

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, December 30th, 2018

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

December 30th Sunday after Nativity, tone 6

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 31st Monday

7:00 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Little Vespers

10:00 p.m. All-Night Vigil

January 1st Tuesday St. Basil the Great, Circumcision

2:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy (*approximate start time*)

January 2nd Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Reader's Vespers

January 4th Friday

6:00 a.m. Royal Hours

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 5th Saturday Forefeast of Theophany

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Great Blessing of Water

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 6th Sunday Theophany of Christ

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Great Blessing of Water

On the Civil New Year

The Romans under Julius Caesar were the first to celebrate the New Year on January 1st, replacing the older March 1. As the Romans spent this day in licentious noisy games in disguises, in mad entertainment and abominable dissolution. Christians for a long time did not dedicate this day as the New Year, their New Year began variously in various places on March 1, March 25, September 1, September 23 and December 25. The Gregorian calendar reform made January 1 the New Year; most catholic countries quickly adopted this date, but Protestant countries delayed—the British Empire and its American colonies until 1752 (March 1 still marked the New Year until then). At first, Russia began the year on March 1, and then later on September 1. At the end of 1699, Tsar Peter 1 issued a decree to begin the civil year on January 1, and 1700 was the first year, which began with this month. The name *January* is given this month because it was dedicated to Janus by ancient Romans, represented by two faces – in front (young) and behind (old) – meaning that he stands between two times: his one face looks forward, and the other looks back at the year just expired.

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

Announcements for December 30th

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 with the priest 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 in hopes of reaching our goal of \$200,000 by year's end.

Temple Oil offered for the health and salvation of William and in memory of Carolyn.

Team Three is cleaning today, last names K through P.

Classes this Week:

Sunday at the bell during coffee hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 102

An All-Night Vigil will be served to ring in the New Year right. It will begin at 10:00 p.m. Dec 31 and run until about 4:00 a.m. Jan 1. Come prepared for Communion or pick a time during the night to read them on your own. The Eucharistic fast should be held from the start of the Vigil at 10 p.m. for those desiring to commune.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$186,705.88.

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

Where to Give: All tithes and offerings that do not go in the basket during Liturgy should go in the slot in the candle table along with all candle money, and offerings for temple oil, wine, and commemorations. We have removed the building fund box. All giving for the building fund should go in the slot: checks designated "building fund" in the memo cash in a building fund envelope from on top of the candle table. Remember that all monthly giving above budget goes to the building fund automatically. The basket on the candle table will be used for commemoration books and small amounts of cash from which change may be made.

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). Alms may be placed in the box above the candle table.

Last week, we gave \$3174 in tithes and offerings; this month, we have given \$12,559; our monthly budget is \$15,112 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$125.50, Building Fund \$2.32; Special Offering for new icons \$468. Attendance last week: Vigil 55; Sunday Liturgy 145. Nativity Vigil 74, Nativity Liturgy 155.

Theophany: Next Sunday, January 6, we shall celebrate the Theophany of Christ at His baptism, one of the Twelve Great Feasts. Water will be blessed, which the faithful are encouraged to take home.

House Blessings: With Theophany comes the yearly custom of blessing houses. If you would like your house blessed, look for a sign-up sheet in the hall, and let Fr. Justin know.

Six Years Ago Today, we were still building the hall and had raised \$65,700 towards it.

Babies & Communion: Please handle babies carefully (not slinging them about or pressing on their bellies) after they receive Holy Communion so that you do not inadvertently induce them to spit up. It is best to feed babies before or early in Liturgy, not right before Communion for the same reason.

Please Pray for our catechumens 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; for 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. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher.

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

4.76 Cleanse your intellect from anger, rancor and shameful thoughts, and you will be able to perceive the indwelling of Christ.

4.77 Who enlightened you with faith in the holy, coessential and adorable Trinity? Or who made known to you the incarnate dispensation of one of the Holy Trinity? Who taught you about the inner essences of incorporeal beings, or about the origin and consummation of the visible world, or about the resurrection from the dead and eternal life, or about the glory of the kingdom of heaven and the dreadful judgment? Was it not the grace of Christ

dwelling in you, which is the pledge of the Holy Spirit? What is greater than this grace? What is more noble than this wisdom and knowledge? What is more lofty than these promises? But if we are lazy and negligent, and if we do not cleanse ourselves from the passions which defile us, blinding our intellect and so preventing us from seeing the inner nature of these realities more clearly than the sun, let us blame ourselves and not deny the indwelling of grace.

Troparia and Kontakia for December 30th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

Nativity, Troparion, tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God / hath shone upon the world the light of wisdom. / For by it, those who worshipped the stars / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of Righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory to Thee!

Righteous Ones, Troparion, tone 2

O Joseph, proclaim glad tidings to David, the ancestor of God, / for thou hast seen a Virgin give birth; / with the shepherds, thou didst give glory; / with the magi thou didst worship; / by an Angel thou wast instructed. / Entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.

Righteous Ones, Kontakion, tone 3

Today the godly David is filled with gladness, / and Joseph offereth praise with James. / They rejoice, receiving a crown through their kinship with Christ; / and they laud Him who hath ineffably been born on earth, // and cry aloud: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!”

Nativity, Kontakion, tone 3 (By St. Romanos the Melode)

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offereth a cave to the Unapproachable One! / Angels with Shepherds glorify Him! / The wise men journey with the star: // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little child!

“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*
