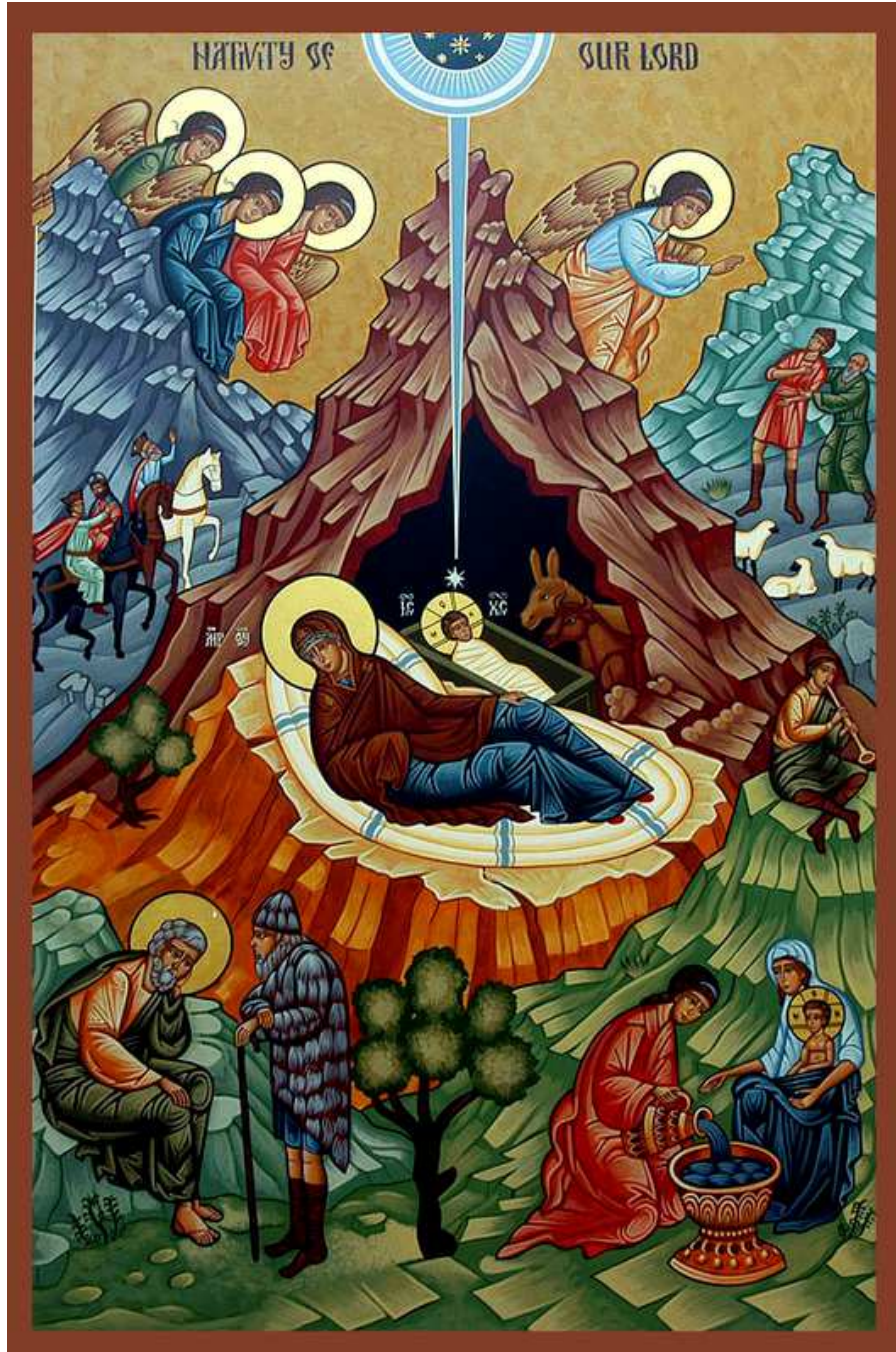


Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فمجدوه!



Nativity (*Birth in the Flesh*) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

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Nativity (Birth in the Flesh) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 25, 2018

Matins p.44 **Festal Matins Gospel:** *Matthew 1:18-25*

Please follow the special Hymns on the bilingual sheets on the Narthex Table.

