

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, December 31st, 2017

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



December 31st Sunday Tone 5 Leavetaking of Nativity

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

10:00 p.m. All-Night Vigil

January 1st Monday St. Basil, Circumcision of Christ

3:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

January 3rd Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Reader's Vespers

January 5th Friday

6:00 a.m. Royal Hours

12:00 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy, Great Blessing of Water

9:00 p.m. Vigil

January 6th Saturday, Theophany

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 7th Sunday Tone 6 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

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

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

98. 'Let your loins be girded, and your lamps burning', says the Lord (Luke 12:35). A good girdle for our loins — one which enables us to be nimble and unhampered — is self-control combined with humility of heart. By self-control I mean abstinence from all the passions. Our spiritual lamp is lit by pure prayer and perfect love. Those who have prepared themselves in this way are indeed like men who wait expectantly for their Lord. When He comes and knocks, they open at once; and when He has entered — together with the Father and the Holy Spirit — He will take up His abode with them (cf. John 14:23). Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when He comes will find acting in this manner (cf. Luke, 12:37).

Announcements for December 31"

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;
Temple Oil is offered for the health and salvation of William and Carolyn.

Classes This Week

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy 201

Coming Classes: Basics of Orthodoxy 301 on Fridays will resume in January, as will the Friday Spiritual Psalter Class. A new Scripture class on Wednesday evening before Vespers will begin January 10.

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$106,515. 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.

The Great Feast of the Theophany of Christ will be celebrated this Friday and Saturday with several services as you see on page one. We do well to keep a Great Feast by attending at least a portion of the cycle of services for it.

Fr. Justin and his family will be in Tulsa this week Tuesday—Thursday.

Prophoron 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 \$3678 in tithes and offerings; in December, we have given \$10,766 our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$114, Building Fund \$1572.58. Attendance: Vigil 23; Sunday Liturgy 112; Nativity Vigil 59, Nativity Liturgy 100.

Please Pray for Ksenia Williams in the hospital with an infection, 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 Solomon, Shilah, Gideon, Benjamin; Brandon and Lanie Veazey and their baby Silouan; 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 Ian Rehmet in Greece.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.14 Do not compare yourself with weaker men but rather apply yourself to fulfilling the commandment of love. For by comparing yourself with the weak you will fall into the pit of conceit, but by applying yourself to the commandment of love you will reach the height of humility.

3.15 If you totally fulfill the command to love your neighbor, you will feel no bitterness or resentment against him whatever he does. If this is not the case, then the reason why you fight against your brother is clearly because you seek after transitory things and prefer them to the commandment of love.

3.16 It is not so much because of need that gold has become an object of desire among men, as because of the power it gives most people to indulge in sensual pleasure.

3.17 There are three things which produce love of material wealth: self-indulgence, self-esteem and lack of faith. Lack of faith is more dangerous than the other two.

3.18 The self-indulgent person loves wealth because it enables him to live comfortably; the person full of self-esteem loves it because through it he can gain the esteem of others; the person who lacks faith loves it because, fearful of starvation, old age, disease, or exile, he can save it and hoard it. He puts his trust in wealth rather than

in God, the Creator who provides for all creation, down to the least of living things.

3.19 There are four kinds of men who hoard wealth: the three already mentioned and the treasurer or bursar. Clearly, it is only the last who conserves it for a good purpose – namely, so as always to have the means of supplying each person’s basic needs.

Troparia and Kontakia for December 31“

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

Nativity, Troparion, tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God / hath shone upon the world the light of wisdom. / For by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of Righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

Righteous Ones, Troparion, tone 2

O Joseph, proclaim glad tidings to David, the ancestor of God,/for thou hast seen a Virgin give birth;?with the shepherds, thou didst give glory;?with the magi thou didst worship;?by an Angel thou wast instructed//Entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.

Kontakion, tone 3 (Righteous Ones)

Today the godly David is filled with gladness, / and Joseph offereth praise with James. / They rejoice, receiving a crown through their kinship with Christ; / and they laud Him who hath ineffably been born on earth, // and cry aloud: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

Nativity, Kontakion, tone 3 (By St. Romanos the Melode)

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offereth a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with Shepherds glorify Him! / The wise men journey with the star: // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!