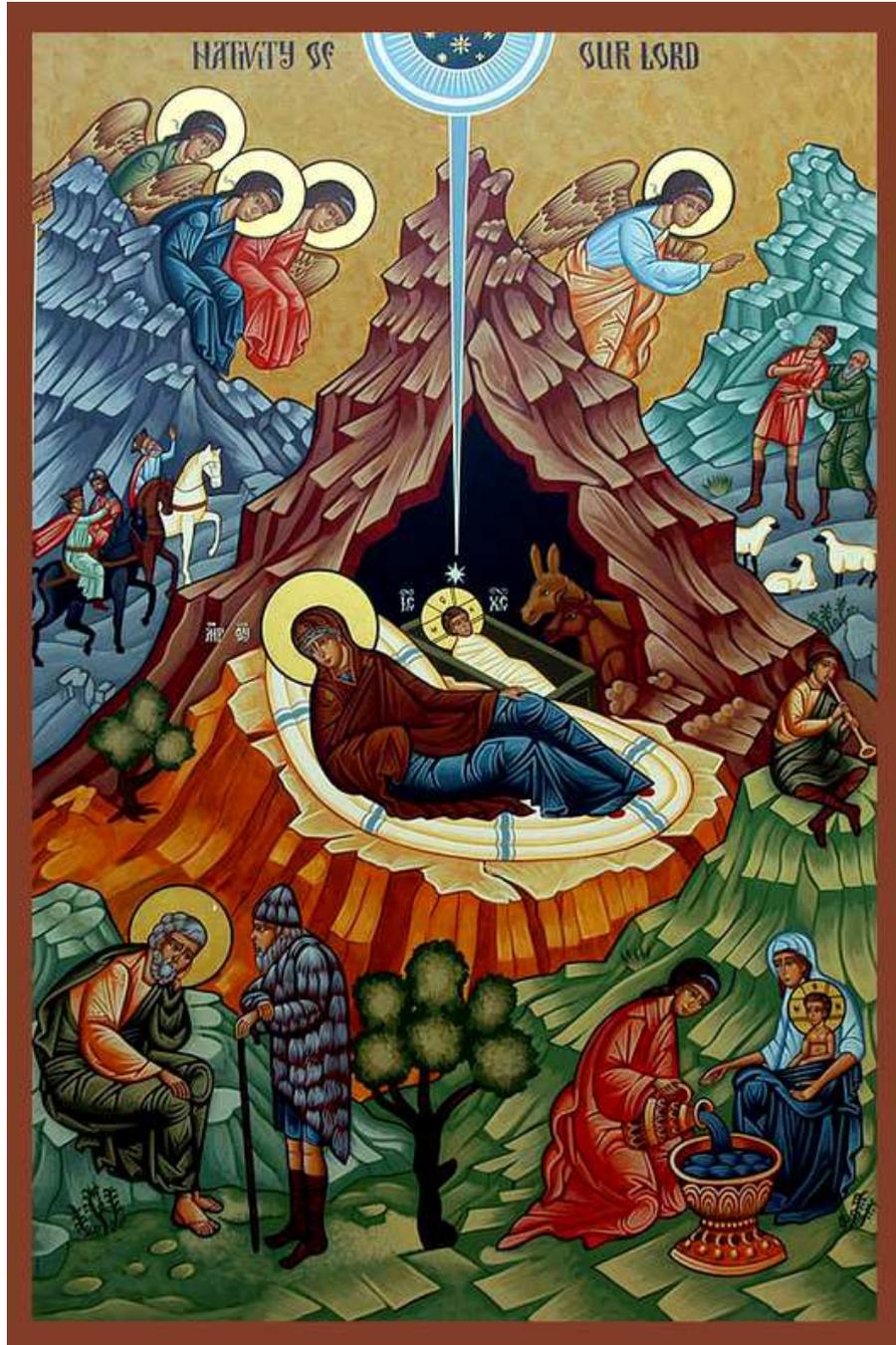


Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فمجدوه!



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

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المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فمجدوه!

Nativity (Birth in the Flesh) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 25, 2019

Bilingual Matins on Narthex Table **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 Samer** and in loving memory of **Mary** and **Mounir**.
- **Khaled** and **Sally** Abuaita for their health and the health of children **Watan, Ayham, and Majd** and in loving memory of Aunt **Mary**, Grandmother **Rahma**, and **Androlla** Abuaita.
- **Kh. Leslee** Abud for the health of her family and in loving memory of mother **Leereese**.
- **Emil** and **Hiam** Bathish for their health and the health of their **children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren** and in loving memory of **Naif** and **Julia** Bathish and **Yacoub** and **Marie** Farah.
- **Salim** Hanna for the health of the **Hanna, Elias, Joubran, Khoshaba, and Kanaan** Families and in loving memory of **Joselyn, Zahoe, Badia, and Gaieth**.
- **Najwa** Joubran for the health of the **Hanna, Elias, Joubran, Khoshaba, and Kanaan** Families and in loving memory of all her departed family.
- **George** and **Jeanette** Nassif for the health of the **Nassif, Saseen, Farah, and Abdella** Families and in loving memory of son **Paul**.
- **William** and **Susan** Shaheen for their health and the health of their family.

- **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 and **Virginia and Marvin** Thomas.

Thank you and may God grant you all many years!

