

+ St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church +

Sunday Bulletin – December 30th, 2012 A.D.



+ The Holy Innocents +

14,000 male children of Bethlehem under 2 years old were massacred by King Herod in attempt to kill the infant Jesus. These innocent children became the first martyrs for Christ and are the Intercessor Saints for children killed by Abortion. *(Feast Day: Dec. 29th - see today's Gospel reading)*

Please return your Orthodox Charities Coin Boxes to the Church or send in your cheques with the memo: "Orthodox Charities". We will be sending our donation next month to the designated Orthodox Charities. Thank you!

*Church Address: 80 de Castelnau Est, Montreal, QC, H2R 1P2 - Office: 514-270-9788; Fax: 514-270-6424;
Hall: 514-276-3102; Pastoral Emergency: 514-926-7875 - www.stnicholasmtl.com/office@stnicholasmtl.org*

+ **Fr. Mark-Arsenius Wyatt (Pastor)**

+ The Holy Epistle (Galatians 1:11-19) +

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.

وَأَعْرَفُكُمْ 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 الدِّيَانَةِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ، أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَضْطَهُدُ كَنِيْسَةَ اللَّهِ بِإِفْرَاطٍ وَأَتْلُفُهَا. وَكُنْتُ أَتَقَدَّمُ فِي الدِّيَانَةِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ عَلَى كَثِيرِينَ مِنْ أَتْرَابِي فِي جَنَسِي، إِذْ كُنْتُ أَوْفَرَ غَيْرَةً فِي تَقْلِيدَاتِ آبَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا سَرَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَفْرَزَنِي مِنْ بَطْنِ أُمِّي، وَدَعَانِي بِنِعْمَتِهِ أَنْ يُعْلِنَ ابْنَهُ فِيَّ لِأُبَشِّرَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْأُمَمِ، لِلْوَقْتِ لَمْ أَسْتَشِرْ لَحْمًا وَدَمًا وَلَا صَعَدْتُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ إِلَى الرُّسُلِ الَّذِينَ قَبْلِي، بَلْ انْطَلَقْتُ إِلَى الْعَرَبِيَّةِ، ثُمَّ رَجَعْتُ أَيْضًا إِلَى دِمَشْقَ. ثُمَّ بَعْدَ ثَلَاثِ سِنِينَ صَعَدْتُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ لِأَتَعْرِفَ بِبَطْرُسَ، فَكُنْتُ عِنْدَهُ خَمْسَةَ عَشَرَ يَوْمًا. وَلَكِنِّي لَمْ أَرْ غَيْرَهُ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ إِلَّا يَعْقُوبَ أَخَا الرَّبِّ.

+ The Holy Gospel (St. Matthew 2:13-23) +

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 مَلَكَ 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 لَيْلًا وَانْصَرَفَ إِلَى مِصْرَ وَكَانَ هُنَاكَ إِلَى وَقَاةِ هِيرُودُسَ لِكَيْ يَنْتَمَّ مَا قِيلَ مِنَ الرَّبِّ بِالنَّبِيِّ: «مِنْ مِصْرَ دَعَوْتُ ابْنِي». حِينَئِذٍ لَمَّا رَأَى هِيرُودُسُ أَنَّ الْمَجُوسَ سَخِرُوا بِهِ غَضِبَ جِدًّا 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 بِإِزْمِيَا النَّبِيِّ: «صَوْتُ سَمِعَ فِي الرَّامَةِ نَوْحٌ وَبُكَاءٌ وَعَوِيلٌ كَثِيرٌ. رَاحِلٌ تَبْكِي عَلَى أَوْلَادِهَا وَلَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَتَعَرَّى لِأَنَّهُمْ لَيْسُوا بِمُجُودِينَ». فَلَمَّا مَاتَ هِيرُودُسُ إِذَا مَلَكَ 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 أَرْخِيَلَاوُسَ يَمْلِكُ عَلَى الْيَهُودِيَّةِ عَوَاضًا عَنْ هِيرُودُسَ أَبِيهِ خَافَ أَنْ يَذْهَبَ إِلَى هُنَاكَ. وَإِذْ أُوجِي إِلَيْهِ فِي حُلْمٍ انْصَرَفَ إِلَى نَوَاحِي الْجَلِيلِ. وَآتَى وَسَكَنَ فِي مَدِينَةٍ يُقَالُ لَهَا نَاصِرَةَ لِكَيْ يَنْتَمَّ مَا قِيلَ بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ: «إِنَّهُ سَيُدْعَى نَاصِرِيًّا».

