninterruptedly, and he turns himself away from everything that hinders him from being in contact and dwelling with the object of his love. It is clear therefore that he who loves God also desires always to be with Him and to converse with Him. This comes to pass in us through pure prayer. Accordingly, let us apply ourselves to prayer with all our power; for it enables us to become akin to God. Such a man was he who said: 'O God, my God, I cry to Thee at dawn; my soul has thirsted for Thee' (Ps. 63:1. LXX). For the man who cries to God at dawn has withdrawn his intellect from every vice and clearly is wounded by divine love.

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

Announcements for December 10th

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 Loretto House.

Altar Wine offered for the health and salvation of Sophia;
Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Mykola.

Many Years to the newly-illuminated Xenia Williams and her sponsor, Elizabeth Davis.

Classes This Week

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy 201

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

Friday 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy A Rule of Prayer

The Wednesday Ephesians Class has ended. A class studying Scripture will resume after the New Year.

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.

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

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$105,100. 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.

Building Update: The Mission Council has decided to look for property through a real estate agent. Rayzor Ranch on Bonniebrae Road does not look to be viable for us due to their rigid planning. There are two properties for sale on the east side of town, 7.6 acres on Mingo Road for \$429k and 6.5 acres on Fishtrap Road for \$430k. There are also 2.5 acres across the road from Ryan High School for \$385k. We are looking for something between two acres (minimum) to five acres (better). We will take more land if the price is right.

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

Close Door Quietly: Please go easy on the bones of our old building and on the ears of those worshipping by not slamming the front door but closing it quietly.

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 \$2100 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$127.50, Special Offering for Dn. Daniel Greeson \$99.25, Building Fund \$1184.65, alms \$20. Attendance: Vigil 50; Sunday Liturgy 114; St Nicholas Vigil 28, Liturgy 75.

Please Pray for Reader Michael Rodgers recovering from neck surgery, 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.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.4 It is not food that is evil but gluttony, not the begetting of children but unchastity, not material things but avarice, not esteem but self-esteem. This being so, it is only the misuse of things that is evil, and such misuse occurs when the intellect fails to cultivate its natural powers.

3.5 Among the demons, says the blessed Dionysios, evil takes the form of mindless anger, desire uncontrolled by the intellect, and impetuous imagination. But mindlessness, lack of intellectual control and impetuosity in intelligent beings are privations of intelligence, intellect and circumspection. But a privation is posterior to the possession of something. There was a time, then, when the demons possessed intelligence, intellect and devout circumspection. This being the case, not even the demons are evil by nature, but they have become evil through the misuse of their natural powers.

Troparia and Kontakia for December 10th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / ‘O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!’

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.

Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, EUGRAPHUS, Troparion, tone 8

Having mortified the fiery forms and movements of the passions by abstinence, / O martyrs of Christ, Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus, / ye received the grace to dispel the ailments of the infirm, / and, living even after your death, to work miracles. / O truly most glorious wonder! bare bones pour forth healing! // Glory to the only God and Creator.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 2

Thou didst rise from the grave, all –powerful Saviour; / and Hades, seeing the wonder, was affrighted; / and the dead arose; and creation, beholding, rejoiceth with Thee; / and with Thee Adam also is glad; / and the world, O my Saviour, hymneth Thee forever.
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.

Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, EUGRAPHUS, Kontakion, tone 4

The right melodious sound of thy words, / leading Hermogenes up from the abyss of perdition, / set him upon the Rock of life; / and Eugraphus, having denounced the emperor, hath his glorious head severed, rejoicing. // And do thou earnestly pray, O Menas, that all who honor thee with