

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, January 6th, 2019

January 6th Sunday Theophany of Christ

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

January 9th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 10th Thursday St. Gregory of Nyssa

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

January 11th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

7:00 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodox 202: Prayer

January 12th Saturday St. Sava of Serbia

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 13th Sunday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

The Aim of the Christian Life

Prayer, fasting, vigil, and all other Christian practices, however good they may be in themselves, do not constitute the aim of our Christian life, although they serve as the indispensable means of reaching this end. The true aim of our Christian life consists in the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God. As for fasts, and vigils, and prayer, and almsgiving, and every good deed done for Christ's sake, they are only means of acquiring the Holy Spirit of God. But mark, my dear, only the good deed done for Christ's sake brings us the fruits of the Holy Spirit. All that is not done for Christ's sake, even though it be good, brings neither reward in the future life nor the grace of God in this life. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ said: "He who gathers not with Me scatters".

What does it mean "to acquire"? Acquiring is the same as obtaining. You understand, of course, what acquiring money means. Acquiring the Spirit of God is exactly the same. You know well what it means in a worldly sense to acquire. The aim in life of ordinary worldly people is to acquire or make money, and for the nobility it is in addition to receive honors, distinctions, and other rewards for their services (*continued on back*)

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

Announcements for January 6th

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.

The Great Blessing of Water is served today at the end of Liturgy. Please attend to the words of that service and let them inform your use of holy water in 2019. The faithful are strongly encouraged to take water home for personal use.

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.

Team Four is cleaning today, last names Rehmet through Sidorenko.

Classes this Week:

Sunday at the bell during coffee hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 102
Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox 202 on Prayer

The Feast of St. Maximus falls this year on Monday, January 21. We shall celebrate it with a Festal Vigil at 6:00 p.m. and Divine Liturgy the next morning at 9:00 (a holiday for many). Mark Tarpley will speak about the reconciliation of male and female in Christ.

Building Fund Watch

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

Building fund balance: \$195,000.

New goal: \$225,000 by Pascha. We need to raise \$500,000 before we start building per the current plan.

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 \$2310 in tithes and offerings; in December, we gave \$14,869; our monthly budget is \$15,112; in addition, \$6805 was given electronically for a total of \$21,674 (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$144, Building Fund \$3133.45; Special Offering for new icons \$100. Attendance last week: Great Vespers 22; Sunday Liturgy 137. All-Night Vigil for St. Basil/New Year 27, Liturgy 15. For the year 2018, we averaged 54 at Vigil, up 14 over 2017, and 137 at Liturgy, up 27 from 2017. Glory to God for all things!

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 Liturgy (or early in Liturgy if absolutely necessary), not right before Communion so that they may be properly burped and not primed to spit up what they have just received. Some carelessness in this regard has been observed.

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

4.78 God, who has promised you eternal blessings (cf. Tit. 1:2) and has given you the pledge of the Spirit in your hearts (cf. 2 Cor. 1:22), has commanded you to pay attention to how you live, so that the inner man may be freed from the passions and begin here and now to enjoy these blessings.

4.79 When you have been granted the higher forms of the contemplation of divine realities, give your utmost attention to love and self-control, so that you may keep your soul's possible aspect undisturbed and preserve the light of your soul in undiminished splendor.

4.80 Bridle your soul's incensive power with love, quench its desire with self-control, give wings to its intelligence with prayer, and the light of your intellect will never be darkened.

4.81 Disgrace, injury, slander either against one's faith or one's manner of life, beatings, blows and so on - these are the things which dissolve love, whether they happen to oneself or to any of one's relatives or friends. He who loses his love because of these things has not yet understood the purpose of Christ's commandments.

4.82 Strive as hard as you can to love every man. If you cannot yet do this, at least do not hate anybody. But even this is beyond your power unless you scorn worldly things.

(continued from front) to the state. The acquisition of God's Spirit is also capital, but grace-giving and eternal; and it is obtained in very similar ways, almost the same ways as monetary, social, and temporal capital.

God the Word, the God-man, our Lord Jesus Christ, compares our life with a market, and the work of our life on earth He calls trading, as says to us all: "Trade till I come" (Luke 19:13), "redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph 5:16), that is to say, make the most of your time for getting heavenly blessings through earthly goods. Earthly goods are good works done for Christ's sake and conferring on us the grace of the All-Holy Spirit. *St. Seraphim of Sarov*

Troparia and Kontakia for January 6th

Theophany, Troparion, tone 1

When Thou, O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, / naming Thee His beloved Son. / And the Spirit, in the form of dove, / confirmed the certainty of that word. / O Christ our God, who hast manifested Thyself and enlightened the world // glory to Thee.

Theophany, Kontakion, tone 4

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe / and Thy Light, O Lord, hath shone on us, / who with understanding praise Thee: / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O Light unapproachable!

"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*
