

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, January 21st, 2017

January 21st Sunday Tone 8 St. Maximus

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

3:00 p.m. Festive Gathering for Patronal Feast

January 22nd Monday

7:30 p.m. Compline

January 24th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: Jude

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Ninth-Day Pannikhida, Confession

January 25th Thursday St. Gregory the Theologian

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 26th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

10:00 a.m. Class: Spiritual Psalter

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

January 27th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 28th Sunday Tone 1 Publican & Pharisee

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

3:00 p.m. Festive Gathering for Patronal Feast

St. Isaiah the Solitary 27 Texts on Guarding the Intellect

2. If you find yourself hating your fellow men and resist this hatred, and you see that it grows weak and withdraws, do not rejoice in your heart; for this withdrawal is a trick of the evil spirits. They are preparing a second attack worse than the first; they have left their troops behind the city and ordered them to remain there. If you go out to attack them, they will flee before you in weakness. But if your heart is then elated because you have driven them away, and you leave the city, some of them will attack you from the rear while the rest will stand their ground in front of you; and your wretched soul will be caught between them with no means of escape. The city is prayer. Resistance is rebuttal through Christ Jesus. The foundation is incensive power.

Announcements for January 21st

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.

Eternal Memory and the Kingdom of God to the servant of God Cassian newly-departed this life! The ninth-day Pannikhida will be served for him after Vespers on Wednesday.

Temple Oil offered for the health and salvation of Katherine; in memory of Cassian.

We Welcome Deacon Theophan Warren, serving with us today, from St. Seraphim's Cathedral (our mother parish).

Feast of St. Maximus: Our patronal feast is next today. After Divine Liturgy, there will be a talk for children about St. Maximus in the church while the meal is laid out. The festive meal will follow. Sometime between 12:30 and 1:00, Fr. Justin will offer a short talk on the distinction St. Maximus makes between simple thoughts and impassioned thoughts and how that distinction helps us. Following that, games, music, fellowship for as long as people wish to linger.

Zacchaeus Sunday is today, when the Gospel about the little tax collector is read. It signals that next weekend we open the *Triodion* and begin preparing for Great Lent. Pascha is early this year, April 8.

Forgiveness Sunday is February 18. Everyone who makes this his parish home should plan on attending the Forgiveness Vespers that Sunday evening at 5:00 and having ice cream at Beth Marie's after.

Classes This Week

Sunday, no Basics of Orthodoxy today.

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

Friday, 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Psalter

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox 301: The Jesus Prayer.

Many Thanks to all those who helped with caring for Joel Cassian Brown and his family and helping everything related to his funeral and burial go smoothly. Well done.

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$106,790. Our goal is \$110,000 by the end of January.

A Fundraising Dinner for St. Vladimir's Seminary will be held Friday evening (fast-free), February 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bent Tree Country Club, 5201 Westgrove Drive, Dallas, Texas. Tickets are \$35 and donations will be solicited. Call (214) 912-5853 for tickets by January 28.

House Blessings: 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.

Commemorative Prospora will now be brought out after Liturgy on a tray. Your prosphoron will be found on top of your commemoration slip or book. Cloth bags available in bookstore.

Holy Water from Theophany is available 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 \$2600 in tithes and offerings; in January, we have given \$4800; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$63 Building Fund \$50, Special Offering for Loreto House \$39.50. Attendance: Vigil 23; Sunday Liturgy 122.

Please Pray for Reader Michael Rodgers recovering from neck surgery, for Ruth, Daniel, Anna, & Elijah Brown in their time of mourning; 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. Pray for those you haven't seen at church for awhile.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.24 Natures endowed with intelligence and intellect participate in God through their very being, through their capacity for well-being, that is for goodness and wisdom, and through the grace that gives them eternal being. This, then, is how they know God. They know God's creation, as we have said, by apprehending the harmonious wisdom to be contemplated in it. This wisdom is apprehended by

the intellect in a non-material way, and has no independent existence of its own.

3.25 When God brought into being natures endowed with intelligence and intellect He communicated to them, in His supreme goodness, four of the divine attributes by which He sustains, protects and preserves created things. These attributes are being, eternal being, goodness and wisdom. Of the four He granted the first two, being and eternal being, to their essence, and the second two, goodness and wisdom, to their volitive faculty, so that what He is in His essence the creature may become by participation. This is why man is said to have been created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen. 1:26). He is made in the image of God, since his being is in the image of God's being, and his eternal being is in the image of God's eternal being (in the sense that, though not without origin, it is nevertheless without end). He is also made in the likeness of God, since he is good in the likeness of God's goodness, and wise in the likeness of God's wisdom, God being good and wise by nature, and man by grace. Every intelligent nature is in the image of God, but only the good and the wise attain His likeness.

Troparia and Kontakia for January 21"

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, 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.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

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.