

*The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
Of North America  
Diocese of Los Angeles and the west.*

**St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
كنيسة القديس فيليبس الرسول الأنطاكية الارثوذكسية

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Pastor: *Reverend Father Elias Ferzli.*

Attached: *V. Rev. Archpriest Joseph Sakkab; Rev. Deacon Simon Sakkab.*



**December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**ميلاد ميلاد ربنا يسوع المسيح.**

**Weekly Service Schedule:**

**Saturday: 6:00 PM Vesper service**  
**Sunday: 9:30 AM Matins Service**  
**11:00 AM Divine Liturgy**

**“Christ is born, glorify him.”**  
"المسيح وُلِدَ فَمَجِّدُوهُ"

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

\* I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will speak of all Thy marvelous works. In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation, the works of the Lord are great. (**Through the intercessions....**)

\* They are sought out according to all His purposes. His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endureth forever. (**Through the intercessions....**)

\* Glory... Both now... (**Through the intercessions....**)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

\* Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; that delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

**Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.**

\* Glory and riches shall be in His house, and His righteousness endureth forever. **Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin**

\* Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: He is gracious, full of compassion and righteous. **Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin**

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints. (**Now sing the Festal Apolytikion: “Thy Nativity, O Christ.”**)

**(Troparion of the Nativity)**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Kontakion of the Nativity:**

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

**(الأنديفونا الأولى)**

أعترف لك يا رب من كل قلبي وأحدث بجميع عجائبك (بشفاعة والدة الإله...)  
إن عمله اعتراف وعظم جلال، إن اسمه مقدس ورهيب (بشفاعة والدة الإله . ...)  
المجد . . . والآن ... (بشفاعة والدة الإله ....)

**(الأنديفونا الثانية)**

طوبى للرجل الخائف من الرب، المجد والغنى في بيته (خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من وُلِدَ من البتول ...)  
وبره يدوم الى دهر الدهرين (خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من وُلِدَ من البتول ...)  
المجد ... (خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من وُلِدَ من البتول ...)

### (الأنديفونا الثالثة)

قال الرب لربي اجلس عن يميني حتى أضع أعداءك موطناً لقدميك، عصا قوة يرسل لك الرب من صهيون، معك الرئاسة في يوم قوتك ( ميلادك لأيهما المسيح إلها . . . )

### (طروبارية الميلاد)

ميلادك ايها المسيح الينا، قد اطلع نور المعرفة في العالم، لأن الساجدين للكواكب، به تعلموا من الكوكب السجود لك يا شمس العدل، وأن يعرفوا انك من مشارق العلو اتيت، يا رب المجد لك.

### القنداق:

اليوم البتول تلد الفائق الجوهر. والأرض تقرب المغارة، لمن هو غير مقترب اليه. الملائكة مع الرعاية يمجدون. والمجوس مع الكوكب في الطريق يسرون. لأنه قد ولد من اجلنا صبي جديد. الإله الذي قبل الدهور.

## The Epistle:

*All those on earth worship thee and sing unto Thee,  
Alleluia to God, O all the earth.*

### **The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul Epistle to the Galatians. (4:4-7)**

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So, through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir.

## الرسالة

يسجد لك كل أهل الأرض ويرتلوا لك،

هللوا لله يا جميع أهل الأرض.

### **فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الى اهل غلاطية 4 : 4 - 8**

يا إخوة لما حان ملء الزمان أرسل الله ابنه مولوداً من امرأة مولوداً تحت الناموس ليفتدي الذين تحت الناموس لننال التبني. وبما أنكم أبناء أرسل الله روح ابنه إلى قلوبكم صارخاً يا أباً الأب، فلست بعد عبداً بل أنت ابن، وإذا كنت ابناً فأنت وارث لله بيسوع المسيح.

