

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, January 5th, A.D. 2020

January 5th Sunday tone 4 Sunday before Theophany Fast

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

6:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 6th Monday Theophany

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

5:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 7th Tuesday Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

January 8th Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: *The Field*

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 9th Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 10th Friday St. Theophan the Recluse, St. Gregory of Nyssa

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 301

January 11th Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 12th Sunday tone 5 Sunday after Theophany

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Basics of Orthodoxy

St. Diodochus: 100 Chapters on Spiritual Knowledge & Discrimination

97. When the heart feels the arrows of the demons with such burning pain that the man under attack suffers as if they were real arrows, then the soul hates the passions violently, for it is just beginning to be purified. It if does not suffer greatly at the shamelessness of sin, it will not be able to rejoice fully in the blessings of righteousness. He who wishes to cleanse his heart should keep it continually aflame through practicing the remembrance of the Lord Jesus, making this his only study and his ceaseless task. Those who desire to free themselves from their corruption ought to pray not merely from time to time but at all times; they should (*cont. p. 3*)

Announcements for January 5

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 of Viola Frederick.

The Special Offering this week is for our Seminarian Fund.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Brianchaninov's *The Field*

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox 301 The Creed

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy 101, Church School resumes.

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 \$1884.75 in tithes and offerings; in December, we gave \$12,571.08; we also gave \$4223 electronically; our monthly budget is \$16,084; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$158.50 Special Offering for Nativity Monaster \$120.36; building fund \$1100. Attendance last week: Vigil 61, Liturgy 136. For 2019, average attendance at Liturgy, 147 (up from 137 in 2018), Vigil 65 (up from 54). *Please note: we do not report funds given electronically until the end of the month.*

Please Pray for our catechumens for our catechumens Robert Peterson, Makenna Baldwin, Mark Robertson, Mark Jones, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin, and for our inquirers the Dean family and Robert Osborne. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher, who is seriously ill, for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, for Elizabeth Terry, for Anna Pascale, and Thomas Harper who is in South America.

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: \$252,086.81. Goal: \$300,000 by June 1. 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 Commentary on the Lord's Prayer

If the purpose of the divine counsel is the deification of our nature, and the aim of divine thoughts is to supply the prerequisites of our life, it follows that we should both know and carry into effect the power of the Lord's Prayer, and write about it in the proper way. And since you, Sir, in writing to me your servant have been inspired by God to mention this prayer in particular, it is necessarily the subject of my own words as well; hence I beseech the Lord, who has taught us this prayer, to open my intellect so that it may grasp the mysteries contained in it, and to give me words equal to the task of elucidating what I have understood. For hidden within a limited compass this prayer contains the whole purpose and aim of which we have just spoken; or, rather, it openly proclaims this purpose and aim to those whose intellects are strong enough to perceive them. The prayer includes petitions for everything that the divine Logos effected through His self-emptying in the incarnation, and it teaches us to strive for those blessings of which the true provider is God the Father alone through the natural mediation of the Son in the Holy Spirit. For the Lord Jesus is mediator between God and men, as the divine apostle says (cf. 1 Tim; 2:5), since He makes the unknown Father manifest to men through the flesh, and gives those who have been reconciled to Him access to the Father through the Holy Spirit (cf. Eph. 2:18). It was on their behalf and for their sake that without changing He became man, and is now the author and teacher of so many and such great new mysteries as yet beyond our understanding.

(cont. from front), give themselves always to prayer, keeping watch over their intellect even when outside places of prayer. When someone is trying to purify gold, and allows the fire of the furnace to die down even for a moment, the material which he is purifying will harden again. So, too, a man who merely practices the remembrance of God from time to time loses through lack of continuity what he hopes to gain through his prayer. It is a mark of one who truly loves holiness that he continually bumps up what is worldly in his heart through practicing the remembrance of God, so that little by little evil is consumed in the fire of this remembrance and his soul completely recovers its natural brilliance with still greater glory.

Troparia and Kontakia for January 5

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 of the Forefeast, tone 4

Once the River Jordan was turned back / by the mantle of Elisha when Elijah was borne aloft, / and the waters were parted on either side, / and the path which before was wet became dry for him / as a true image of baptism, / whereby we pass through the flow of life. // Christ hath appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

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. 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.

Forefeast of Theophany, Kontakion, tone 4

In the streams of the Jordan, / the Lord crieth out to John today: / "Fear not to baptize Me, / for I have come to save Adam // the first-created!"

Kontakion of Forefeast, tone 2

O Christ, who in thy compassion and infinite mercy / takest away the multitude of all our transgressions, / Thou comest as a man to be baptized in the waters of the Jordan, // clothing me in the raiment of the ancient glory of which I was cruelly stripped bare.

"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*
