

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, December 17th, 2017

Schedule of Services

December 17th Sunday Tone 3 Holy Forefathers

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

December 18th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 19th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

December 20th Wednesday St. Ignatius

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 21st Thursday Martyr Juliana

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 22nd Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:30 a.m. Royal Hours

9:00 a.m. Clean, Decorate

6:30 p.m. Compline

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

December 23rd Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 24th Sunday Tone 4 Nativity Eve

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

5:00 p.m. Vigil for Nativity

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

95. We have been taught that dispassion is born from self-control and humility, while spiritual knowledge is born from faith. Through these the soul makes progress in discrimination and love. And once she has embraced divine love, she never ceases to rise towards its height on the wings of pure prayer, until she comes 'to the knowledge of the Son of God', as St Paul says, 'to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ' (Eph. 4:13).

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

Announcements for December 17th

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 our building fund.

Altar Wine offered for the health and salvation of Sophia.

Holy Unction will be served this Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. Orthodox Christians who have had a recent confession are welcome to receiving anointing for the healing of soul and body.

Church Cleaning & Decorating will take place this Friday, starting about 9:00 a.m. after the Royal Hours to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity over the weekend.

Nativity Liturgy will be served 8:00 a.m., Monday, December 25.

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 How to Set A Rule of Prayer

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: The children's craft sale will be today during coffee hour. We will have a bake sale December 31.

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$105,100. Our goal by the end of the year is \$125,000.

New Year Vigil: As has been our wont in recent years, we shall ring in the New Year with an All-night Vigil celebrating St. Basil the Great and the Circumcision of Christ. The Vigil will begin at 10:00 p.m. December 31. It will consist of Small Compline with the Akathist to the Theotokos sung, Great Vespers, Matins, the First Hour, Precommunion Prayers, the Third & Sixth Hours, and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil followed by prayers of Thanksgiving. The

service should conclude about 4:00 a.m. January 1. Readers and singers and servers are all requested.

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.

Prosporon Bags of cloth are available in the bookstore, sewn by your own Anna Stokes. Starting in January, we will put the commemorative loaves out on a tray with your commemoration slip for you to pick up and bag to take home.

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 \$3000 in tithes and offerings; in December, we have given \$5100, our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$?, Special Offering for Loretto House \$53.00, Building Fund \$93.84. Attendance: Vigil 46; Sunday Liturgy 118; St Herman Vigil 22, Liturgy 30.

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

3.6 Some of the passions produce licentiousness, some hatred, while others produce both dissipation and hatred.

3.7 Overeating and gluttony cause licentiousness. Avarice and self-esteem cause one to hate one's neighbor. Self-love, the mother of vices, is the cause of all these things.

3.8 Self-love is an impassioned, mindless love for one's body. Its opposite is love and self-control. A man dominated by self-love is dominated by all the passions.

3.9 No man has ever hated his own flesh', says the Apostle (Eph. 5:29), but he disciplines it and makes it his servant (cf. 1 Cor. 9:27), allowing it nothing but food and clothing (cf. 1 Tim. 6:8), and then only what is necessary for life. In this way a man loves his flesh dispassionately and nourishes it and cares for it as a servant of divine things, supplying it only with what meets its basic needs.

Troparia and Kontakia for December 17th

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.
/ He hath delivered us from the womb of hell, / and hath granted the world / great mercy.

Troparion, Holy Forefathers, tone 2

By faith, Thou didst justify the forefathers, / when through them didst betroth Thyself aforetime / to the Church from among the nations. / The Saints boast in glory / that from their seed, there is a glorious fruit, / even she that bare Thee seedlessly. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

Kontakion, Holy Forefathers, tone 6

Ye would not worship a hand-wrought image, O thrice blessed ones; / but armed by the Undepictable Essence, / ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire. / Standing in the midst of the irresistible flame, ye called upon God: / Speed Thou, O Compassionate One, since Thou art merciful, / and hasten to come unto our aid; for Thou art able, if it be Thy will.