

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Bulletin for Sunday, December 27th, 2020



December 27th Sunday after Nativity; Protomartyr Stephen

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

December 28th Monday

3:00 p.m. Vespers

December 30th Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Vespers

December 31st Thursday Leavetaking of Nativity

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vigil

January 1st Friday St. Basil, Circumcision of Christ

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers

January 2nd Saturday St. Seraphim of Sarov

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

5:00 p.m. Vigil

January 3rd Sunday Before Theophany

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

Jean-Claude Larchet, the Fathers on Vainglory

The sign that a man has been healed of vainglory is that he no longer experiences sorrow at being humiliated in public, nor does he any longer feel rancour towards whoever has offended despised, or insulted him, or towards the person who has spoken (or continues to speak) ill of him. On the contrary, he thanks him as being a benefactor, following the example of the abovementioned elder. . . .

The more that a man strives towards divine glory, the more he loses interest in the glory that comes from men. This is why the love of God and His glory appears as a means of delivering the soul from vainglory. Thus St. John Climacus counsels: "We should be eager to taste the glory that is above. He who has tasted that will despise all earthly glory.

To prevent vainglorious and other bad thoughts from coming is impossible; you must just battle with them and with God's help drive them away. *St. Joseph of Optima*

Announcements for December 27

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, Sarah F, and Jonathan C, and William Rodgers.

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 .

No Classes this Week

Fast-Free: this week up through January 4 is Fast-Free. We fast again January 5 on the eve of Theophany.

Confession will be heard after Vespers and Vigil during the week or by appointment.

New Year's: In lieu of our all-night Vigil to ring in the New Year, we'll serve a typical festal Vigil on January 31 at 7:00 for St. Basil and the Circumcision of Christ with Divine Liturgy New Year's morning at 8:00.

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.

Two weeks ago, we gave \$2600 in tithes and offerings; in December through Dec 13, we gave \$4750; (last week was negligible due to the cancelled Liturgy candles \$113 (\$16 last week), special offering for St Nicholas \$70; 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.*

Last Call for 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.

Baptisms: Mark Jones, Mark Robertson, and Elisabeth Dakak will be received, God willing, January 9, and, perhaps, the Morris children then too.

Please Pray for our catechumens preparing for Holy Illumination: Mark Robertson, Mark Jones, Elisabeth 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

2.38 The malice of the demon of pride takes two forms. Either he persuades the monk to ascribe his achievements to himself and not to God, the Giver of all goodness and helper in every achievement; or, if this fails, he suggests that he should belittle those of his brethren who are as yet less perfect than himself. Influenced in this way, he does not realize that the demon is persuading him to deny God's help. For if he belittles his brethren for their lack of achievement, he clearly infers that he has achieved something through his own powers. But this is impossible, since, as our Lord has said, 'Without Me you can do nothing' (John 15:5). For even when impelled towards what is good, our weakness cannot bring anything to fruition without the Giver of all goodness.

2.39 The person who has come to know the weakness of human nature has gained experience of divine power. Such a man, having achieved some things and eager to achieve others through this divine power, never belittles anyone. For he knows that just as God has helped him and freed him from many passions and difficulties, so, when God wishes, He is able to help all men, especially those pursuing the spiritual way for His sake. And if in His providence He does not deliver all men together from their passions, yet like a good and loving physician He heals with individual treatment each of those who are trying to make progress.

2.40 We grow proud when the passions cease to be active in us, and this whether they are inactive because their causes have been

eradicated or because the demons have deliberately withdrawn in order to deceive us.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 27

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 5

Let us the faithful hymn and worship the Word / who with the Father and the Spirit hath no beginning, / and was born for our salvation of the Virgin; / for He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, / and to endure death / and to raise the dead / by His glorious Resurrection.

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*