## The Gospel

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:1-12)**

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

## الإنجيل

### فصل شريف من بشارة القديس متى الإنجيلي البشير (2: 1 - 12)

لما ولد يسوع في بيت لحم اليهودية في أيام هيرودس الملك إذا مجوس قد أقبلوا من المشرق الى أورشليم قائلين، اين المولود ملك اليهود، فإننا رأينا نجمة في المشرق فوافينا لنسجد له. فلما سمع هيرودس الملك اضطرب هو وكل أورشليم معه، وجمع كل رؤساء الكهنة وكتابة الشعب واتخبرهم أين يولد المسيح، فقالوا له في بيت لحم اليهودية. لأنه هكذا قد كتب بالنبى، وأنت يا بيت لحم ارض يهوذا لست بصغرى في رؤساء يهوذا لأنه ينك يخرج المدبر الذي يرعى شعبي اسرائيل. حينئذ دعا هيرودس المجوس سراً وتحقق منهم زمان النجم الذي ظهر، ثم أرسلهم الى بيت لحم قائلًا: انطلقوا وابحثوا عن الصبي بتدقيق ومتى وجدتموه فأخبروني لكي آتي انا أيضاً وأسجد له. فلما سمعوا من الملك ذهبوا فإذا النجم الذي كانوا رأوه في المشرق يتقدمهم حتى جاء ووقف فوق المكان الذي كان فيه الصبي. فلما رأوا النجم فرحوا فرحاً عظيماً جداً وأتوا الى البيت فوجدوا الصبي مع مريم أمه فخرروا ساجدين له وفتحوا كنوزهم وقدموا له هدايا من ذهب ولبان ومر. ثم اوحى اليهم في الحلم أن لا يرجعوا الى هيرودس فانصرفوا في طريق أخرى الى بلادهم.

## **Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh**

*The following is an excerpt from The Winter Pascha, by Fr. Thomas Hopko*

The adoration of Jesus by the wise men from the East is part of the Nativity celebration in the Orthodox Church. Whatever the actual historical circumstances of the event-- and Orthodox tradition takes them quite literally-- the spiritual and theological significance of the coming of the kings with their gifts is of paramount importance.

The gifts of the Magi are of particular significance. They are interpreted symbolically in the liturgy of the feast. The gift of gold is taken as the sign that Jesus is the king of Israel, of the entire universe, and of the kingdom of God to come. This is a crucial part of the Christmas story in the gospels. It caused Herod to kill all the "male children in Bethlehem and in all the region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men" (Mt 2:16).

The gift of frankincense is taken by the liturgy to signify the fact that Jesus is God, since incense is for worship, and only God may be worshipped.

And the gift of myrrh is for the Lord Jesus who has come to die as the perfect sacrifice for the people. For the dead were anointed with myrrh, as Jesus Himself was anointed, according to the scriptures, at the time of His death (Jn 19:39-40).

In the gifts of the Magi, therefore, are contained all the mysteries of Christ's coming. They point to the purpose of His appearance on earth. He is the royal king, the Son of David, whose kingdom will have no end. He is the victim, the Lamb of God, who by His death takes away the sins of the world. And He is God Himself, the divine Son of the Father: "Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven..." as the Nicene Creed declares.

The contemplation of the wise men and their gifts is an integral and lasting part of the Church's celebration of the Lord's Winter Pascha.

*The kings, the first fruits of the gentiles, Bring You gifts at Your birth in Bethlehem*

*From a mother who knew no travail. With myrrh they point to Your death, With gold, to Your royal power, With frankincense to the preeminence of Your divinity.<sup>1</sup>*

*When the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judah, Magi coming from the East Worshipped God made man. And eagerly opening their treasures, They offered Him precious gifts: Refined gold, as to the King of the ages; Frankincense, as to the God of all; Myrrh they offered to the Immortal One As one three days dead. Come all nations, let us worship Him Who was born to save our souls.*

## الميلاد:

ميلاد المسيح، الإله-الإنسان؛  
بدء حضور السماء على الأرض؛  
سكنى المولود الإلهي بيننا؛  
ظهور نور الله الذي يضيء ظلمة حياتنا؛  
انكشاف ابن الله في تواضعه ومحبتته للبشر؛  
التواضع الأقصى والمحبة الكاملة ظهرا على الصليب.

"لَمَّا حَانَ مَلَأُ الزَّمَانِ أَرْسَلَ اللهُ ابْنَهُ مَوْلُودًا مِنْ امْرَأَةٍ مَوْلُودًا تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ لِيَفْتَدِيَ الَّذِينَ تَحْتَ النَّامُوسِ  
لِنَنَالَ التَّبَتُّيَّ" (غلاطية 4: 4-5).

