

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, December 2nd, 2018

December 2nd Sunday, tone 2 St. Porphyrios

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 3rd Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins

December 4th Tuesday St. Barbara, St. John of Damascus

6:00 a.m. Matins

December 5th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Class: *400 Chapters on Love*

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 6th Thursday St. Nicholas

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 7th Friday

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Class Basics of Orthodoxy 202

December 8st Saturday

8:00 a.m. Men's Meeting

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 9th Sunday, tone 3 Conception of the Theotokos

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

On Spiritual Exertions, *St. Porphyrios*

Listen to what St. Ignatius Branchanivnov says in his book, *On the Prayer of Jesus*: "Every physical and spiritual task which does not involved pain, toil and trouble never bears fruit for the person who engages in it for the Kingdom of Heaven is taken by violence and *the violent lay hold of it*—'violence' here meaning the laborious exercise of the body in everything."

When you love Christ, you exert yourself, but in blessed exertions. You suffer, but with joy. You make prostrations and pray because these are things you crave for with divine craving. They are at once pain and longing, passion and yearning and exaltation and joy and love. Prostrations and vigils and fasting are exertions which are made for the Beloved, exertions in order to experience Christ. But his exertion is not made under duress; you don't protest and rebel. Whatever you do under compulsion is very harmful both to you and to the work you are doing. The pressure and coercion provoke opposition. Exertion for Christ, true desire of Christ is love, sacrifice, and dissolution of self.)

Announcements for December 2nd

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 the local Interfaith Ministries which help provide necessities for those in need. Part of our Nativity Almsgiving will be devoted to supporting this ministry.

Mission council will NOT meet today, but next week.

Our Food Pantry appreciates the recent additions, some which came in useful this past week. Please remember it in your almsgiving.

The Monthly Meeting of the St. David Brotherhood will be held this Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Reader Mark Tarpley from St. Barbara's in FW will be speaking on asceticism in the context of marriage and monasticism in the life of the Church. Don't miss this!

Fr. Justin will be visiting the monastery from Monday until class Wednesday evening, God-willing.

The Nativity Fast has begun and lasts until the Nativity of our Lord, December 25. We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil, (unless modifications are shown on the wall calendar) and marital relations. If you have questions about the fast or how to apply it in your current circumstances, please speak to your priest or confessor.

Classes this Week:

Sunday at the bell during coffee hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 101

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. *400 Chapters on Love*, St. Maximus

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy, "Repent!"

Building Fund Watch

"Establish Thou this holy house, even unto the consummation of the age."

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$181,570.88.

New goal: \$200,000 by year's end. We tentatively aim to raise \$500,000 before we start building.

New Icons of Christ and the Theotokos have been commissioned (and are being painted now) to replace the prints for veneration on the anaglogia. There is an opportunity to sponsor or help sponsor them. Please see Fr. Justin.

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 week, we gave \$1600 in tithes and offerings; in November, we have given about \$14,050, excluding electronic contributions; our monthly budget is \$15,112 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$122, Building Fund \$215, Special Offering for Interfaith Ministries \$48.54. Attendance last week: Vigil 58; Sunday Liturgy 149.

Please Pray for our catechumens Miguel Dean, Connor Patrick, James Blankenship, Donna Lange, Jonathan Kidd, Katelyn Davis, Chris Day, and the Heitzenrater family: John, Christina, Madeleine, Margaret, Aemelia, John "William", Isabella, Mary Elizabeth, Thomas, Charles, Charlotte, Esteban Lopez, Brian, Adrienne, and Hannah Freas; for our inquirers the Dean family, Robert Peterson, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children, David & Anita Charpie and their children, for Robert Osborne; for the nun Susannah and the novice Elias. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

4.65 One ignorant of the spiritual path is not on his guard against impassioned conceptual images, but devotes himself entirely to the flesh. He is either a glutton, or licentious, or full of resentment, anger and rancor. As a result he darkens his intellect, or he practices excessive asceticism and so confuses his mind.

4.66 Scripture does not forbid anything which God has given us for our use; but it condemns immoderation and thoughtless behavior. For instance, it does not forbid us to eat, or to beget children, or to possess material things and to administer them properly. But it does forbid us to be gluttonous, to fornicate and so on. It does not forbid us to think of these things — they were made to be thought of — but it forbids us to think of them with passion.

From St. Porphyrios: Prayer at night is best...Bodily exertion cause the body to protest and complain and react, but it is unable to make the soul lax in prayer. You simply turn the radio up louder; you listen to the music, you enjoy it and you don't hear the complaints. I mean that by intensifying the prayer, the prayer neutralizes the weariness, Before complaining about your bodily exhaustion, start praying because when you complain grace departs and you are left with your own strength.

Troparia and Kontakia for December 2nd

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / 'O Giver of life, Christ our God, 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.

St. Prophyrios, Troparion, tone 1

As a citizen of the desert. / That offspring of Evvoia and Elder of all of Greece, / the mystic of theology and genuine friend of Christ, / Porphyrios was filled with gifts of grace from childhood. / So let us honor him. / He delivereth those oppressed by demons, / he cureth the sick who shout with faith and gratitude: / "Glory to Him who gave thee His might; / glory to Him who sanctified thee; / glory to Him who worketh healings for all through thee."

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 2

Thou didst rise from the grave, all -powerful Saviour; / and Hades, seeing the wonder, was affrighted; / and the dead arose; and creation, beholding, rejoiceth with Thee; / and with Thee Adam also is glad; / and the world, O my Saviour, hymneth Thee forever.

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. Porphyrios, Kontakion, tone 8

Let us extol Saint Porphyrios wholeheartedly, / that consecrated holy temple of the Comforter / and beloved of the pure Lady Theotokos. / For he loveth all people, curing and protecting us, / and he prayeth for us, that we attain to theosis. / So we shout to him: "Rejoice, father Porphyrios!"

"It is not he who begins well who is perfect. It is he who ends well who is approved in God's sight." *St. Basil the Great*
