

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Church

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Priest Justin Frederick (940) 293-3032 cell

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

Bulletin for Sunday, December 12th, 2021

December 12th Sunday, Tone 8 Holy Forefathers

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Parish Council

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

December 13th Monday St. Herman of Alaska

7:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

December 14th Tuesday

6:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

6:30 p.m. Holy Unction

December 15th Wednesday

6:30 a.m. Midnight Office, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: I Peter

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 16th Thursday Prophet Haggai

7:30 a.m. Matins

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Vespers

7:30 p.m. Class: Basics of Orthodoxy: Orthodoxy & R. Catholicism

December 17th Friday Prophet Daniel

6:00 a.m. Matins

7:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

December 18th Saturday

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

December 19th Sunday Before Nativity, Tone 1

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

I have made myself a stranger to every divine commandment. I have utterly neglected the godly virtues, and have senselessly spent my whole life in slothfulness. All the deeds I have committed have been unseemly and vicious. Take pity on me, O Christ, for Thou art merciful. *Monday Vespers, tone 8*

Announcements for December 12

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 IOCC.

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. Any Orthodox Christian in communion with the Church who has had a recent confession may partake.

Parish Council will meet today at noon. Meeting open to all members.

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: Differences between Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism

Confession: Time is running out to confess before Nativity. Please do not wait until the last minute.

St. Leo of Optina said, "The merciful Lord accomplishes and does everything through His will for our benefit, even though the means and results may seem to be in opposition to us. ?With the help of the most Merciful Lord God, we will be patient, and we will see...."

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 \$3709.35 in tithes and offerings; our monthly budget is \$19,300; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund); Building Fund, \$232; Candles \$122.50, special offering for Decatur Mission \$115. May God bless you for your faithful giving! Attendance: Saturday Vigil 59, Sunday Liturgy 123.

St. Macarius of Optina said, "In preparing your children for life in the world, have you taken care to plant in their hearts faith and the fear of God, which will be their guides in the future? Pray to the Lord that He protect their hearts from the tares which are sown among the wheat by the enemy."

Please Pray for our new catechumen Ryan McDowell, 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 Douglas Burr, Glen Farris, and Rachel Simms, Christopher Wanga, Nickole Gabel, and others. Pray for sick Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, Adam Kaufman, Alla Gashushina, Valentina's husband Bill, 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

4.3 God is the Creator from all eternity, and He creates when He wills, in His infinite goodness, through His coessential Logos and Spirit. Do not raise the objection: 'Why did He create at a particular moment since He is good from all eternity?' For I reply

that the unsearchable wisdom of the infinite essence does not come within the compass of human knowledge.

4.4 When the Creator willed, He gave being to and manifested that knowledge of created things which already existed in Him from all eternity. For in the case of almighty God it is ridiculous to doubt that He can give being to anything when He so wills.

4.5 Try to learn why God created; for that is true knowledge. But do not try to learn how He created or why He did so comparatively recently; for that does not come within the compass of your intellect. Of divine realities some may be apprehended by men and others may not. Unbridled speculation, as one of the saints has said, can drive one headlong over the precipice.

4.6 Some say that the created order has coexisted with God from eternity; but this is impossible. For how can things which are limited in every way coexist from eternity with Him who is altogether infinite? Or how are they really creations if they are coeternal with the Creator? This notion is drawn from the pagan Greek philosophers, who claim that God is in no way the creator of being but only of qualities. We, however, who know almighty God, say that He is the creator not only of qualities but also of the being of created things. If this is so, created things have not coexisted with God from eternity.

Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 12th

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

Troparion, Holy Forefathers, tone 2

By faith, Thou didst justify the forefathers, / when through them didst betroth Thyself aforetime / to the Church from among the nations. / The Saints boast in glory / that from their seed, there is a glorious fruit, / even she that bare Thee seedlessly. / By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Kontakion, Holy Forefathers, tone 6

Ye would not worship a hand-wrought image, O thrice blessed ones; / but armed by the Undepictable Essence, / ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire. / Standing in the midst of the irresistible flame, ye called upon God: / Speed Thou, O Compassionate One, since Thou art merciful, / and hasten to come unto our aid; for Thou art able, if it be Thy will.

“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*