الآن نعرف جيّدًا أنّ تدبير الله هذا كلّه غايته أن يجعلنا أبناءً حقيقيّين له، لا عبيدًا نخافه، ولا أجراءً نقوم  
بمجرّد واجبات فرائض تجاهه، بل أحبّاءً بالمسيح، كما صوّت مرّةً نحو ابنه الوحيد على ضفاف الأردن: "هذا  
هو ابني الحبيب الذي به سرّرت".  
طبعاً المسيح هو وحده ابن الله بالجوهري. نحن أبناء الله بالنعمة الإلهية، نعمة المعمودية.

\* \* \*

نعم، نحن في المسيح خليفة جديدة (2 كو 5: 17). الميلاد بدء خلق جديد. الخالق يصبح إنساناً جديداً برنامجاً أن  
يجدّد الخليقة كلّها. الابن خالقٌ مع الله الأب (Co-Créateur)، ونحن المخلوقين على صورة الله أصبحنا في  
المسيح مشاركين معه، عن طريق النعمة الإلهية، في تجدّد الخليقة.

والآن، ماذا نقول بعد؟! لا نستطيع أن ندخل بصدق في هذا العيد، عيد الميلاد، إلا بالتواضع والتوبة. جاءنا  
يسوع مولوداً في مذود البهائم، فكيف يحقُّ لنا أن نلقاه في البهجة والتّرف والسُّكْرِ والعريضة؟! هذا عيبٌ علينا  
نحن المسيحيّين. أرجوكم أيّها الأبناء الأحبّاء أن تتذكّروا أنّ الهُكْمَ الذي قبل الدهور جاء طفلاً مُقَمَّطاً في مذودٍ لكي  
يعلمنا التواضع وبساطة العيش. تذكّروا الفقراء في هذا الموسم تلقوا الرّبّ بفرح عظيم كما لاقاه الرُّعاة مرثمين:  
"المجدُّ لله في العُلى وعلى الأرض السّلام وفي الناس المسرّة".

+ أفرام

مطران طرابلس والكورة وتوابعهما

## Announcements

### Second tray collection on Christmas:

On December 25, during the Liturgy of the feast of the Holy Nativity of the Lord, a second tray will be collected for Fr. Raphael Johnston as a Christmas present, especially as Fr. Raphael and the Orthodox mission of Fort Saskatchewan is presently facing a financial crisis.

### Christmas snack after the Liturgy

We are all invited today by the Antiochian Women to a light complementary "Knefeh snack" following the Divine Liturgy. All are welcome.

### December special services

**Thursday December 29, at 10:30 am:** Divine Liturgy for the feast of the **Martyrs Children of Bethlehem.**

**Saturday December 31, at 6:00 pm:** **Vespers Service + Artoklasia.**

**January special services:**

**Sunday January 1, at 9:30 am:** Orthros followed by (at 11:00 am) a Divine Liturgy for the feast of the **Circumcision of the Lord & St. Basil the Great.**

**Thursday January 5, at 9:30 pm:** The royal hours of the **Holy Theophany.**

**Thursday January 5, at 4:30 pm:** **Vigil Service for the feast of Holy Theophany. (Will include: Vespers + Orthros + Divine Liturgy [at 7:00 pm] + The Great Sanctification of Water.**

**Arabic liturgical calendars sale**

The Liturgical calendars for 2012 are for sale. The Antiochian Women will be selling them for \$15.00 each. Please support them.

**Teen Soyo**

***Teen Soyo retreat:*** January 28 at 11:00 am followed by an outing.

***Gym evening:*** at 7:30 pm.

***Serve Hope mission:*** on February 11 at 9:45 am.

**Bible Study: Wednesday January 11, 2012:**

- 6:00 pm: Paraklisis.

- 7:00 pm: Bible Study: **“Holy Baptism: Our sacramental identity with Christ”.**

**Sunday School**

Following the Divine Liturgy on December 29, the church school children are invited to a pot luck lunch with their parents. This will be followed by an outing to Chucky Cheese (in the south side).

**Antiochian Women:**

- The next ladies fellowship evening will be hosted by Mrs. Rana Salloum on Saturday January 28, at 6:00 pm. This will include the service of the small sanctification of the water, a light snack and a Bible study. All ladies are welcome.
- The annual ladies retreat “Living the good news” will be on Saturday March 24, 2:00 to 6:00 pm. This will include the Vespers and Artoklasia service for the feast of the “Annunciation”.

**Sunday of Orthodoxy**

The next annual Sunday of Orthodoxy vesper service celebrated by all orthodox churches in Edmonton, will be hosted by our church on Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Please book the date on your calendar.