Holy Bread Offerings

- **Khaled and Sally** Abuaita for their health and the health of children **Watan, Ayham, and Majd** and in loving memory of Aunt **Mary**, Grandmother **Rahma**, and **Androlla** Abuaita.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Majdi** Elias Alatrash (+Nov. 29th, Beit Sahour), **Nayfeh** (Sawalha) Alshouri (+November 30th), and Judge **Anthony** Mansour (+December 10th, friend of St. George).
- 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** (Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York), **Sahar** Abdallah, **Housam** Abousamra, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett), **Georgette** Abueita, **Naila** Banna, **Emil** Bathish, **Levi** Cooper, **Vera** Daoud, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Vera** Farah, **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Phyllis** Good, **Shawna** Hale, **Daisy** Isaac, **Imad** Isaac (friend of St. George), **Nawal** and **Nimer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **George** Nassif, **Adam** Odeh, **Aida** Raffoul, **Eva** Saseen (daughter of Nicholas), **Nicholas** Saseen, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Michael** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., and **Lois** Teunion; **Noti, Kari** {daughter of John and Theresa Farah}, and newborn **Matthew** Mikroudīs (November 16th); **David** Ayyash and **Gabriella** Ghattas who are to be united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- We also pray for those who are with child: **Renea** (Rakan) Bayouk and **Dina** (Laith) Maymoun

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO Fasting from today until January 4th.

2020 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*.

➤ **SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS** This week the office will be open on Monday and Friday (10-4pm) and closed on December 24th, 25th, and 26th.

ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY All Women of St. George are invited to attend this Christmas Lunch Party at the Redwood Steakhouse (5304 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507 off Hill Road and US 23) on Sunday, January 5th at 1:30pm. The cost is \$25 per person, must be paid in advance to reserve your spot, and the deadline for reservations is this coming Sunday, December 29th. To reserve your spot or for more information, contact Hiam Bathish (810-238-2152) or Wafaa Elias (810-630-0639). There will be no gift exchange, but please donate to our Church with an extra Christmas Gift!

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY (see flier on Narthex Table) Tuesday, 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-Khoury (810-691-8676) TODAY!

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born of the Most Holy Virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem during the reign of the emperor Augustus (Octavian). Caesar Augustus decreed a universal census be made throughout his Empire, which then also included Palestine. The Jews were accustomed to be counted in the city from where their family came. The Most Holy Virgin and the Righteous Joseph, since they were descended from the house and lineage of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted and taxed.

In Bethlehem, they found no room at any of the city's inns. Thus, the God-Man, the Savior of the world, was born in a cave that was used as a stable. *"I behold a strange and most glorious mystery,"* the Church sings with awe, *"Heaven, a Cave; the Virgin the Throne of the Cherubim; the Manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can contain is laid."* (Irmos of the 9th Ode of the Nativity Canon).

Having given birth to the divine Infant without struggle, the Most Holy Virgin *"wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger"* (Luke 2:7). In the stillness of midnight (Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15), the proclamation of the Savior of the world's birth was heard by three shepherds in Beit Sahour watching their flocks by night.

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."*

The Nativity of Christ has long been counted as one of the Twelve Great Feasts. It is one of the greatest, most joyful, and wondrous events in the history of the world. The angel said to the shepherds, *"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, glorifying God and saying: Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."* Those who heard these things were astonished at what the shepherds told them concerning the Child. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen" (Luke 2:10-20).

Thus the Nativity of Christ, a most profound and extraordinary event, was accompanied by the wondrous news proclaimed to the shepherds and Magi (wise men). This is the cause of universal rejoicing for all because, ***Christ the Savior is Born! Glory Him!***

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, 2019

To the beloved Clergy and faithful of our Midwest Diocese,

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



From the Kontakion of the Nativity, we hear, *Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds glorify Him; the Wise Men journey with the star, since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!*

اليومَ البتول تلدُ الفائقَ الجواهر, والأرض تقربُ المغارةَ لمن هو غير مُقتربٍ إليه, والملائكة مع الرعاة يمجدون والمجوس مع الكوكب في الطريق يسرون لأنه قد وُلد من أجلنا صبي جديدًا, الإله الذي قبل الدهور.

As we celebrate this most joyous event with our family and friends, remember the God-Man, Jesus Christ, was born for us! Strive to love one another as He has loved us (*see John 15:12*)!

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)

Midwest Diocesan Chancery

5549 Ginger Tree

Toledo, OH 43623

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 2019

O the depth of riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! The instrument of sin that had brought death upon all flesh is become the first fruit of salvation for the whole world through the Theotokos. For the All-Perfect God is born of her as a babe; by His birth he setteth the seal on her virginity, while loosing cords of sin with his swaddling bands. And by becoming a child, He healeth Eve's travailing in sorrows. Wherefore let all creation dance and leap for joy, for Christ is come to call it back again and to save our souls.

Aposticha Doxastikon by St. John of Damascus

May our All-Perfect God grant to you and your loved ones all the joy, grace, and peace graciously bestowed to those who come to worship and glorify Him at the cave now become a heaven and the manger now become a cherubic throne. Let us join all of creation in dancing and leaping for joy at this feast, and may this joy carry us into the new year renewed spiritually for the holy labors that lay ahead of us.

With prayers and best wishes for a feast filled with God's grace and a new year replete with both heavenly and earthly blessings, I remain,

Yours in the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a blue line.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

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