

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Church

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Warden: Adam Skelton; Treasurer: Meghan Jones; Council Members: David Charpie,
Brian Freas, Jonathan Strand

Bulletin for Sunday, November 28th, 2021

November 28th Sunday, Tone 6

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

November 30th Tuesday Apostle Andrew

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 1st Wednesday St. Philaret the Merciful

6:00 a.m. Midnight Office

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Class: I Peter

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 2nd Thursday St. Phorphyrios of Athos

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy

December 3rd Friday

6:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 4th Saturday SS Barbara & John of Damascus

8:00 a.m. Russian Language Confessions

9:30 a.m. Russian Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 5th Sunday, Tone 7

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vigil for St. Nicholas

What man, having acted against the commandments of the Most High because of intemperance, would not weep as I do? I have taken up my dwelling in Hell instead of Paradise, asking for death through the vision of sweet foods, and because of it have been made a stranger to the glory of God and to life. But for the sake of Thy mighty mercy receive me back repentant, O Lord, because Thou art compassionate and lovest mankind. *Monday Vespers, tone 6*

Announcements for November 28

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.

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).

The Special Offering today will be for Seminarians.

Nativity Fast Almsgiving: There is a large box in the hall for collecting things for Loreto House to minister to young mothers. They need pullups, diapers, prenatal gummy vitamins, breastfeeding supplies, baby soap and shampoo, baby wipes, winter coats for babies and toddlers, winter clothes for babies in sizes from newborn to six months, and Similac infant formula with iron.

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Jason and for Katherine Frederick for her nameday and for Fr. Justin.

Holy Unction for the healing of soul and body will be served Tuesday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Announcement: Deacon Maximus Gibson will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood December 26, 2021 by Bishop Gerasim in Dallas. Please keep him and Diaconissia Michelle in your prayers.

Classes this Week:

Sunday, Coffee Hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 101

Sunday, Coffee Hour, Teen Class

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. First Peter

Thursday, 7:30 Basics of Orthodoxy

St. Joseph of Optina said, "Prayer is food for the soul. Do not starve the soul, it is better to let the body go hungry. Do not judge anyone, forgive everyone. Consider yourself worse than everyone in the world, and you will be saved. As much as possible, be more quiet."

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 purity of heart and being filled more fully with Christ. If you have questions about the fast, please see your priest or confessor. Everyone who communes here should make preparation for a thorough Confession during the Fast.

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 is also a box for alms at the candle table.

Last week, we gave \$1066.36 in tithes and offerings; in November, we have given \$9880.81; our monthly budget is \$19,300; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund); Building Fund, \$40; Candles \$108.50, special offering for Alms \$143. May God bless you for your faithful giving!. Attendance: Saturday Vigil 50, Sunday Liturgy 137.

St. Anatoly of Optina said, "Prayer to God is always profitable. But precisely how, we do not know. He is the One Righteous Judge, but we can mistake a lie for the truth. Pray and believe."

Please Pray for our new catechumen, Cheryl Dean, our catechumens Makenna Baldwin, Haley Smith, David and Melissa Sims and their children Carter, Molly, and Caroline, Ethan Peterson, Vincent Howell, Lance Rawlinson, Delsie Bussell, Amanda Putnam, Haydon Grosch, Ben Pimpler, Janelle Schnulle, and Johnny Jelinek; and for our inquirers Ryan McDowell, Douglas Burr, Glen Farris, Rachel Simms. Pray for sick Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, Adam Kaufman, and for all whose employment is threatened by shot mandates.

Building Fund Watch

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

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance at end of October: \$404,298.93

And if blood of Martyrs is to flow on the steps

We must first build the steps;

And if the Temple is to be cast down

We must first build the Temple. *T.S. Eliot*

From Saint Maximus 400 Chapters on Love

3.96 The things that distress us are not always the same as those that make us angry, the things that distress us being far more numerous than those which make us angry. For example, the fact that something has been broken, or lost, or that a certain person has died, may only distress us. But other things may both distress us and make us angry, if we lack the spirit of divine philosophy.

3.98 A soul is perfect if its passible aspect is totally orientated towards God.

3.100 Time has three divisions. Faith is coextensive with all three, hope with one, and love with the remaining two. Moreover, faith and hope will last to a certain point; but love, united beyond union with Him who is

more than infinite, will remain for all eternity, always increasing beyond all measure. That is why 'the greatest of them is love' (1 Cor. 13:13).

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, November 28th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / 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.

Martyr Stephen the New, Troparion, tone 4

Struggling in fasting upon the mountain, / thou didst slay the noetic hordes of the enemy / with the weapon of the Cross, O most blessed one, / and didst manfully arm thyself again for martyrdom, / slaying Copronymous with the sword of the Faith. / And for both hast thou been crowned by God, // O ever-memorable venerable martyr Stephen.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human dough, / for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

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.

Martyr Stephen the New, Kontakion, tone 8

With all our heart, O ye who love the feasts of the Church, / let us faithfully praise with hymns the godly Stephen, the lover of the Trinity, / as one who venerated the beauteous image of the Master and His Mother; / and together let us now cry out to him rejoicing with love: // Rejoice, O ever-glorious 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*
