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DECEMBER 21, 2025

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)

VIRGIN-MARTYR JULIANA OF NICOMEDIA; MARTYR THEMISTOKLES OF MYRA
IN LYCIA

لِتَقْدِمَةِ عِيدِ الْمِيلَادِ وَلِلأَحَدِ الَّذِي قَبْلَ عِيدِ الْمِيلَادِ (أَحَدِ النِّسْبَةِ)

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

أبوليتيكيون القيامة بالحن الثالث

لِتَفْرَحِ السَّمَاوِيَّاتُ وَتَبْتَهِجِ الْأَرْضِيَّاتُ، لِأَنَّ الرَّبَّ صَنَعَ عِزًّا بِسَاعِدِهِ، وَوَطِئَ الْمَوْتَ بِالْمَوْتِ، وَصَارَ بِكَرِّ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَأُنْقَذْنَا مِنْ جَوْفِ الْبَحِيمِ، وَمَنَحَ الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE FOUR

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

أبوليتيكيون تَقْدِمَةِ عِيدِ الْمِيلَادِ بِالْحَنِ الرَّابِعِ

إِسْتَعِدِّي يَا بَيْتَ لَحْمٍ، فَقَدْ فُتِحَتْ عَدْنُ الْجَمِيعِ، تَهَيَّأِي يَا أَفْرَاثَا، لِأَنَّ عَوْدَ الْحَيَاةِ قَدْ أَزْهَرَ فِي الْمَغَارَةِ مِنَ الْبَتُولِ. لِأَنَّ بَطْنَهَا قَدْ ظَهَرَ فِرْدَوْسًا عَقْلِيًّا، فِيهِ الْعَرْسُ الْإِلَهِيَّةُ، الَّذِي إِذْ نَأْكُلُ مِنْهُ نَحْيَا وَلَا نَمُوتُ مِثْلَ آدَمَ. الْمَسِيحُ يُوَلَّدُ مِنْهُضًا الصُّورَةَ الَّتِي سَقَطَتْ مِنْذُ الْقَدِيمِ.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

أبوليتيكيون الأحد الذي قبل عيد الميلاد بالحن الثاني

عَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ أَفْعَالُ الْإِيمَانِ، لِأَنَّ الْفَتِيَّةَ الثَّلَاثَةَ الْقَدِيسِينَ قَدْ ابْتَهَجُوا فِي يَنْبُوعِ الْلَهيبِ كَأَنَّهُمْ عَلَى مَاءِ الرَّاحَةِ، وَالنَّبِيُّ دَانِيَالُ ظَهَرَ رَاعِيًا لِلسَّبَاعِ كَأَنَّهُمْ غَنَمٌ، فَبِتَضَرُّعِهِمْ أُيِّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُ خَلَّصَ نُفُوسَنَا.

APOLYTIKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION IN TONE SEVEN

When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy Disciples in proportion as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.

أبوليتيكيون تجلّى ربنا يسوع المسيح بالحن السابع

لَمَّا تَجَلَّيْتَ أُيِّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُ فِي الْجَبَلِ، أَظْهَرْتَ مَجْدَكَ لِلتَّلَامِيذِ حَسَبَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا، فَأَشْرَقَ لَنَا نَحْنُ الْخَطَاةَ نورك الأزلّي، بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ إِلَهُ، يَا مَانِحَ النُّورِ، الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

قِنْدَاقُ تَقْدِمَةِ الْمِيلَادِ بِالْحَنِ الثَّالِثِ

اليَوْمَ الْعِذْرَاءُ، تَأْتِي إِلَى الْمَغَارَةِ، لِتَلِدَ الْكَلِمَةَ الَّتِي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ، وَلِدَةً لَا تُقَسَّرُ وَلَا يُنْطَقُ بِهَا، فَأَفْرَحِي أَيْتُّهَا الْمَسْكُونَةُ إِذَا سَمِعْتِ، وَمَجْدِي مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالرُّعَاةِ، الَّتِي سَيَظْهَرُ بِمَشِيئَتِهِ طِفْلاً جَدِيداً وَهُوَ إِلَهُنَا الَّذِي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40)
Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign

land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

الرسالة

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا .

