

# JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME!

## ⲬⲚⲔⲞⲤ ⲚⲔⲚⲔⲀ SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**  
**ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЕТСЯ! СЛАВИТЕ ЕГО!**  
**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΓΕΝΝΑΤΑΙ! ΔΟΞΑΣΑΤΕ!**

ハリストス生る！ あがめほめよ！

**JOYEUX NOËL! Crăciun Fericit! ἡμεῖς οἱ θεοὶ οἱ θεοὶ!**  
**¡Feliz Navidad! fröhliche weinachten! Buon Natale!**  
**Veselé Vánoce! Glædelig jul! Hyvää Joulua! Καλά Χριστούγεννα!**  
**Kellemes Karácsonyi Ünnepeket! Wesolych Świąt! Natal Alegre!**  
**С Рождеством Христовым! Veselé Vianocce! Vesel božič!**  
**Mutlu Noeller! God jul! З Різдом Христовым! Sretan Božić!**  
**Nadolig Llawen! Häid joule! Selamat Hari Natal! Maligayang Pasko!**  
**Среќен Божиќ! Linksmų Kalėdų! Priecīgus Ziemassvētkus!**  
**Весела Коледа! 耶誕快樂 Gëzuar Krishtlindjet! Geseënde Kersfees!**

**Glory to God in the Highest! and on earth peace to men of good will!**

**Слава въ вышнихъ Богу и На Земли Миръ во Чловецеиъ благоволеніе!**

至と高き神には光榮歸し、地には平安、人には恵み臨めり。

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO ET IN TERRA PAX HOMINIBUS BONAE VOLUNTATIS**

**Δόξα εν υψίστοις Θεώ! και επί γης ειρήνη με τους άνδρες της καλής θέλησης!**

|  |  |  |                        |
|--|--|--|------------------------|
| <b>December 22, 2013</b>   | <b>Sunday of the Fathers of the Lord.</b>                        | Divine Liturgy   | 9:30 am                |
| December 24  | Tuesday: Eve of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ | Vigil  | 7:00 pm                |
| <b>December 25</b>   |  | <b>Divine Liturgy</b>                                    | <b>9:30 am</b>         |
| <b>The Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ</b>   |  |  |                        |
| <b>The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar and Balthasar. Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem watching their flocks who went to see the Lord</b> |  |  |                        |
| December 26  | Thursday   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day: <b>SYNAXIS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD</b> | Divine Liturgy 9:30 am |
| December 28  | Saturday   | Great Vespers  | 4:00 pm                |
| December 29  | Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord                            | Divine Liturgy   | 9:30 am                |

**This week's Bulletin in memory of Cornelius Mamrosch is offered by Martha Mamrosch.**

### **A word from Saint Isaac the Syrian.**

This Christmas night, peace was bestowed upon the whole world; so let no one threaten.

This is the night of the Most Gentle One; let no one be cruel.

This is the night of the Most Humble One; let no one be proud.

Now is the day of joy; let us not revenge.

Now is the day of goodwill; let us not be mean.

In this day of peace let us not be conquered by anger.

Today the Beautiful One impoverished Himself for our sake; so you rich ones, invite the poor to your table.

Today we received a gift for which we did not ask; so let us give alms to those who implore us and beg.

This present day's fast opens the heavenly door to our prayers. Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness.

Now the Divine Being took upon Himself the seal of humanity, in order for humanity to be decorated by the seal of Divinity.

**Saints of the Day:** All those who have been well-pleasing to God since time began, from Adam to Joseph the Betrothed, according to the genealogy of the Evangelist Luke; and likewise the Prophets and Prophetesses. Great-martyr Anastasia of Rome, Deliverer from bonds, and her teacher Martyr Chrysogonus, and with them Martyrs Theodota, Evodias, Eutychianus, and others who suffered under Diocletian (304). New Hieromartyrs Priests Demetrius and Theodore (1938). Martyr Zoilus.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Abducted nuns and orphans of Saint Tekla Monastery in Syria, Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria and the Middle East. Bishop Boulos Yazigi, Bishop Yohanna Ibrahim, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Alexander, Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy. Archpriests Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Bohdan, Sergius, Jacobus, Andrij, Vasil, Vasil. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Raphaela, Dimitri, Larri, Nina, Daniel, Catherine, Helen, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Connie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Maria, Michael, John, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Mykola, Helen, Isaiah, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, David, Warren, Vincent, Archpriest Leonid, Diane, Abigail.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Carol Gregg were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**Memory Eternal.** Prayers for the repose of Mary Panarites, Julie and Joseph Firlet, Walter Jovorosky Jr, Anne and Walter Jovorosky, John and Vera Prawlocki, Frank Prawlocki, Anna and Wasil Prawlocki, Paul and Kay Sokol were offered at Liturgy and Litiya today at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

