

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Bulletin for Sunday, January 3rd, 2021

January 3rd Sunday Before Theophany; Prophet Malachi

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

January 4th Monday

3:00 p.m. Vespers

January 5th Tuesday Fast

6:30 a.m. Royal Hours

7:00 p.m. Vigil

January 6th Wednesday Holy Theophany

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers

January 7th Thursday Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers

January 8th Friday

6:00 p.m. Vespers

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

January 9th Saturday

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

10:00 a.m. Baptisms

5:00 p.m. Vigil

January 10th Sunday After Theophany; SS Gregory & Theophan

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

Jean-Claude Larchet, the Fathers on Pride

The first form of pride consists in man's thinking himself to be superior to other men or, at least, to such or such a man among men, and also in seeking after this superiority if he does think he possesses it already. . . .

When he exalts himself, the proud man correspondingly belittles his neighbor. He looks down on him, scorning him and going as far as 'taking not notice of him, as though he were nothing'—attitudes constituting another fundamental characteristic of this first form of pride....

Whereas the first form of pride exalts a man before his fellow men, the second form exalts him before God, setting him up against Him.

Announcements for January 3

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, **Temple Oil** offered in memory of 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, Vigils, 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 the St. Elizabeth monastery and orphanage in Minsk, Belorussia.

Theophany: This week, we celebrate the Theophany of Our Lord with Royal Hours Tuesday morning at 6:30, Vigil Tuesday evening at 7:00, and Divine Liturgy Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. We do well to keep the feast by attending the cycle of services celebrating it. Water will be blessed after Liturgy at the Great Blessing of Water.

Tuesday Fast: this Tuesday, January 5, is a fast-day in preparation for the Feast.

Classes this Week

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy

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 \$5112.11 in tithes and offerings; in December, we gave \$9862; (electronic giving for December pending) candles \$102.50; special offering for St Nicholas \$85; 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.*

Baptisms: Mark Jones, Mark Robertson, and Elisabeth Dakak will be received, God willing, January 9 at 10:00 after Liturgy and, perhaps, the Morris children then too.

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

Please Pray for our catechumens preparing for Holy Illumination: Mark Robertson, Mark Jones, Elizabeth Dakak, and the Morris children and for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Robert Boguski, Branson Clements, and for our inquirers the Dean family, 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 Hollembeak, 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

2.41 Almost every sin is committed for the sake of sensual pleasure; and sensual pleasure is overcome by hardship and distress arising either voluntarily from repentance, or else involuntarily as a result of some salutary and providential reversal. 'For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged; but when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, so that we should not be condemned with the world' (1 Cor. 11:31-32)

2.42 When a trial comes upon you unexpectedly, do not blame the person through whom it came but try to discover the reason why it came, and then you will find a way of dealing with it. For whether through this person or through someone else you had in any case to drink the wormwood of God's judgments.

2.43 As long as you have bad habits do not reject hardship, so that through it you may be humbled and eject your pride.

2.44 Sometimes men are tested by pleasure, sometimes by distress or by physical suffering. By means of His prescriptions the Physician of souls administers the remedy according to the cause of the passions lying hidden in the soul.

From St. Barsanuphius of Optina

Blessed and most blessed are those who have set out on the right path. But how does one hold to this path? After all, the enemy attacks from all sides. By fulfilling the Gospel commandments and by doing the Jesus Prayer. If someone has offended you, endure it. The enemy teaches you to take revenge, but Christ says from on high, 'Forgive.' 'I don't want to obey Thee, Lord, it's too hard for me.' And a man says things to someone else that later horrify him. The Jesus Prayer teaches us meekness, mildness, and patience. Grant us, O Lord, if we are unable to love our enemies, at least to forgive them.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, January 3

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.

Troparion of the Forefeast, tone 4

Make ready, O Zebulun! / Adorn thyself, O Naphtali! / O River Jordan, leaping up, receive thou the Master, / who cometh to be baptized! / Hide not yourselves as ye did before in Paradise; / for He that beheld you naked hath revealed Himself, / that He may clothe you in your primal raiment. / Christ hath appeared, // desiring to make all creation new!

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.

Prophet Malachi, Troparion, tone 2

As we celebrate the memory / of Thy prophet Malachi, O Lord, // through him we beseech Thee to save our souls.

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.

Prophet Malachi, Kontakion, tone 4

Enriched by the gift of prophecy, / O Prophet Malachi, / thou didst manifestly proclaim salvation to the world / and the advent of Christ, // by whose radiance the world hath been illumined.

Kontakion of Forefeast, 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!"

"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*
