

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, January 28th, 2018

January 28th Sunday Tone 1 Publican & Pharisee

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

January 29th Monday Fast-Free Week

7:00 p.m. Great Vespers

January 30th Tuesday Three Hierarchs

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 31st Wednesday No Fast

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: Jude

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

February 1st Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 2nd Friday Meeting of Lord in Temple No Fast

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

February 3rd Saturday

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Choir Practice

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

February 4th Sunday Tone 2 Prodigal Son

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

St. Isaiah the Solitary 27 Texts on Guarding the Intellect

3. Let us stand firm in the fear of God, rigorously practicing the virtues and not giving our conscience cause to stumble. In the fear of God let us keep our attention fixed within ourselves, until our conscience achieves its freedom. Then there will be a union between it and us, and thereafter it will be our guardian, showing us each thing that we must uproot. But if we do not obey our conscience, it will abandon us and we shall fall into the hands of our enemies, who will never let us go. This is what our Lord taught us when He said: 'Come to an agreement with your adversary quickly while you are with him in the road, lest he hand you over to the judge, and the judge deliver you to the officer and you are cast into prison (Matt. 5:25). The conscience is called an 'adversary' because it opposes us when we wish to carry out the desires of our flesh; and if we do not listen to our conscience, it delivers us into the hands of our enemies.

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

Announcements for January 28th

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 St. Vladimir's Seminary.

Temple Oil given in memory of Nina (six-month memorial);

Temple Wine given for the health and salvation of Elias, Connor, and Ian.

Triodion: Today, we open the Triodion and observe the first of the preparatory services for Great Lent, which begins February 19. You are encouraged to attend Vigil during Lent, for that is when the bulk of the distinctive Lenten hymns are sung. To enter the spirit of Lent, make it a point to come to Vigil from at least 6:00 to 7:00 each week. Your soul will not regret it.

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, noon Basics of Orthodoxy.

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

No Friday Spiritual Psalter due to Feast

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox 301: Almsgiving

The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be celebrated this week with Vigil Thursday night at 7:00 and Divine Liturgy Friday morning at 9:00. We do well to keep the feast by attending as much of the cycle of services for it as we can. There will be no Thursday liturgy this week so that we may keep the feast.

Building Fund Watch: Building fund balance: \$106,933. Our goal is \$110,000 by the end of January.

A Fundraising Dinner for St. Vladimir's Seminary will be held this 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 today.

House Blessings: If you desire to have your house blessed, please email the priest to arrange it.

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 \$1764 in tithes and offerings; in January, we have given \$6564; our monthly budget is \$12,383 (the money received above budget will go to the building fund). Candles \$186, Special Offering for Building Fund \$160.80. Attendance: Vigil 58; Sunday Liturgy 145.

Please Pray for Robert Osborne recovering from heart 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

3.26 All beings endowed with intelligence and intellect are either angelic or human. All angelic beings may be subdivided further into two general moral categories or classes, the holy and the accursed — that is, the holy powers and the impure demons. All human beings may also be divided into two moral categories only, the godly and the ungodly.

3.27 Since God is absolute existence, absolute goodness and absolute wisdom, or rather, to put it more exactly, since God is beyond all such things, there is nothing whatsoever that is opposite to Him. Creatures, on the other hand, all exist through participation and grace, while those endowed with intelligence and intellect also have a capacity for goodness and wisdom. Hence they do have opposites. As the opposite to existence they have non-existence, and as the opposite to the capacity for goodness and wisdom they have evil and ignorance. Whether or not they are to exist eternally lies Within the power of their Maker. But whether or not intelligent creatures are to participate in His goodness and wisdom depends on their own will.

Troparia and Kontakia for January 28th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding
Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, /
granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O
Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! /
Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

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.

New Martyrs of Russia, Troparion, tone 4

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passion bearers and pastors, / monks and laymen, ye
countless new martyrs and confessors, / men, women, and children, / flowers
of the spiritual meadow of Russia, / who blossomed forth wondrously in time
of grievous persecutions, / bearing good fruit for Christ in your endurance: /
Entreat Him as the One who planted you, / that He deliver His people from
godless and evil men, / and that the Church of Russia / be made steadfast
through your blood and suffering, // unto the salvation of our souls.

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.

New Martyrs of Russia, Kontakion, tone 2

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, / who have with you r confession finished
the course of this earth, / receiving boldness through your sufferings: /
Beseech Christ who strengthened you, / that we also, whenever the hour of
trial find us, / may receive the gift of courage from God. / For ye are a model
for us who venerate your struggle; / for neither tribulation, prison, nor death /
could separate you from the love of God.

Publican and Pharisee, Kontakion, tone 4

Let us flee from the proud speaking of the Pharisee / and learn the
humility of the Publican, / and with groaning let us cry unto the Savior:
/ Be merciful to us, // for Thou alone art ready to forgive.