

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton
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Bulletin for Sunday, December 9th, 2018

December 9th Sunday, tone 3 Conception of the Theotokos

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 10th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

December 11th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

2:30 p.m. Class: *Sermon on the Mount*

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 12th Wednesday St. Spyridon

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 13th Thursday St. Herman of Alaska

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 14th Friday

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

December 15st Saturday

9:30 a.m. *Slavonic Divine Liturgy, St. Seraphim's, Dallas*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 16th Sunday, tone 4 Holy Forefathers

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

On Seeing the Light, *St. Porphyrios*

Those who are distrustful, who doubt and dispute and use only the faculty of reason and are not open to God, God does not show himself. God does not enter locked souls: He does not force an entrance. On the contrary, to those who have a simple and steadfast faith, God shows Himself and bestows on them His uncreated light. He accords it to them abundantly in this life and very much more in the next. Do not imagine, however, that everyone here sees the light of truth with the same clarity. Each person sees according to the state of his soul, his spirit, and his education. Everyone, for example, may see the same picture, but not everyone who sees it has the same emotions. This is also true of the divine light. The true light does not shine in all human hearts in the same way. Natural sunlight shines the same everywhere, but the rays of the light do not penetrate far into a house that has dirty windows. The same happens with the uncreated light. If our windows are dirty and our heart is not pure, then the blackness does not allow the rays to penetrate.

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

Announcements for December 9th

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 helps provide necessities for those in need here in Denton.

Mission council will meet today.

Team Five is cleaning today.

Our Food Pantry appreciates the recent additions. Please remember it in your almsgiving.

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, The Three Pillars

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$186,570.88.

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; we gave \$21,739 in November). 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

4.67 Some of the things which we do for the sake of God are done in obedience to the commandments; others are done not in obedience to the commandments but, so to speak, as a voluntary offering. For example, we are required by the commandments to love God and our neighbor, to love our enemies, not to commit adultery or murder and so on. And when we transgress these commandments, we are condemned. But we are not commanded to live as virgins, to abstain from marriage, to renounce possessions, to withdraw into solitude and so forth. These are of the nature of gifts, so that if through weakness we are unable to fulfill some of the commandments, we may by these free gifts propitiate our blessed Master.

4.68 He who honors celibacy and virginity must keep his loins girded and his lamp burning (cf. Luke 12:35). He keeps his loins girded through self-control, and his lamp burning through prayer, contemplation and spiritual love.

4.69 Some of the brethren think that they are excluded from the Holy Spirit's gifts of grace. Because they neglect to practice the commandments they do not know that he who has an unadulterated faith in Christ has within him the sum total of all the divine gifts. Since through our laziness we are far from having an active love for Him - a love which shows us the divine treasures within us - we naturally think that we are excluded from these gifts.

Troparia and Kontakia for December 9th

Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 3

Let those in Heaven rejoice, / let those on Earth be glad; / for the Lord hath wrought a mighty act with His arm./ He hath trampled down death by death; / He hath become the first-born of the dead.
/ He hath delivered us from the womb of hell, / and hath granted the world / great mercy.

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. Anna's Conception of the Theotokos, Troparion, tone 4

Today the bonds of barrenness are loosed; / for God listened to Joachim and Anna. / He promised them—although it was beyond hope— / that they should bear a divine child. / From this child was born the infinite God incarnate, / who told the Angel to cry to her: / “Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee.”

Resurrectional Kontakion, Tone 3

Today Thou didst rise from the grave, O compassionate One, / and didst lead us away from the gates of death. / Today Adam exulteth, and Eve rejoiceth. / Together with the prophets and patriarchs // they unceasingly hymn the Divine might of Thine authority.

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. Anna's Conception of the Theotokos, Kontakion, tone 4

Today creation celebrates / Anna's conception which was effected by God. / For she conceived the Maiden / who conceived the Word
// who is beyond all words.

“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*
