

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, December 5th, 2021



December 5th Sunday, Tone 7, St. Sabas the Sanctified

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

December 6th Monday St. Nicholas

7:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 8th Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Class: I Peter

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 9th Thursday Conception of Theotokos

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 10th Friday

5:30 a.m. Midnight Office

6:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. *Vespers, Confession in Decatur*

December 11th Saturday

9:00 a.m. *Divine Liturgy, Decatur*

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 12th Sunday, Tone 8

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

I have become a laughing stock of the devils, a reproach of men, a subject of lament for the just, a source of tears for the angels; something that polluteth the air, earth, and water. For I have stained body, soul, and mind with false practices and have become an enemy of God. Woe is me, O Lord: I have sinned, against Thee have I sinned, forgive me..

Monday Vespers, tone 7

Announcements for December 5

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).

Temple Wine is given for the health and salvation of Paul and Paisius; **Temple Oil** is given for the health and salvation of Hieromonk Dositheos and Viola Frederick.

The Special Offering today will be for the Decatur Mission.

Nativity Fast Almsgiving: There is a large box in the hall for collecting things for Loreto House to minister to young mothers.

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 Diaconissa Michelle in your prayers. We all have a blessing to attend the service. Deacon Anthony and I will serve. We hope to bring in a priest to serve here that Sunday for those who do not wish to go to the cathedral.

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. Macarius of Optina said, "Our chief enemies are the demons who fight to conquer us through our passions. The most powerful weapon against all their evil machinations, snares, and arrows is humility. They are the creatures of pride, and are able to conquer those who proudly think that they can do battle with them; but they cannot stand up against humility."

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 \$2022.60 in tithes and offerings; in November, we also gave \$8812.06 electronically for a total of we have given \$20,781.82; our monthly budget is \$19,300; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund); Building Fund, \$10,000; Candles \$129.50, special offering for seminarian \$175. May God bless you for your faithful giving! Attendance: Saturday Vigil 43, Sunday Liturgy 123.

St. Ambrose of Optina said, "An irritable state of soul comes, first of all, from self-love, when something happens not according to our desire or point of view, and secondly, from lack of faith that fulfilling the commandments of God in the given situation will bring any benefit."

Please Pray for our new catechumens, 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, Johnny Jelinek, and Cheryl Dean; 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

4.1 First the intellect marvels when it reflects on the absolute infinity of God, that boundless sea for which it longs so much. Then it is amazed at how God has brought things into existence out of

nothing. But just as ‘His magnificence is without limit’ (Ps. 145:3. LXX), so ‘there is no penetrating His purposes’ (Isa. 40:28).. the human intellect.

4.2 How can the intellect not marvel when it contemplates that immense and more than astonishing sea of goodness? Or how is it not astounded when it reflects on how and from what source there have come into being both nature endowed with intelligence and intellect, and the four elements which compose physical bodies, although no matter existed before their generation? What kind of potentiality was it which, once actualized, brought these things into being? But all this is not accepted by those who follow the pagan Greek philosophers, ignorant as they are of that all-powerful goodness and its effective wisdom and knowledge, transcending the human intellect.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 5th

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. / To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. / For the myrrh-bearers Thou didst change their lamentation into joy. / And Thou didst command Thine Apostles, O Christ God, / to proclaim that Thou art risen, / granting unto the world great mercy.

St. Sabbas, Troparion, tone 8

With the streams of thy tears thou didst irrigate the barren desert, / and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst make it to bear fruit a hundredfold. / Thou wast a beacon for the whole world, radiating miracles. // O Sabbas, our father, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: / the Savior hath come to those in faith. / Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

St. Sabbas, Kontakion, tone 8

In thy virtue thou didst offer thyself from childhood unto God as an unblemished sacrifice, O blessed Sabbas, / becoming a gardener in the garden of piety. / Therefore, thou wast an adornment for the venerable, / and a right laudable citizen of the desert. // Wherefore, we cry to thee: Rejoice, O Sabbas most rich!

“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*
