



ST. MARY'S HOLY DORMITION

JANUARY 21st, 2024 VENERABLE MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR

Scripture Readings

Colossians 1:12-18 (Epistle)

Brethren, giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Matthew 22:1-14 (Gospel)

The Lord said this Parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding." So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

JAN Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1st - Kelsey Hlatki
- 5th - Margo Wilkinson
- 6th - Logan Bourg
- 8th - Tammy Christensen
- 10th - Michael Hunter
- 10th - Sheahan Bourg
- 15th - Fr. David Lowell
- 20th - Litsa Osburn
- 22nd - Jeremy Gardner
- 24th - Rowelin Dawson

SCHEDULE

- Jan 27th - Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
- Jan 28th - Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"The demons that wage war on us through our shortcomings in virtue are those that teach unchastity, drunkenness, avarice and envy. Those that wage war on us through our excessive zeal for virtue teach conceit, self-esteem and pride; they secretly pervert what is commendable into what is reprehensible."
- St. Maximus the Confessor

"Theology without practice is the theology of demons"
- St. Maximus the Confessor

"There is no point in converting people to Christ if they do not convert their vision of the world and of life, since Christ then becomes merely a symbol for all that we love and want already, without Him."
- Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

WEEKLY JOKES

My wife fainted onto the baggage carousel at the airport. Thankfully she came round.

I accidentally dropped a bucket of paint on my wife while painting the bedroom. Boy was she blue in the face!

*What do you call a fraudulent Japanese warrior?
A shamurai!*

WELCOME! IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE!

Coffee Hour: 1/21 – Rita & Doreen | 1/28 – Potluck

Church Cleanup: 1/21 – Sisneros | 1/28 – Britton

Please continue to sign up for Coffee Hour and Church Clean Up. A church clean up list has been posted as well to explain what is needed.

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Today is the Sanctity of Life Sunday that His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon has asked parishes in the OCA to observe. We will do a Panakhida at the end of Liturgy for all of those children killed through the evil act of abortion. Please keep those children in your prayers and ask that God change the hearts of those who would perform or promote this evil act. The OCA has a statement on their website. Link here: <https://shorturl.at/ehjDU>

Fish Fry at St. Michael's Catholic Church

Our brothers and sisters over at St Michael Catholic Church are having their annual fish fry if anyone is interested in attending. It will start February 16th at 6 PM and will happen every Friday until March 22nd. It's always good to support them as they always support us with our events. Enjoy!

Meal Train for the Bourgs

If you are interested in helping Logan, Abigail, and their newborn Sheahan, a Meal Train has been setup where you can bring them meals on different days. Please consider helping. Please see Fr. Stephen if you have any questions. Link here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/nvr1qe/>

House Blessings Have Begun – Sign up Sheet in Narthex

If you have not yet signed up for your house to be blessed or spoken with Fr. Stephen, please do so. You are not required to do anything special but it is important to have your home blessed every year.

Next Adult Class is Jan 27th after Vespers

Annual Meeting (Jan 28th) – Community Potluck

Annual Meeting next Sunday after Coffee Hour. We have 3 council positions open as well as the Secretary position is open. If you are interested in running, please any member know so they may nominate you for one of these 4 positions. Meeting Packets are available in the Narthex.

Venerable Maximus the Confessor

Born into a pious family in Constantinople, Saint Maximus received an elite education and pursued a successful career in government. However, his conscience led him to renounce worldly pursuits and embrace monastic life. His wisdom and humility soon earned him the respect of his brethren, and he became the abbot of the Chrysopolis monastery.

When the Monothelite heresy, denying the dual nature of Christ, began to spread, Saint Maximus emerged as a fierce defender of Orthodoxy. He tirelessly preached and debated, winning over both clergy and common folk. He even ventured to Africa and Rome to seek support from Pope Theodore, eventually leading to the Lateran Council which condemned Monothelitism.

Emperor Constans, a Monothelite himself, retaliated by imprisoning Saint Maximus and subjecting him to brutal torture. Despite the suffering, Saint Maximus remained steadfast in his faith. He died in exile, revered as a martyr and beacon of unwavering devotion to the truth.

Saint Maximus left behind a vast theological legacy. His writings covered a wide range of topics, including scriptural interpretation, dogmatic theology, and mystical experiences. He emphasized the importance of deification, where humans, through God's grace, can become partakers in His divine nature. His works, heavily influenced by both patristic traditions and ancient philosophy, laid the foundation for future theologians like Symeon the New Theologian and Gregory Palamas.

Saint Maximus' life and teachings offer a powerful example of unwavering faith and intellectual courage. He teaches us to stand up for truth, even in the face of persecution, and to seek a deeper understanding of God through both reason and mystical experience. His legacy continues to inspire theologians, scholars, and ordinary believers alike, reminding us that the pursuit of truth and communion with God is a lifelong journey worth undertaking.

The Come and See Challenge:

Have you brought someone NEW this month or brought someone back?

Have you gone to Great Vespers at least once this month?

When was the last time you went to Confession?

Prayer List

Living:

Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Alexander, Met. Isaiah, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Dennis, Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Steve Sr, Litsa, Leilani, child Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Jeremy, Alicia, Iryland, Patricia, Danny, Christina, Jerry, Roberta, Leonard, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Beverly, Lily with child, Infant Dominic, Jill, Kalee with child, Joseph, Alisha with child, Jackie, Azrah, Amber with child, Anna with child, Joan, Trisha, Stella, Carol, Ethan, DaeLynn with child, infant AdaLynn, Navvlet, Lee, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Rod, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Ron

Those who are confined: Casey, Basil, Mark, Johnny, Hannah

Departed:

Fr. Moses, Mother Elizabeth, Donna, Rosemary, John, Glynis, Ana, Lloyd, Richard

Youth:

Roller Skating (Feb 4th)

Mark your calendars! We are looking to get a group together to go to Skate City after Liturgy on the 4th of February. There is no cost as it is covered under the Youth budget, just please go. We will go for an early Dinner afterwards. All are welcomed!

St. Ambrose Donations

January is the March for Life and a time which we focus more on the Sanctity of Life. Please use this time to consider donating.

**RECTOR: Fr. Stephen Osburn | CELL: 702-521-6988 | E-MAIL: frsteve@holydormition.net
HolyDormition.net | WATCH LIVE: [Facebook.com/ColoradoOrthodoxChurch](https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoOrthodoxChurch)**