

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

Bulletin for Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**December 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday tone 1 Holy Forefathers**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

1:30 p.m. Vespers

**December 16<sup>th</sup> Monday**

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

**December 17<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers

**December 18<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 p.m. Vespers,

**December 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

3:00 p.m. Vespers

**December 20<sup>th</sup> Friday**

6:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers, Confessions

**December 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

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

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

**December 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday tone 2 Sunday before Nativity**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

St. Diodochus: 100 Chapters on Spiritual Knowledge & Discrimination  
93. To those who are just beginning to long for holiness the path of virtue seems very rough and forbidding. It appears like this not because it really is difficult, but because our human nature from the womb is accustomed to the wide roads of sensual pleasure. But those who have traveled more than half its length find the path of virtue smooth and easy. For when a bad habit has been subjected to a good one through the energy of grace it is destroyed along with the remembrance of mindless pleasures; and thereafter the soul gladly journeys on all the ways of virtue. Thus, when the Lord first leads us into the path of salvation, He says: 'How narrow and strait is the way leading to the kingdom and few there are who (*cont. p. 4*)

## Announcements for December 15

**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 candle 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 Oil** given for the health and salvation Fr. Conan and Presvytera Stephanie and Viola Frederick.

**The Special Offering** this week is for a new chalice.

**Holy Unction** will be served tomorrow, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. All Orthodox Christians who have made a recent Confession may partake. Fr. Gerasim our dean plans to be with us for this.

### No Classes this Week

**The Priest** will be at the monastery part of this week. Please note times for confession this week: Monday morning, Friday evening, Saturday evening. He can also hear confessions by appointment Monday afternoon between 5 & 6.

**An All-Night Vigil** for the Feast of St. Basil to ring in the New Year will be held December 31 starting at 10:00 p.m.

**The Nativity Fast:** We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil, (unless modifications are shown on the wall calendar) and marital relations in preparation for the Feast of our Savior's Nativity. If you have questions about the fast, please see 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 \$1347.74 in tithes and offerings; in December, we have given \$3687.74; our monthly budget is \$16,084; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$113.50 Special Offering for Seminarian Fund \$225. Attendance last week: Vigil 49, Liturgy 138. *Please note: we do not report funds given electronically until the end of the month.*

**Please Pray** for our catechumens preparing for Holy Illumination Ashley Carpenter, Luellen Bassano, and for David, Anita, Sarah, Rachel, Samuel, Aaron; for our catechumens Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin, Robert Peterson, Makenna Baldwin, Mark Robertson, Mark Jones, and the Dean family, and Robert Osborne. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher, who is seriously ill, for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, for Elizabeth Terry, and Thomas Harper who is in South America.

**Upcoming Classes:** Basics 101 on Sunday will begin on January 5. A class reading and discussing *The Field* by St. Ignatius Brianchaninov will be held Wednesdays at 6:00 starting January 8.

**Pastoral Care:** If you have a health emergency, are hospitalized, or having surgery (or know someone who is) and desire visitation; please contact Fr. Justin at (940) 293-3032 for prayer and anointing.

### Building Fund Watch

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

*Liturgy of St. Basil*

Building fund balance: \$243,300. Goal: \$300,000 by end of year. We may need to raise \$500,000 before we start building per the current plan. With *everyone* pulling together, we can do this with God's help and provision.

### From Saint Maximus 200 Chapters on Knowledge

2.95 He who through practice of the virtues has succeeded in mortifying whatever is earthly in him (cf. Col. 3:5), and who by fulfilling the commandments has triumphed over the world of the passions within him, will experience no more affliction; for he will have already left the world and come to be in Christ, the conqueror of the world of the passions and the source of all peace. He who has not severed his attachment to material things will always experience affliction, since his state of mind depends on things that are naturally changeable, and so it alters when they do. But he who has come to be in Christ will be totally impervious to such material change. That is why the Lord says, 'I have said these things to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will experience affliction; but have courage, for I have overcome the world' (John 16:33). In other words, 'In Me, the Logos of virtue, you have peace, for you have been released from the swirl and turmoil of material passions and objects; in the world - that is, in a state of attachment to material things - you are afflicted because of the successive changes of these things.' For both he who practices the virtues and he who loves the world experience affliction, the first because of the toil which such practice entails and the second because of the futility of material things. But the affliction of the first is salutary,

that of the second corrupting and destructive. The Lord gives release to both: in the case of the first He allays the toil of ascetic practice with the contemplation attained through dispassion, and in the case of the second He rescinds attachment to corrupted things by means of repentance.

(*cont. from front*), follow it' (cf. Matt. 7:14); but to those who have firmly resolved to keep His holy commandments He says: 'For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light' (Matt. 11:30). At the beginning of the struggle, therefore, the holy commandments of God must be fulfilled with a certain forcefulness of will (cf. Matt. 11:12); then the Lord, seeing our intention and labor, will grant us readiness of will and gladness in obeying His purposes. For 'it is the Lord who makes ready the will' (Prov. 8:35. LXX), so that we always do what is right joyfully. Then shall we truly feel that 'it is God who energizes in you both the willing and the doing of His purpose' (Phil. 2:13).

### Troparia and Kontakia for December 15

#### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

#### 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.

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"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*

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