

## St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Church

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### Bulletin for Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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#### **December 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday Before Nativity, Tone 1**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

2:00 p.m. Vespers

#### **December 20<sup>th</sup> Monday Forefeast, St. Ignatius**

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **December 21<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, Forefeast**

6:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

3:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **December 22<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, Forefeast, Martyr Anastasia**

6:30 a.m. Matins

7:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **December 23<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, Forefeast**

6:30 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:30 p.m. Vespers, Confession

#### **December 24<sup>th</sup> Friday Eve of Nativity**

8:00 a.m. Royal Hours

10:00 a.m. Baptisms

12:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

6:00 p.m. Vigil

#### **December 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh**

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

#### **December 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Nativity, Tone 2**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, 9:30 Liturgy/Ordination in Dallas

O ye people, let us celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ, and lifting our thoughts up to Bethlehem, let us elevate ourselves in mind; and with the eyes of our souls let us gaze upon the Virgin, who cometh to give birth in the cave to our Lord and God. Joseph, beholding the magnitude of His miracles, supposed that he beheld a man wrapped as a babe in swaddling-bands, but perceived from the testimony of things that He was the true God, who bestoweth great mercy on our souls. *Forefeast, Vespers Dec 20*

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission  
belongs to the Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America

## Announcements for December 19

**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 Roman, Lilia, Diana, and Nadya.

**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.

**Holy Nativity:** This week, we celebrate the Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord in the flesh. We do well to keep the feast by attending as much of its cycle of services as we can.

### Classes this Week:

Sunday, Coffee Hour, Basics of Orthodoxy 101

Sunday, Coffee Hour, Teen Class

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

**St. Anatoly of Optina** said, "If you are constantly angry and complaining, it is indicative of a proud soul. Humble yourself, reproach yourself, and the Lord is powerful to give you comfort and a helping hand."

**St. Barsanuphius of Optina** said, "Behind pride, and literally in its steps, the sin of fornication always follows."

**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 \$2503 in tithes and offerings; in December, we have given \$6212.35; our monthly budget is \$19,300; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund); Building Fund, \$150; Candles \$137.50, special offering for IOCC \$86. May God bless you for your faithful giving!. Attendance: Saturday Vigil 51, Sunday Liturgy 126.

**St. Marcius of Optina** said, "Spiritual life does not consist of enjoying peace and consolation, but the spiritual cross, that is, gladly enduring the taking away of consolations."

**Please Pray** for our new catechumen 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, Cheryl Dean, and Ryan McDowell; 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

4.9 Only the infinite Being, all-powerful and creative of all things, is simple, unique, unqualified, peaceful and stable. Every creature, consisting as it does of being and accident, is composite and always in need of divine providence, for it is not free from change.

4.13 Whether or not a nature endowed with intelligence and intellect is to exist eternally depends on the will of the Creator whose every creation is good; but whether such a nature is good or bad depends on its own will.

4.14 Evil is not to be imputed to the essence of created beings, but to their erroneous and mindless motivation.

4.15 A soul's motivation is rightly ordered when its desiring power is subordinated to self-control, when its incensive power rejects hatred and cleaves to love, and when its power of intelligence, through prayer and spiritual contemplation, advances towards God.

4.16 If in time of trial a man does not patiently endure his afflictions, but cuts himself off from the love of his spiritual brethren, he does not yet possess perfect love or a deep knowledge of divine providence.

4.17 The aim of divine providence is to unite by means of true faith and spiritual love those separated in various ways by vice. Indeed, the Savior endured His sufferings so that 'He should gather together into one the scattered children of God' (John 11: 52). Thus, he who does not resolutely bear trouble, endure affliction, and patiently sustain hardship, has strayed from the path of divine love and from the purpose of providence.

### Troparia and Kontakia for Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Resurrectional Troparion, tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews / and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven, therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life: / Glory to the Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom! / Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of man.

#### Holy Forefathers, Troparion, tone 2

Great are the achievements of faith! / In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. / And the Prophet Daniel / proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. // 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.

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"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*

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