



## **St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church**

**181 Preston road**

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## **Week of January 19, 2025**

**Sunday, January 19**

THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. TONE 5. VENERABLE  
MACARIUS THE GREAT OF EGYPT.

**9:05am** -The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hours

**9:30am** - Divine Liturgy

**11:30am** - Agape meal (coffee hour) *followed by OUTDOOR  
blessing of the waters at Waterloo Park after the Agape Meal.*

## This Sunday's Hymns and Readings

**Tone 5**      *Troparion*      *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

**Tone 1**      *Troparion*      *(Ven. Macarius)*

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father Macarius. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

**Tone 5**      *Kontakion*      *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!

**Tone 4**      *Kontakion*      *(Ven. Macarius)*

The Lord truly placed thee in the house of abstinence, as a star enlightening the ends of the earth, Venerable Macarius, Father of Fathers.

**Tone 5**      *Prokeimenon*      *(Resurrection)*

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.  
*Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!*

**Epistle**      Colossians 3:12-16

**Tone 5**      *Alleluias*

*I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens.*

**Gospel**      Luke 18:35-43

## This Week's Schedule

*Monday, January 20.* Venerable Euthymius the Great.

- **No services or offices hours**

*Tuesday, January 21.* Venerable Maximus the Confessor. Virgin Martyr Agnes of Rome.

- **9:30am – 11:30am Fr Silouan's office hours**

*Wednesday, January 22.* Apostle Timothy of the Seventy.

- **2:30pm – 5:30pm Fr Silouan's office hours**
- **6:00pm – Daily vespers**

*Thursday, January 23.* Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra, and Martyr Agathangelus. Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Sixth Ecumenical Council.

- **No office hours or services**

*Friday, January 24.* Venerable Xenia of Rome and her two female servants. Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg.

- **No services or office hours.**
- *Fr Silouan serving at St Thomas Mission, Paris, TX: 6:30, daily vespers.*

*Saturday, January 25.* St. Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople.

- *Fr Silouan serving Divine Liturgy at St Thomas Mission, Paris, TX: 9:00am. Returning to Denison in the afternoon for Great Vespers at St Paul's.*
- **5:00pm Great Vespers**

## Announcements

### *Outdoor blessing of the waters*

This Sunday, January 19, just after a shorter-than-usual coffee hour (begin cleaning at 12:15, then leave by 12:45, ideally), we will make our way to Waterloo Park for the outdoor blessing of the waters. The address is 1101 Waterloo Park drive, Denison, TX, 75020.

### *On the use of holy water (revised!)*

Holy water is sanctified for our spiritual benefit. It is used to bless the faithful at church, to bless their homes, vehicles, boats, livestock, gardens, beehives, icons, church items, clerical vestments, etc. It is also given to the sick and suffering for the healing of soul and body. Due to its sanctification, I do not encourage the faithful to take holy water home **in large amounts which are often neglected**.

Instead, the faithful are encouraged to take home a small amount of holy water for certain needs: for one's own illness, or that of one's spouse or children; for blessing a vehicle; for consuming on fasting days of the week, etc. The faithful are also encouraged to drink a bit of holy water **any time they are at church, except the morning of and during the Divine Liturgy**. The holy water will be stored in a large glass container with a spigot for easy dispensing, held up by the wooden frame already in the narthex. A stainless steel cup will be hung on the frame for common use. If we run low on holy water, there are other times throughout the year when water is typically blessed, such as the mid-feast of Pentecost and the Procession of the Cross in August.

### *House blessings*

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board of the narthex. Please sign up ASAP. If you live outside of Grayson County, however, or the suggested times truly do not work for you, contact me directly to schedule. Before I arrive, please make sure your home is clean, all electronic devices are turned off, your prayer corner is neat, and you have a candle and a list of *immediate* living and departed ready. No meal or honorarium is expected, but you may provide either one if you wish.

### *Annual meeting*

Please make sure that you mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 26** as we will hold our annual church meeting after a shortened coffee hour. We will discuss our financial status and outlook for 2025. I also will formally introduce myself and my intentions as the priest of St Paul's: all liturgical, sacramental, and non-liturgical intentions and expectations. All are encouraged to attend, but only members are allowed to vote (recall the defining terms of membership on your Time, Talent, and Treasure cards).

### *Confession and office hours*

Eventually, confessions will be heard only in my office, as I would like to keep the Nave as a place only for the words of the divine services and the proclamation of the scriptures. When that time comes (that is, when my office is ready) I will notify everyone. Confession is **not** available Sunday morning except for emergencies!

My office hours are included in the weekly schedule. These are times when I will be at the church working in my office. You are free to come by and just talk with me if you would like. It is also a time you can come and pray in the church. Just stop by and let me know and I will let you in. **My office hours are for confession as well.**

### **A Word from the Fathers**

*Soul:* do not be downcast, and do not be anxious. Neither count yourself to be in a multitude of sins. Do not draw upon yourself the fire. Say not, "The Lord has cast me away from his face," for saying this will not reconcile you to God. He cries to you, saying, My people what have I done to you? How have I grieved you? Or how have I troubled you? (Micah 6:3). When someone falls, does he not get up? And when someone is turned around, does he not turn back?

*Soul:* do you not hear of the goodness of the Lord? Have you not been redeemed, as one condemned at the hands of a ruler or a general? Do not be anxious that you have wasted your riches. Do not be ashamed to turn back. Rather, say, I will arise and return to my Father (Lk 11:18).

Arise and go! He will receive you. He will not upbraid you. Rather, he will even rejoice at your return. He will take you in. Only, do not be ashamed, like Adam. Do not hide from the face of God.

- *St Ephrem the Syrian*

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