لَأَنَّكَ عَدَلْتَ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا .

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ . (11: 9-10، 32-40)

يَا إِخْوَةُ، بِالْإِيمَانِ نَزَلَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ فِي أَرْضِ الْمِيعَادِ نُزُولَهُ فِي أَرْضٍ غَرِيبَةٍ، وَسَكَنَ فِي خِيَامٍ مَعَ اسْحَقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ الْوَارِثَيْنِ مَعَهُ لِلْمَوْعِدِ بِعَيْنِهِ. لِأَنَّهُ انْتَظَرَ الْمَدِينَةَ ذَاتِ الْأُسُسِ الَّتِي اللَّهُ صَانِعُهَا وَبَارِئُهَا. وَمَاذَا أَقُولُ أَيْضاً؟ إِنَّهُ يَضِيقُ بِي الْوَقْتُ إِنْ أَخْبَرْتُ عَنْ جِدْعَوْنَ، وَبَارَاقَ، وَشَمْشُونَ، وَيَفْتَاخَ، وَدَاوَدَ، وَصَمُوئِيلَ، وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، الَّذِينَ بِالْإِيمَانِ قَهَزُوا الْمَمَالِكَ، وَعَمَلُوا الْبِرَّ، وَنَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ، وَسَدُّوا أَفْوَاهَ الْأَسُودِ. وَأَطْفَأُوا جِدَّةَ النَّارِ، وَنَجَّوْا مِنْ حَذِّ السَّيْفِ، وَتَقَوَّوْا مِنْ ضَعْفٍ، وَصَارُوا أَشِدَاءَ فِي الْحَرْبِ، وَكَسَرُوا مَعْسَكَاتِ الْأَجَانِبِ، وَأَخَذَتْ نِسَاءً أَمْوَاتَهُنَّ بِقِيَامَةٍ. وَعُذِّبَ آخَرُونَ بِتَوْتِيرِ الْأَعْضَاءِ وَالضَّرْبِ، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا بِالنَّجَاةِ لِيَحْصَلُوا عَلَى قِيَامَةٍ أَفْضَلَ. وَآخَرُونَ ذَاقُوا الْهَرَّةَ، وَالْجُلْدَ، وَالْقَيْدَ أَيْضاً وَالسَّجْنَ. وَرُجِمُوا، وَنُشِرُوا، وَامْتَحِنُوا، وَمَاتُوا بِحَذِّ السَّيْفِ، وَسَاحُوا فِي جُلُودٍ غَنَمٍ وَمَعِزٍ، وَهُمْ مُعَوِّزُونَ مُضَايِقُونَ

مَجْهُودُونَ. وَلَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ مُسْتَحَقًّا لَهُمْ وَكَانُوا تَائِهِينَ فِي الْبَرَارِي، وَالْجِبَالِ، وَالْمَغَاوِرِ، وَكُھُوفِ
الْأَرْضِ. فَهَؤُلَاءِ كُلُّهُمْ مَشْهُودًا لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ، لَمْ يَنَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ، لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ سَبَقَ فَنَظَرَ لَنَا شَيْئًا أَفْضَلَ، أَنْ
لَا يَكْمَلُوا بِدُونِنَا.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon

fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

الإنجيل

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (1:1-25)