**Call for Prayers in the Wake of World Events Pastoral Letter of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon  
December 13, 2013**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every day, news reports bring us images of conflict, suffering and tragedy in many places such as Ukraine, Syria and the Philippines. These are images of civil conflict and confrontation of citizens with power (Ukraine); violence and terrorism (Syria); the suffering brought about by natural disaster (Philippines). As Orthodox Christians, we believe that in each human being is found the image and likeness, which provides the foundation of the human dignity which God commands us to respect in all circumstances.

As we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, I draw attention to the images of conflict and suffering which involve Orthodox Christians directly and inescapably.

In Kyiv and other cities of Ukraine many citizens have risen up in protest against the arbitrary use of power, against power which disregards the dignity of citizens, against power which is tempted to turn to force and violence. The voices from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and other churches and religious communities have called for non-violence. Indeed, the voices of protesters also appeal for non-violence. Let us join with the Orthodox Christians of Ukraine in steadfast witness for non-violence and for the protection of human dignity.

In Syria and the countries bordering that land several million men, women, and children are now refugees from their homes—internal refugees in Syria itself, or refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. People are slaughtered and kidnapped. No one is exempt from the suffering, whether Muslim or Christian. Of special concern is the violence under which Christians live in Syria, violence which impels many to flee.

Let us be with the Orthodox Christians of Syria in prayer and solidarity. Our solidarity can find expression in humanitarian aid for refugees provided by International Orthodox Christian Charities. Our solidarity can find expression in educating our fellow North American citizens in the realities of the challenges and threats confronting Christians in Syria and the whole Middle East region.

All of this we must keep in our hearts in the midst of our Lenten preparations for the birth of Christ. Let us be mindful that the Orthodox Christians in Ukraine and Syria are also preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ, and they do so in the context of the threats and anxieties confronting them. As we offer our prayers for all those who suffer throughout the world, let us remember that after His birth in Bethlehem our Lord Jesus Christ was Himself threatened by the violence of Herod and was taken for safety to Egypt by His mother Mary and Joseph.

May He Who shows us the most excellent way of humility and love lead us to the safety and peace of His Kingdom.

With love in the Lord,

+TIKHON, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada

**REFLECTION by Saint Nikolai of Zhicha,**

The merciful God often sends comfort to those pleasing to Him on earth from the other world through his saints. Saint Theodota suffered for Christ before Saint Anastasia. Anastasia was then cast into a confined and dark prison to die of hunger, according to the judgment of the torturers. During the thirty days of her imprisonment, Saint Theodota appeared to Anastasia every night from the other world and strengthened her in her suffering. Anastasia spoke of many things with Saint Theodota and asked numerous questions. One night she asked her how she was able to come to her after her death. Theodota replied that the souls of the martyrs are given special grace from God, so that after departing this world they may return to speak to whomever they desire for the imparting of instruction and comfort. When thirty days had passed, the torturer brought Saint Anastasia out of prison and was amazed to see her still alive. He then condemned her, along with several others, to be drowned in the sea. The Christians were put into a small boat by the soldiers, who set sail in another. When the Christians were brought out into the deep, the soldiers upset the boat, so that the water would enter and drown the condemned. Then a miraculous vision took place: Saint Theodota appeared on the water and guided the boat to shore. Thus, all who were condemned to death were saved with Anastasia. Seeing this miracle of God, one hundred and twenty pagans immediately believed in Christ and were baptized.