

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission

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Bulletin for Sunday, January 24th, 2021

January 24th Sunday St. Xenia, Sanctity of Life

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

January 25th Monday

3:00 p.m. Vespers

January 27th Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Vespers

January 28th Thursday SS Ephrem & Isaac, Syrians

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

4:00 p.m. Vespers

January 29th Friday

6:00 a.m. Matins

6:00 p.m. Vespers

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

January 30th Saturday Three Hierarchs

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil

January 31st Sunday Unmercenaries Cyrus & John

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

2:00 p.m. Baptisms

Jean-Claude Larchet, the Fathers on Self-Love

Since man has no true reality save in God, he cannot truly love himself in loving himself independently of God, and is deluded in thinking he does so. St. Theophylact of Bulgaria writes: "A lover of self is he who loves only himself, whence it comes about that he no longer even has love for self." The lover of self not only does not love himself, but without knowing it hates himself. He is, says St. Maximus, "a lover of himself against himself." Because he denies God by his exclusive love of himself, he denies himself in his essential being. He renounces his divine destiny and cuts himself off from the source of true life, committing as we have already observe a spiritual suicide.. *Therapy of Spiritual Illnesses vol. I, p. 147.*

Announcements for January 24

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 of Constantine; **Temple Oil** offered for the health and salvation of Hieromonk Dositheos.

Attendance at Services: 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, but it does help the priest to know you plan to attend a Liturgy. 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. Elizabeth Monastery & Orphanage, Minsk, Belarus. Sister Maria from the monastery will visit us February 10-11,, and we'd like to have a gift for them to help support their good work.

Mission Council: Today we thank our outgoing Mission Council Members Keith McAnear, Jordan Rovny, and Nathan Brouillette and install our new ones: Adam Skelton, Warden; Meghann Jones, Treasurer; David Charpie, Secretary; Jonathan Strand; Brian Freas.

Congratulations to the Heitzenrater family on the birth of their daughter, Evangeline Lily on January 18!

Giving Statements for 2020 are on the candle table for each family. Please pick yours up today.

Fr. Justin & his family will be at the monastery Sunday evening through Wednesday afternoon this week.

Baptisms of Elisabeth Dakak and the Morris children will be next Sunday, January 31 at 2:00 p.m.

Classes this Week

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

Confession will be heard after Matins, Vespers, and Vigil during the week or by appointment. It helps the priest if you let him know ahead of time that you are planning to come, but not required.

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 \$5489.28 in tithes and offerings; in January, we have given \$13,220.84; candles \$120; special offering for St. Elisabeth \$231; building fund \$0; 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: Elizabeth Dakak, and the Morris children Dimitry, Justin, Juliana, and Anastasia and for our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Robert Boguski, Branson Clements, Peter Dimitrov & Haley Smith, and for our inquirers the Dean family, Drew (Andrew), Haydon Grosch, Ethan Peterson, Lance Rawlinson, Vincent Howell, Johnny Jelinek, Delsie Bussell, Dave and Carter Sims. Pray 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: \$322,682.21. According to the outgoing treasurer, our building fund increased by \$64,097.42 over the past year; \$55,038.36 of it came from regular giving over the amount of the monthly budget. Glory to God!

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

2.51 When you find your intellect occupied pleasurably with material things and becoming fondly attached to its conceptual images of them, you may be sure that you love these things more than God. 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also' (Matt. 6:21).

2.52 The intellect joined to God for long periods through prayer and love becomes wise, good, powerful, compassionate, merciful and long-suffering; in short, it includes within itself almost all the divine qualities. But when the intellect withdraws from God and attaches itself to material things, either it becomes self-indulgent like some domestic animal, or like a wild beast it fights with men for the sake of these things.

2.53 Scripture calls material things 'the world'; and worldly men are those who occupy their intellect with these things. It is such men that Scripture rebukes when it says: 'Do not love the world or the things that are in the world . . . The desire of the flesh, and the desire of the eyes, and pride in one's possessions, are not of God but of the world' (cf. 1 John 2:15-16).

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, January 24

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O tenderhearted One. / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our passions. / O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to Thee.

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. Xenia of St. Petersburg, Troparion, tone 4

Spurning the vanity of this earthly world, / thou didst take up the cross of a homeless life in wandering: / thou didst not fear tribulations, privations, and the mockery of men, / but didst come to know the love of Christ, / wherein thou dost now delight in heaven. / O divinely wise and blest Xenia, // pray thou for the salvation of our souls.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 8

Having risen from the tomb Thou didst waken the dead and raise Adam, / and Eve exulteth in Thy Resurrection, / and the ends of the world keep festival for Thy rising from the dead, O Most Merciful One.

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.

St. Xenia of St. Petersburg, Kontakion, tone 3

Abiding on earth like a stranger, / and signing for the heavenly homeland, / thou wast accounted a fool by the foolish and unbelieving, / but art acknowledged by the faithful as all-wise and holy; / and thou art crowned by God with glory and honor, / O Xenia of manly mind and divine understanding. / Wherefore, we cry to thee: // Rejoice, for after thine earthly sojourn thou dwellest in the of thy Father!

“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*
