

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 7th, 2017

January 7th Sunday Tone 6 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour, Mission Council

January 8th Monday
6:00 a.m. Midnight Office

January 9th Tuesday
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

January 10th Wednesday
6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession
6:00 p.m. Class: Jude
7:00 p.m. Vespers

January 11th Thursday St. Theodosius the Great
6:00 a.m. Matins
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 12th Friday St. Sava of Serbia
6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
10:00 a.m. Class: Spiritual Psalter
4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 13th Saturday
5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 14th Sunday Tone 7 St. Nina Equal to the Apostles
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

St. Theodore the Great Ascetic 100 Texts

100. 'Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole man' (Eccles. 12:13. LXX). Here the Preacher says to us: I show you in summary form the best way to salvation; fear God and keep His commandments. By fear he means not the initial fear of punishments, but the perfect and perfecting fear, which we ought to have out of love for Him who has given the commandments. For if we refrain from sin merely out of fear of punishment, it is quite clear that, unless punishment had awaited us, we should have done things deserving punishment, since our propensity is for sinning. But if we abstain from evil actions not through threat of punishment, but because we hate such actions, then it is from love of the Master that we practice the virtues, fearful lest we should fall away from Him. For when we fear that we may neglect something that has been enjoined, the fear is clean (cf. Ps. 19:9), arising for the sake of the good itself. This fear purifies our souls, being equal in power to perfect love. He who has this fear and keeps the commandments is the 'whole man', in other words, the perfect and complete man.

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

Announcements for January 7th

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 Greeson at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

Altar Wine offered for the health and salvation of Sophia; **Temple Oil** is offered for the health and salvation of Mary Grace.

Classes This Week

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy 201

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, General Epistle of Jude

Friday, 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Psalter

Coming Classes: Basics of Orthodoxy 301 on Fridays will resume January 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$106,515. Our goal is \$110,000 by the end of January.

House Blessings are customarily done between Theophany and Great Lent, though they may be done at any time of the year. If you desire to have your house blessed, please email the priest to arrange it. Requests will be taken on a first come, first served basis. You may also take of the Holy Water and sprinkle it yourself in your home, as the service for the Great Blessing of Water indicates in this petition: "For those who draw from this water and take it for the sanctification of their dwellings, let us pray to the Lord."

Commemorative Prospora will now be brought out after Liturgy on a tray. Your prosporon will be found on top of your commemoration slip or book. Please take both.

Prosporon Bags of cloth are available in the bookstore, sewn by our own Anna Stokes.

Holy Water from Theophany is available in the front of the church by the choir and in the font in the kitchen.

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 \$2960.62 in tithes and offerings; in December, we have gave \$13,726 plus \$5238 electronically for a total of \$18,964; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$75.50 Building Fund \$3.23. Attendance: Vigil 13; Sunday Liturgy 64; St. Basil Vigil 12, St. Basil (New Year) Liturgy 22. Average Sunday Liturgy attendance in 2017 was 109, up from 91 in 2016; Vigil attendance for 2017 averaged 40, up from 34 in 2016.

Please Pray for Reader Michael Rodgers recovering from neck surgery, for Cassian (heading home on Monday to go on hospice care) 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. Thanks be to God for Ksenia Williams' recovery.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.20 All impassioned thoughts either stimulate the soul's desiring power, or disturb its incensive power, or darken its intelligence. It is in this way that the intellect's capacity for spiritual contemplation and for the ecstasy of prayer is dulled. And for this reason a monk, especially the hesychast, must pay close attention to such thoughts, searching out and eliminating their causes. For example, the soul's power of desire is stimulated by impassioned thoughts of women. Such thoughts are caused by intemperance in eating and drinking, and by frequent and senseless talk with the women in question; and they are cut off by hunger, thirst, vigils and withdrawal from human society. Again, the incensive power is disturbed by impassioned thoughts about those who have offended us. This is caused by self-indulgence, self-esteem and love of material things. For it is on account of such vices that the passion-dominated man feels resentment, being frustrated or otherwise failing to attain what he wants. These thoughts are cut off when the vices provoking them are rejected and nullified through the love of God.

Troparia and Kontakia for January 7th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

Theophany, Troparion, tone 1

When Thou, O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, / naming Thee His beloved Son. / And the Spirit, in the form of dove, / confirmed the certainty of that word. / O Christ our God, who hast manifested Thyself and enlightened the world // glory to Thee.

St. Maximus, Troparion, tone 3

St. John the Forerunner, Troparion, tone 2

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, / but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; / for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the prophets, / since thou wast granted to baptize in the running waters Him whom they proclaimed. / Wherefore, having contested for the truth, / thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: // that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy

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.

St. John the Forerunner, Kontakion, tone 6

Stricken with awe by Thy coming in the flesh, / the Jordan turned back in fear; / And John, fulfilling the prophetic ministry, shrank back with trembling. / The ranks of the angels were amazed, beholding Thee baptized in the flesh in the streams, / and all who were in darkness were enlightened, // hymning Thee who hast appeared and illumined all things.

Theophany, Kontakion, tone 4

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe / and Thy Light, O Lord, hath shone on us, / who with understanding praise Thee: / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O Light unapproachable!