**Excerpt Meditations from the Nativity Pastoral Letter
of our newly elected Antiochian Patriarch, H.B. Youhanna (John) X**

Behold, the Child Who is coming to us in the cave to die for us; is reminding us that He is with us, talking to us, and entrusting us with conveying the message of peace and love, which He addressed to each and every one of us and to the whole world. He is coming to us as a humble one, knocking at the door of our heart with gentility as if He wanted to be born in it. The feast of Nativity is not a mere remembrance of Jesus' birth in a cradle from the Virgin Mother of God; it was meant to be the feast of His birth in us, a birth that can only occur if we seek the purity that distinguished the Virgin Mary. The Birth of Jesus in us will invite us to renew our commitment to His teachings, and our struggle to become His unblemished Church, a Church that is free of weaknesses, pure in everything, and shining with the Holy Spirit. Together we shall be aware that the Church of Christ is our mother, and that the shepherds and the believers are called to be Christ's messengers inviting their brethren in the world to reconciliation and to the rejection of violence so that His peace may prevail.

The world will not be convinced unless it feels that it is much loved by the followers of Jesus and that they are its servants. The Church is our mother. Each and every one of you is important and has a unique position in it. You have the right to be ministered by its shepherds. All ministers, at all ranks, should go out to you, listen to you, to your problems, and should seek to help you and answer all your crucial questions. You have the right, as believers who submitted themselves to the Word of God and sought to be like Him in everything, that you be included in consultations and the resolution of its issues; all the children together with the father, are supposed to keep vigilance for the future under God of the family. We approach this feast as many of the children of our Church are displaced, away from their homes, enduring much suffering. Our duty as brothers and sisters is to support them and give them consolation, not only with money and necessary material help, but also by showing them care, love and compassion.

We approach the feast as our people are facing many changes and challenges in a world that is departing increasingly from traditional concepts, making violence, consumption and possession a new law for this life. Needless to say, the luxury with which we celebrate this feast, the feast of the poverty of Bethlehem, is a clear sign that we, also, have adopted this law in the conduct of our lives. As we are accustomed to exchange gifts in the manner of the kings who visited the Lord Jesus at His birth, let us express our love to the Divine Child, coming to us, by feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, offering a shelter to the homeless and doing whatever we can do. We approach this feast as many in our countries are asking what might happen to them.

Brethren, the Child of the cave is saying to us: "Do not fear, I am with you. Do not fear because your brothers and sisters are called to help one another and support one another. Do not fear because you are the people of this region, in which God willed you to be born since ancient times. Do not fear, because you have in it many brethren who believe in love and peaceful co-existence. Do not fear, lest you lose your dynamism; instead go to meet all with love, joy and full trust in your God, who is the God of love, Who is love itself. Be the heralds of reconciliation, and of a dialogue in depth." We celebrate this feast with our other Christian brethren. We pray to God that he may give us to deepen our dialogue with them all, in order to reach the unity God desires, the unity without which the world will not believe that Jesus was sent by God.

Brothers and Sisters, bow down before the Child of the cradle who willed to dwell in you.

- * Every Sunday: Orthros at 9:30 a.m. & Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m. followed by Coffee Hour!
- * Confession: in the Church and by appointment only with Fr. Mark.
- * Church Bookstore - open after all Church Services & upon request. *(See Fr. Mark).*
- * The **New Church Website** is ready and is being **updated weekly!** An entire Calendar of Events for 2013 is posted & much more! Our regular Church emails will consist of the Sunday Bulletin and any special announcements (ex: funerals). Our bulletins will contain general information. **The source of ALL information pertaining to our Parish will be on the website for ALL parishioners to see.** Any elderly parishioners who do not have access to the internet are encouraged to arrange for a relative or a friend to check it for them and to submit an email address on your behalf to receive our special messages. Our website is: www.stnicholasmtl.com, **visit us frequently!** Thank you!
In the near future, we will have the option for you to donate to the Church online also!
- * New Year's Eve: Divine Liturgy at 7:00 pm *(end the year & begin the new one with prayer!)*
- * The Church Office is closed on December 31 and January 1 & 2.

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

- * For Edmund Shatilla (48th year). Remembered also: Casmir & Wadia Shatilla, their late children and grandchildren Nadia & Dania David, Edward & Norman Shatilla, Habib & Fadwa Sedawey Kouri, their late children Mary Kousaie, Molly, Nicolas, Georgette & Kay Kouri. Offered by Maureen Shatilla.



Join us for our next monthly Spiritual Discussion & Movie Night with Fr. Mark on Saturday, January 19 at 6:30 pm

Based on the life of St. Charbel, who is a contemporary Lebanese Saint canonized by the Maronite Church. Although he is not officially recognized by the Orthodox Church, this movie portrays many spiritual virtues and lessons on holiness that are beneficial to anyone seeking to deepen their own spiritual life! ***A must-see movie!***

This movie is in Arabic with English Subtitles (filmed in Lebanon)

Released in 2009 - Approximately 2 hours long

Suitable for all ages. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!