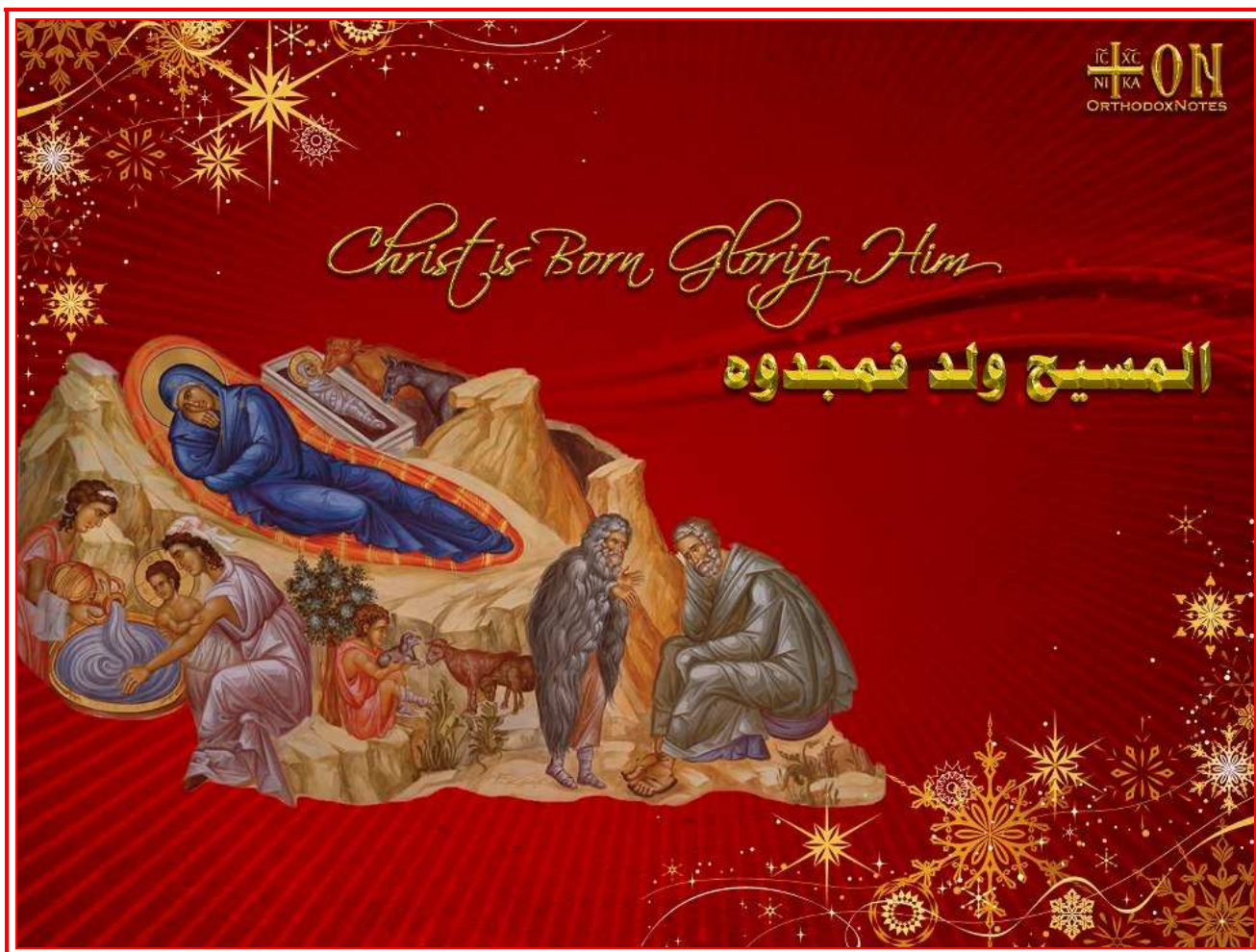


# + St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church +

Sunday Bulletin – December 29<sup>th</sup> 2013 A.D.



