

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Bulletin for Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**December 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Forefathers, St. Herman**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

3:00 p.m. Vespers

**December 14<sup>th</sup> Monday**

3:00 p.m. Reader's Vespers

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

7:00 p.m. Vespers

**December 17<sup>th</sup> Thursday Prophet Daniel**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers

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

7:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

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

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

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

4:30 p.m. 40-Day Pannikhida for Olga Fincher

5:00 p.m. Vigil

**December 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday Before Nativity**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour

*Jean-Claude Larchet, the Fathers on Vainglory*

Since vainglory is the quest for glory of a human, mundane, and earthly character, the man wishing to conquer this passion must recognize the vanity of such glory by becoming aware that its foundation lacks substance and the goals it pursues are naught, as the Fathers repeatedly underscore. Death reveals the full extent of the vanity and emptiness of the human things vainglory has in sight while at the same time it is the crucial moment in which divine judgment is disclosed to man. This is why the "remembrance of death" is also an effective weapon against this passion.

Although vainglory and pride are from the same leaven and have the same nature, their actions and symptoms are different: Vainglory tries to attract the praise of men, and for this, it often debases itself and tries to please men; but pride exhales scorn and disrespect towards others, although it also loves praise. *St. Ambrose of Optina*

## Announcements for December 13

**To Our Visitors: Welcome!** Please join us after the service for coffee, food, and fellowship. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the candle table by the door.

**Temple Wine** offered for the health and salvation Constantine, Rebekah Jones, and Bradley Garasky.

**Attendance at Services:** our attendance remains somewhat limited. Please email or text the priest if you desire to come to Liturgy on Sunday. As there is always room at Vespers, Matins and Liturgies during the week, feel free to attend those services without special notice. Please pray faithfully at home: read Vespers Saturday evening, and the Hours and the Typica Sunday morning if you are not attending church that day, joining thereby with your brethren in spirit.

**The Special Offering** today will be for St. Nicholas in McKinney towards their new hall.

**Fr. Justin** will be at the monastery Monday through Wednesday this week.

**Nativity Almsgiving:** We are collecting the following items for our local Interfaith Ministries that helps those with basic material needs: travel-sized toiletries, diapers, laundry soap pods, toilet paper, non-perishable snack packs, copy paper. You may deposit such items in the box next to the piano.

### Classes this Week

Friday: 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy: Path of Christ's Commandments.

**The Nativity Fast:** We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, oil, (unless modifications are shown on the wall calendar) and marital relations in order to give ourselves to increased prayer, almsgiving, spiritual reading, repentance, and service to others as we pursue being filled more fully with Christ. If you have questions about the fast, please see your priest or confessor.

**Confession** will be heard after Vespers and Vigil during the week (except Friday), or by appointment.

**Baptisms:** The new Morris children will be baptized Saturday, December 26 at noon; Mark Jones, Mark Robertson, and Elisabeth Dakak January 9..

**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 \$\$2623 in tithes and offerings; candles \$92.50, special offering for our seminarians \$59; our monthly budget is \$17,560; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). May God bless you for your faithful giving! *Please note: we do not report funds given electronically until the end of the month.*

**Please Pray** for our catechumens preparing for Holy Illumination: Mark Robertson, Mark Jones, Elizabeth Dakak, and for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Robert Boguski, Branson Clements, and for our inquirers the Dean family, Kristen & Clementine Hatten, Robert Osborne, Rebekah Kruse, Drew (Andrew), Haydon Grosch, Ethan Peterson, Lance Rawlinson, Vincent, and Carter Sims. Pray for Thomas Harper who is in South America, and for Eugene & Rachel Hollebeak, and for all in need.

### Building Fund Watch

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

*Liturgy of St. Basil*

Building fund balance: \$291,770.48.

### From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.34 The rewards for the toils of virtue are dispassion and spiritual knowledge. For these are mediators of the kingdom of heaven, just as passions and ignorance are mediators of eternal punishment. It is because of this that he who seeks these rewards for the sake of human glory and not for their intrinsic goodness is rebuked by the words of Scripture, 'You ask, and do not receive, because you ask wrongly' (Jas. 4:3).

2.35 Many human activities, good in themselves, are not good because of the motive for which they are done. For example, fasting and vigils, prayer and psalmody, acts of charity and hospitality are by nature good, but when performed for the sake of self-esteem they are not good.

2.36 In everything that we do God searches out our purpose to see whether we do it for Him or for some other motive.

2.37 When you hear the words of Scripture, 'Thou shalt render to every man according to his work' (Ps. 62:12. LXX), do not think that God bestows blessings when something is done for the wrong purpose, even though it seems be good. Quite clearly He bestows blessings only when something is done for the right purpose. For God's judgment looks not at the actions but at the purpose behind them.

## Troparia and Kontakia for December 13

### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 2

When Thou, didst descend to death, O Life Immortal / Thou didst slay Hell with the lightning-flash of Thy Divinity, / and, when from the nether regions Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of Heaven cried out: / ‘O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!’

### Troparion, Holy Forefathers, tone 2

By faith, Thou didst justify the forefathers, / when through them didst betroth Thyself afortime / 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.

### St Herman, Torparion

O righteous Father Herman of Alaska / North Star of Christ’s holy Church, / the light of thy holy life and great deeds / guideth those that follow the Orthodox way. / Together we lift high the holy Cross, / which thou didst plant firmly in America. / Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ, / singing his holy Resurrection.

### 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.

### St. Herman, Kontakion, tone 8

O beloved of the Mother of God, who received the tonsure at Valaam, / new zealot of the struggles of the desert-dwellers of old: / wielding prayer as a spear and shield, thou didst show thyself to be terrible to demons and pagan darkness. / Wherefore, we cry out to thee: // O venerable Herman, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved!

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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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