

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, December 16th, 2018

December 16th Sunday, tone 4 Holy Forefathers

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 17th Monday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

December 18th Tuesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

December 19th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

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

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 20th Thursday St. Ignatius the Godbearer

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 21st Friday Martyr Juliana

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

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

December 22nd Saturday

10:00 a.m. Baptism

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 23rd Sunday before Nativity, tone 5

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

On the Liturgy, *Abbot Sergius in Acquiring the Mind of Christ*

The Liturgy is the heart of the Orthodox Church experience, the place where one meets the Lord and learns to abide and live with Him, Not only this; it is through the Liturgy that one finds and works out one's salvation. In the liturgical life of the Orthodox Church, we find the Mind of the Church, which is the Mind of Christ, Through regular participation in the cycle of services throughout the year and the Holy Mysteries, we absorb and acquire this Mind and make it our own, enabling us to learn how not only to think, but also how to understand the world, God, ourselves, and each other. We must never see the Liturgy and the liturgical life of the Church as something extra. . . .

Announcements for December 16th

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).

Temple wine given in memory of Carolyn Kay Rodgers and Tatyana; temple oil given for the health and salvation of Fr. Justin (birthday) and Katherine Frederick (nameday).

The Special Offering this week is for the local Interfaith Ministries which helps provide necessities for those in need here in Denton. Next week, we'll take up a collection for the new icons if they have not been fully sponsored by that time.

Team One is cleaning today, last names A through Da.

Baptisms this Saturday at 10:00 a.m. include Connor Patrick and Magdalena Rodgers; Chrismation of Miguel Dean.

Holy Unction will be served Tuesday night at 7:00, the Mystery of Anointing for the healing of soul and body. Orthodox Christians who have had a recent Confession may receive the anointing.

Confession: Time is running out to make Confession before Nativity. Everyone among the faithful should confess and prepare for Holy Communion in this season. Those who commune regularly should remember that a confession "expires" after a month. If it has been five or six weeks since your last Confession, you should stop communing until you make a Confession. This helps you to approach the chalice prepared with a clean conscience.

Classes this Week:

Sunday at the bell during coffee hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 101
Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. *Sermon on the Mount*
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. *400 Chapters on Love*, St. Maximus
Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy, Almsgiving

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 about what you want to do.

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

The Nativity Fast 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.

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 \$3035 \$1600 in tithes and offerings; this month, we have given \$4,635; our monthly budget is \$15,112 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$111.50, Building Fund \$6.92 Special Offering for Interfaith Ministries \$73.53. Attendance last week: Vigil 62; Sunday Liturgy 142. St. Herman Vigil, 35, Liturgy 40.

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

4.70 If, as St Paul says, Christ dwells in our hearts through faith (cf. Eph. 3:17), and all the treasures of wisdom and spiritual knowledge are hidden in Him (cf. Col. 2:3), then all the treasures of wisdom and spiritual knowledge are hidden in our hearts. They are revealed to the heart in proportion to our purification by means of the commandments.

4.71 This is the treasure hidden in the field of your heart (cf. Matt. 13:44), which you have not yet found because of your laziness. Had you found it, you would have sold everything and bought that field.

But now you have abandoned that field and give all your attention to the land nearby, where there is nothing but thorns and thistles.

4.72 It is for this reason that the Savior says, 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God' (Matt. 5:8) for He is hidden in the hearts of those who believe in Him. They shall see Him and the riches that are in Him when they have purified themselves through love and self-control; and the greater their purity, the more they will see.

4.73 And that is why He also says, 'Sell what you possess and give alms' (Luke 12:33), 'and you will find that all things are clean for you' (Luke 11:41). This applies to those who no longer spend their time on things to do with the body, but strive to cleanse the intellect (which the Lord calls 'heart') from hatred and dissipation. For these defile the intellect and do not allow it to see Christ, who dwells in it by the grace of holy baptism.

Troparia and Kontakia for December 16th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 4

Having learned the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, /the women disciples of the Lord cast off the ancestral curse, /and, boasting, told the Apostles: /Death hath been despoiled, Christ God is risen, /granting the world great mercy.

Troparion, Holy Forefathers, tone 2

By faith, Thou didst justify the forefathers, / when through them didst betroth Thyself aforetime / to the Church from among the nations. / The Saints boast in glory / that from their seed, there is a glorious fruit, / even she that bare Thee seedlessly. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Kontakion, Holy Forefathers, tone 6

Ye would not worship a hand-wrought image, O thrice blessed ones; / but armed by the Undepictable Essence, / ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire. / Standing in the midst of the irresistible flame, ye called upon God: / Speed Thou, O Compassionate One, since Thou art merciful, / and hasten to come unto our aid; for Thou art able, if it be Thy will.

"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*