We continue to pray for Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi, Metropolitan Youhanna Ibrahim, Mother Pelagia & the Nuns of Maaloula who were all **abducted by terrorists** in Syria. And for all Christians who are being persecuted in the Middle East! **The world may not be concerned about you, the media may not care, but we will not forget about you nor be silent!**



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+ Fr. Mark-Arsenius Wyatt (Pastor)

## **THE HOLY EPISTLE (Galatians 1:11-19)& THE HOLY GOSPEL (St. Matthew 2:13-23)**

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

وَأَعْرَفْكُمْ أَيُّهَا الإِخْوَةُ الإِنْجِيلَ الَّذِي بَشَّرْتُ بِهِ، أَنَّهُ لَيْسَ بِحَسَبِ إِنْسَانٍ. لِأَنِّي لَمْ أَقْبَلْهُ مِنْ عِنْدِ إِنْسَانٍ وَلَا عَلَّمْتُهُ. بَلْ بِإِعْلَانِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ. فَإِنَّكُمْ سَمِعْتُمْ بِسِيرَتِي قَبْلًا فِي النَّبِيَّاتِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ، أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَضْطَهُدُ كَنِيسَةَ اللَّهِ بِإِفْرَاطٍ وَأَتْلَفُهَا. وَكُنْتُ أَتَقَدَّمُ فِي الدِّيَانَةِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ عَلَى كَثِيرِينَ مِنْ أُنْرَابِي فِي جِسْمِي، إِذْ كُنْتُ أَوْفَرَ عَيْرَةً فِي تَقْلِيدَاتِ آبَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا سَرَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَفْرَزَنِي مِنْ بَطْنِ أُمِّي، وَدَعَانِي بِنِعْمَتِهِ أَنْ يُعْلِنَ ابْنَهُ فِيَّ لِأُبَشِّرَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْأُمَمِ، لِيُوقِتَ لَمْ أَسْتَشِيرْ لَحْمًا وَدَمًا وَلَا صَعِدْتُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ إِلَى الرُّسُلِ الَّذِينَ قَبْلِي، بَلْ انْطَلَقْتُ إِلَى الْعَرَبِيَّةِ، ثُمَّ رَجَعْتُ أَيْضًا إِلَى يَمَشُوقَ. ثُمَّ بَعْدَ ثَلَاثِ سِنِينَ صَعِدْتُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ لِأَتَعَرَّفَ بِبِطْرُسَ، فَمَكَّنْتُ عِنْدَهُ خَمْسَةَ عَشَرَ يَوْمًا. وَلَكِنِّي لَمْ أَرْ غَيْرَهُ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ إِلاَّ يَعْقُوبَ أَخَا الرَّبِّ.

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more. Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