Altar Servers: **EVERYONE**

Welcome to St. George: It is a joy to have you worshipping with us as we celebrate our Savior's Nativity (Birth) into the world. For those who have committed themselves to the Orthodox Faith (through Baptism and Chrismation) it also means, if prepared, the reception of Holy Communion. Preparation includes the Sacrament of Confession within the last 2 months, prayer, and fasting {no food or drink from 12pm/noon}. If you are new, just visiting, or have any questions, please introduce yourself to Father Joe. If you are not an Orthodox Christian or not prepared, please know that you are invited to venerate the Holy Cross and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

Christmas Poinsettia Offerings

(Remembered during the Preparation of the Gifts [bread and wine] Service)

- Jamal and Manal Abuaita for their health and the health of children **Tamer, Yara, and Samir.**
- Anwar and Janet Abueita for the health of their family especially their **children and grandchildren.**
- Kh. Leslee Abud for the health of her family especially **Eva Saseen and Rose Hajjar** and in loving memory of parents **Leereese and Lester Nicola.**
- Emil and Hiam Bathish for their health and the health of their **children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild** and in loving memory of **Naif and Julia Bathish and Yacoub and Marie Farah.**
- Areen Bathish for the health of her family especially parents **Emil and Hiam, brother, sisters, nephews, nieces, and great nephews** and in loving memory of **Naif, Julia, Yacoub, Mary, Rose, Edward, Jihan, Hani, Olga, Lupi, Josie, Lynn and Brendan.**
- Monica Benson for the health of the **Benson Family** and in loving memory of **Pauline Jehnsen, Gary and Emily Bensen.**
- Evelyn Delbridge for the health of her family and in loving memory of husband **James** and grandson **Matthew Lawrence.**
- Elias and Amira Hanna for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Salim, Badia, and Naeem.**
- Donald and JoAnn Hawkins for the health of the **Hawkins, Shahin, Shaded, Moore, and Rhinehart**

Families and in loving memory of the departed members of the **Brackett, Hawkins, Shahin, Shaded, Moore, Rhinehart, and Ojile Families.**

- Karam and Aida Nassar for their health and the health of sons **Fred, Omar, and Salam** and in loving memory of **Nicholah** and **Rasmeya** Kaileh.
- George and Jeanette Nassif for the health of the **Nassif, Saseen, Farah, and Abdella Families** especially **Eva** and in loving memory of son **Paul**.
- Kelly Sanderson for the health of her family especially parents **Gary** and **Donna** and in loving memory of uncle **Dick**.
- William and Susan Shaheen for their health and the health of **Katie** and **Phillip** Quackenboss, **Sara, Andy, Harrison, and Benjamin** Keller, **Andrea, Drew, Arianna, and Georgie** Gazis and in loving memory of **George** and **Janet** Lakis, **Nicole** Shammass, and **Madeleine** and **William** Shaheen Sr.
- Douglas and Sandy Thomas for the health of their family especially **Jordan, Morgan, and Laney Thomas** and in loving memory of **Jean** and **Alex** Khouri, **Virginia, Marvin, and Ken**.

Thank you and may God grant you all many years!

Holy Bread Offerings

- St. George 2018 Parish Council for the health of their families and the health and prosperity of our **2019 Parish Council**.
- George and Jeanette Nassif for the health of their family and in loving memory of **Assaph, Sylvia, Jack, George, and Manera**.
- Emil and Hiam Bathish for the health of their **children** and **grandchildren** especially **Rudaina, Lubna, and Amer** on the occasion of their birthdays – *May God grant them many years*--and in loving memory of parents **Naif** and **Julia Bathish** and **Yacoub** and **Marie Farah**.
- Khaled and Sally Abuaita for the health of their family especially children **Watan, Ayham, and Majd** and friend **Nick**.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Najah** Qumseih (+November 17th, daughter of Salwa Abu-Aitah) and **Hanna** Abuaita (+December 6th, brother of Kh. Suhela Qassis, George, Jalal, and Suheil Abuaita).
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, **Bishop Alexander** (Ottawa and Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York), **Laila** and **Sahar** Abdallah, **Androlla** Abu Aita, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Manal** Abuaita, **Cesar** and **Naila** Banna, **Emil** and **Hiam** Bathish, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Vera** Farah, **Betty** Froberg, **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Roland** Haddad, **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nemer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** and **Nicola** Khoury, **Danny** Mortensen, **Heather** Nassar, **Karam** Nassar, **George** and **Renee** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Eva** Saseen (niece of Nassifs), **Michael** and **Nancy** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., and **Lois** Teunion.
- We pray for those who are with child: **Jenny** (Hanna) Abuaita, **Ola** (Michael) Alqazaha, Dr. **Lindsey** (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, **Walaa** (Rami) Khoury, and **Karen** (Nicholas) Shaheen {Drs. Ron and Kathy's son}.

The Kiss of Peace

When Deacon Michael says, *Let us love one another . . .* we greet each other with,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! المسيحُ وُلِد! فمجدوه!

Reception of Holy Communion

Please remember only ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED themselves may partake of Holy Communion. *“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29). If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion.

If you have a special need, let one of the ushers know so they may assist you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO Fasting until Saturday, January 5th, which is a Fast Day in preparation for the Theophany (Baptism) of Christ on Sunday, January 6th.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH CALENDARS Please pick yours up (and other family members and friends) so we do not have to mail them! If your name isn't listed, call the church office. The calendars (please take 1 per family) are a gift from our Ladies Auxiliary, THANK YOU, LADIES! Our children will receive their envelopes in Church School. Parents, please make sure your child gets their *Offering Envelopes*.

NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY (see flier on Narthex Table) Monday, December 31st beginning at 7:30pm here at St. George. There will be music, food, and a great time ringing in the civil New Year! Tickets are \$50 for adults; \$25 (12 years old and younger) and can be purchased from Khaled Al-Khouri (810-691-8676) TODAY! Paid reservations MUST BE PURCHASED by TODAY, December 25th!

COMING EVENTS

Friday	Altar Society Christmas Outing (contact Theresa Farah for more information)
Saturday	Great Vespers 5pm
Next Sunday	Matins @ 8:50am Divine Liturgy @ 10am <u>as normal</u>
	Ladies of St. George Christmas Lunch at Redwood Steakhouse 1pm

December 25th — NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

The origin of this feast goes back to the time of the Apostles. In the Apostolic Constitutions (Section 3, 13) it says, *“Brethren, observe the feasts; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month.”* In another place it also says, *“Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, on which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin Mary for the salvation of the world.”*

In the second century, St. Clement of Alexandria also indicates that the day of the Nativity of Christ is December 25th. In the third century, St. Hippolytus of Rome mentions the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, and appoints the Gospel readings for this day from the opening chapters of St. Matthew.

In 302 during the persecution of Christians by Maximian, 20,000 Christians of Nicomedia (December 28th) were burned in church on the very Feast of the Nativity of Christ. In that same century, after the persecution when the Church had received freedom of religion and had become the official religion in the Roman Empire, we find the Feast of the Nativity observed throughout the entire Church. There is evidence of this in the works of St. Ephraim the Syrian, St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Ambrose of Milan, and other Fathers of the Church of the fourth century.

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Toledo and
The Midwest

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 25, 2018

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
المسيحُ وُلِد! فمجّدوه!

Christmas is many things, which includes a story of two kings. One is from the world and the other King comes from heaven.

The first king, Herod, was not confident. He thought his power had to be protected. Although he was wealthy, sat on a throne, and looked down on others, he was afraid of everyone. Instead of bringing smiles to people's faces, he brought tears to their eyes. When he heard from the wise men that a baby Boy was born of a Holy Woman in the countryside, a Savior who would serve and save the people, Herod's fear got the best of him and he was in a "furious rage". He looked everywhere to find this newborn King.

Therefore, God hid the baby King, who was from heaven, and His very own Son, in a cave in the country, under the stars, in the Holy arms of his Mother, while the animals, shepherds, and angels kept watch over Him. Unlike Herod, this baby Jesus would grow up to be the Perfect King. *"He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."* (Luke 2:52) People loved Him. They were not afraid of Him. Little children would run up to Him. People were drawn to Him like metal to a magnet. And though crowds were always with Him, He made time with each person that needed Him. Everyone, well almost everyone, loved him.

The worldly king sold his kingdom for his pleasure at a party. The heavenly King, Jesus Christ, bought a Kingdom to give to His Father as a present. His purpose was His pleasure.

Herod loved making speeches. He gave speeches from his throne to force people to do his will. The fearful king wanted frightened subjects. He put on golden robes because he thought he was a god. But just as his proud heart swelled to the cheers of the crowd, he died then and there (Acts 21).

Jesus never spoke like that. He never sat on a throne; he was nailed to the Cross. And from the Cross, He never spoke more powerfully than when He didn't speak at all. And when this King died, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords gave life to everyone. (Revelation 19:16 and 1 Timothy 6:15)

It does not matter what conditions we are given in life, whether we live in a palace and sit on a throne, or are born in a cave and lay in a manger, it is our love for God that makes us great, like Jesus Christ, the heavenly King.

May He who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation bless you always.

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY

Bishop of Toledo

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

2635 Manchester Blvd., Toledo, OH 43606-2825

(260) 615-8777 Cell

bpanthonymichaels@gmail.com

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Nativity 2018

Christ is born, glorify Him!

Christ is from heaven, go to meet Him!

Christ is on earth, be ye lifted up. Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing out with gladness, all ye people. For He is glorified!

(First Ode of the Christmas Canon)



Beloved in Christ,

Today, as the fire from the cave of Christ's birth burns deep within our hearts, we rejoice with all the earth. Anticipation imbues the world as we celebrate the birth of the One who willingly became Man for our salvation. Quiet, meek, guileless and patient, how do we behold and gaze upon the resplendent One who draws us to Himself in pure love?

He comes prepared for victory to prepare us. He comes willingly that we be willing. He comes courageous and strong to give us courage and strength. He comes in humility to humble us. He comes in peace, that all men should live in peace.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Yours in the service of Christ,

Metropolitan Joseph

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F