وَبَعْدَمَا انْصَرَفُوا إِذَا مَلَاكَ الرَّبِّ قَدْ ظَهَرَ لِيُوسُفَ فِي حُلْمٍ قَائِلًا: «قُمْ وَخُذِ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَاهْرُبْ إِلَى مِصْرَ وَكُنْ هُنَاكَ حَتَّى أَقُولَ لَكَ. لِأَنَّ هِيرُودُسَ مُرْمِعٌ أَنْ يَطْلُبَ الصَّبِيَّ لِيُهْلِكَهُ». فَقَامَ وَأَخَذَ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ لِيَلْأَ وَانْصَرَفَ إِلَى مِصْرَ وَكَانَ هُنَاكَ إِلَى وَقَاةِ هِيرُودُسَ لِكَيْ يَتِمَّ مَا قِيلَ مِنَ الرَّبِّ بِالنَّبِيِّ: «مَنْ مِصْرَ دَعَوْتُ ابْنِي». حِينَئِذٍ لَمَّا رَأَى هِيرُودُسُ أَنَّ الْمَجُوسَ سَخَرُوا بِهِ غَضِبَ جَدًّا فَأَرْسَلَ وَقَتَلَ جَمِيعَ الصَّبِيَّانِ الَّذِينَ فِي بَيْتِ لَحْمٍ وَفِي كُلِّ ثُخُومِهَا مِنْ ابْنِ سَنَتَيْنِ فَمَا دُونَ بِحَسَبِ الزَّمَانِ الَّذِي تَحَقَّقَهُ مِنَ الْمَجُوسِ. حِينَئِذٍ تَمَّ مَا قِيلَ بِإِرْمِيَا النَّبِيِّ: «صَوْتٌ سُمِعَ فِي الرَّامَةِ نُوْحٌ وَبُكَاءٌ وَعَوِيلٌ كَثِيرٌ. رَاحِلُ تَبْكِي عَلَى أَوْلَادِهَا وَلَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَتَعَزَّى لِأَنَّهُمْ لَيْسُوا بِمُوجُودِينَ». فَلَمَّا مَاتَ هِيرُودُسُ إِذَا مَلَاكَ الرَّبِّ قَدْ ظَهَرَ فِي حُلْمٍ لِيُوسُفَ فِي مِصْرَ قَائِلًا: «قُمْ وَخُذِ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَادْهَبْ إِلَى أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ لِأَنَّهُ قَدْ مَاتَ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَطْلُبُونَ نَفْسَ الصَّبِيِّ». فَقَامَ وَأَخَذَ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا سَمِعَ أَنَّ أَرْخِيْلَاوُسَ يَمْلِكُ عَلَى الْيَهُودِيَّةِ عَوَضًا عَنْ هِيرُودُسَ أَبِيهِ خَافَ أَنْ يَذْهَبَ إِلَى هُنَاكَ. وَإِذْ أُوجِي إِلَيْهِ فِي حُلْمٍ انْصَرَفَ إِلَى نَوَاحِي الْجَلِيلِ. وَآتَى وَسَكَنَ فِي مَدِينَةٍ يُقَالُ لَهَا نَاصِرَةُ لِكَيْ يَتِمَّ مَا قِيلَ بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ: «إِنَّهُ سَيُدْعَى نَاصِرِيًّا».

THE MOST REVEREND  
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**NATIVITY 2013**

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of our Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and upstate New York:

Greetings in this blessed season of the Nativity of Christ! I share with you an excerpt from the writings of St. Macarius the Great:

**“Today the Lord is born, the life and salvation of mankind; today a reconciliation is made of Divinity to humanity, and of humanity to Divinity; today all creation has leapt for joy; those above sent toward those below; and those below towards those above; today occurred the death of darkness and the life of humanity; today a way was made toward God for man and a way for God into the soul.”**

On this joyous feast day I greet you with a holy kiss and wish you, your families and your loved ones, far and near, a Blessed Nativity and a healthy and spiritually enriching New Year! Please remember all those who suffer from violence whether here at home or elsewhere in the world. Pray that the light of Christ may shine a path of repentance and holiness for each one of us so that by our healing the world can also be healed and becomes a better place for all of humanity.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander', written in a cursive style.

**BISHOP ALEXANDER**

**Today's Memorial Prayers are offered for the Eternal Memory of the Servants of God:**

\* For Solomon. Remembered also: Jamily, Sadie, Michel, Lily, Wadia, Dee, Yvonne, Nadine, Ronnie, Jennifer & Mary. Offered by Sub-Deacon Alex Zarbatany.

\* For Dorothy Marcus (1<sup>st</sup> year). Remembered also: Elias, Annie, Henry & George Marcus, Rashedy & Assad Zarbatany. Offered by Birdie Marcus.

***Our Deepest Condolences go to the families of our recently reposed parishioners:  
Gordon Zakaib & Essa Barbara. May their Memory be Eternal!***



## CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Dearly Beloved of St. Nicholas Church,  
We Pray that this Holy Nativity Season  
Be filled with Health & Happiness  
For You & Your Extended Families!

May He who was Born in a Humble Cave  
And lay in a Manger for our Salvation,  
Also find Your Heart Welcoming & Humble  
To Receive Him into your life this year to rest  
His holy head, that You too may find Rest in Him!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS! & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*Fr. Mark & Family*



### **Merry Christmas from the ASHES of St. Thekla Orthodox Monastery!**

Mother Pelagia & her sisterhood of Nuns were abducted by Terrorists who destroyed the Christian town of Maaloula and desecrated then set on-fire it's ancient Monastery. The Christians in the Middle East are being persecuted and exterminated and the world watches...

#### **BEFORE & AFTER**