كِتَابٌ مِلَادِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ ابْنِ دَاوُدَ ابْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ. فِإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَلَدَ إِسْحَاقَ، وَإِسْحَاقُ وَلَدَ يَعْقُوبَ، وَيَعْقُوبُ وَلَدَ يَهُوذَا وَإِخْوَتَهُ. وَيَهُوذَا وَلَدَ فَارِصَ وَزَارَحَ مِنْ تَامَّارَ، وَفَارِصُ وَلَدَ حَصْرُونَ، وَحَصْرُونَ وَلَدَ أَرَامَ. وَأَرَامُ وَلَدَ عَمِينَادَابَ، وَعَمِينَادَابُ وَلَدَ نَحْشُونَ، وَنَحْشُونَ وَلَدَ سَلْمُونَ. وَسَلْمُونَ وَلَدَ بُوعَزَ مِنْ رَاحَابَ، وَبُوعَزُ وَلَدَ عُوبِيدَ مِنْ رَاعُوثَ، وَعُوبِيدُ وَلَدَ يَسَّى، وَيَسَّى وَلَدَ دَاوُدَ الْمَلِكِ. وَدَاوُدُ الْمَلِكِ وَلَدَ سُلَيْمَانَ مِنَ الَّتِي كَانَتْ لِأُورِيَّا. وَسُلَيْمَانُ وَلَدَ رَحْبَعَامَ، وَرَحْبَعَامُ وَلَدَ أَبِيَّا، وَأَبِيَّا وَلَدَ آسَا. وَآسَا وَلَدَ يَوْشَافَاطَ، وَيَوْشَافَاطُ وَلَدَ يُورَامَ، وَيُورَامُ وَلَدَ عُزْرِيَا. وَعُزْرِيَا وَلَدَ يُوَثَامَ، وَيُوَثَامُ وَلَدَ أَحَازَ، وَأَحَازُ وَلَدَ حِزْقِيَّا. وَحِزْقِيَّا وَلَدَ مَنَسَّى، وَمَنَسَّى وَلَدَ آمُونَ، وَآمُونُ وَلَدَ يَوْشِيَّا. وَيَوْشِيَّا وَلَدَ يَكْنِيَّا وَإِخْوَتَهُ فِي جَلَاءِ بَابِلَ. وَمِنْ بَعْدِ جَلَاءِ بَابِلَ، يَكْنِيَّا وَلَدَ شَالْتَيْئِيلَ، وَشَالْتَيْئِيلُ وَلَدَ زَرْبَابِيلَ. وَزَرْبَابِيلُ وَلَدَ أَبِيهَوْدَ، وَأَبِيهَوْدُ وَلَدَ أَلْيَاقِيمَ، وَأَلْيَاقِيمُ وَلَدَ عَازُورَ. وَعَازُورُ وَلَدَ صَادُوقَ، وَصَادُوقُ وَلَدَ أَحِيمَ، وَأَحِيمُ وَلَدَ أَلْيَهَوْدَ. وَأَلْيَهَوْدُ وَلَدَ أَلْعَازَارَ، وَأَلْعَازَارُ وَلَدَ مَتَّانَ، وَمَتَّانُ وَلَدَ يَعْقُوبَ. وَيَعْقُوبُ وَلَدَ يَوْسُفَ رَجُلَ مَرْيَمَ الَّتِي وَلَدَ مِنْهَا يَسُوعُ، الَّذِي يُدْعَى الْمَسِيحَ. فَكُلُّ

الأجيال من إبراهيم إلى داود أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن داود إلى جلاء بابل أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن جلاء بابل إلى المسيح أربعة عشر جيلاً. أمّا مولد يسوع المسيح فكان هكذا. لما خُطبت مريم أمّه ليوسف، ووجدت من قبل أن يجتمعا خُبلى من الروح القدس. وإذ كان يوسف رجلاً صديقاً، ولم يُرد أن يُشهرها، همّ بتخليتها سراً. وفيما هو متفكّر في ذلك، إذا بملاك الربّ ظهر له في الحلم، قائلاً: يا يوسف ابن داود، لا تخف أن تأخذ امرأتك مريم. فإنّ المولود فيها إنّما هو من الروح القدس. وستلد ابناً فتسميه يسوع، فإنّه هو يخلص شعبه من خطاياهم. وكان هذا كلّهُ ليتمّ ما قيل من الربّ بالنبّي القائل: ها إنّ العذراء تحبل، وتلد ابناً، ويدعى عِمَّانُوئِيل (الذي تفسيره الله معنا). فلمّا نهض يوسف من النوم، صنع كما أمره ملاك الربّ. فأخذ امرأته. ولم يعرفها حتّى ولدت ابنها البكر، وسمّاه يسوع.



HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION

OFFERED BY: Fr. Samer, the Clergy and the parishioners for the good of the parish council members, the building committee and the Ladies Auxiliary and their families. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Fr. Samer, the Clergy and the parishioners for the good health of all the families in Gaza, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Ukraine and all the countries has the unrest in the world. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Fr. Samer, the Clergy and the parishioners for the good health of all of the Order of St. IGNATIUS members on the occasion of St. IGNATIUS month. David Aboujudom, Eddie Aboujudom, Salim Asfour, Wardeh Asfour, Hadi Barghash, Sana Eideh, Osama Elmasu, Fadi Hanani, Suad Kattuah, Johnny Khamis, Bassam Khoury, Joseph Louis, John Mogannam, James Newman, Henry Veizades, Sheila Veizades, Dania Amireh, Nancy Godfrey, Margaret Hanna, George Labban, Maha Elserougi, Irena Dibs, George Barghout, Paul Barghouth, Diana Khoury, Roula Haddad, Norma Hanani, Fayez Abboud, Jennifer Lutton. Kh. Julianna Youssef and their families. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Fr. Samer, the Clergy and the parishioners for the good health of all the people and their families who contributed toward the Christmas card fundraising, for four homes of mercy, and to support the Sunday school, and the Poinsettias to decorate the Altar. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: The parishioners for the good health of Dr. Nany Godfrey and all the Sunday school children who participated in the Christmas Play. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Francois and Maya Haddad for the good health of Maya on the occasion of her birthday (Dec 16) and the good health of their children; Mila and Marc and the Haddad and Matar families. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Daad Amireh, Dania and Jonathan Baker and the Amireh family for the good health of their beloved mother Nahida on the occasion of her birthday (Dec 22) and the good health of the Amireh family. Many Years!



COFFEE HOUR

Offered By: Sunday School Parents

(To host the Coffee Hour, please contact Wardeh Asfour @408-718-3339)

office@orthodoxredeemer.org

Online Link: <https://holytransfiguration.breezechms.com/form/26c422>

Services Schedule Every Week

Matins @ 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM

Vespers: Every Saturday @ 5:00 PM

(Please check your email in case of any cancellations for Vespers)



Christmas Eve Service December 24th.

MATINS at 6:00 PM and DIVINE LITURGY at 7:00 PM

St. Nicholas will come on the 24th Evening

After the Divine Liturgy

And pass out gifts to all the children...

December is the Order of St. IGNATIUS Month

In our Antiochian Archdiocese, the month of December each year is St. IGNATIUS of Antioch Month. During December, members of the Order of St. IGNATIUS will demonstrate their commitment to their parishes and to the Archdiocese by participating in the life of their church. This is done by taking on the responsibility each Sunday to usher, read the Epistle, take the collection, give a short Sermon about the Order as coordinated with the priest, and sponsor a charitable event.

Sermon: Sheila Veizades

Epistle: Arabic: David Aboujudom

Epistle: English: Jennifer Lutton

St. Ignatius Month

As part of our tradition, during the Month of St. Ignatius, the members graciously host the Coffee Hour.

We kindly ask all members to bring an item on **Sunday, December 28th**, to help us celebrate the month and warmly greet all our parishioners.

DECORATING THE ALTAR

Thank you for your donation:

Fr. Samer & Kh. Julianna Youssef: For the good health of the Youssef & Neyman families. In memory of Elias Youssef and V. Rv. Fr. Nicholas Neyman.

Salem & Samia Aweiss: For the good health of the Aweiss family. In memory of Thurayah Aweiss and Zakieh Emsis.

Chip & Jennifer Lutton: For the good health of the Lutton family. In memory of Gladys and Richard Lutton, Michael Smith, Helen and Elias Bodron.

John & Linda Salah: For the good health of the Salah family. In memory of Martha, George, Nuha and Essa Sackllah.

Osama & Hala Elmasu: For the good health of Elmasu, Kazaleh and Zuniga families. In memory of Bahiyeh, Hanna, Emile and Amal.

Horn family: For the good health of John, Mihaela and Florih. In memory of Alexahdru.

James & Gretchen Stroud: For the good health of the Stroud family. In memory of Bronnie and Annabella Stroud.

Ibtisam Kreitem: For the good health of Laila, Pierre, Samer, Sara, and Yasmin Kreitem. In memory of Issam Kreitem, Michael and Laila Halteh.

Hiyam Fasheh: For the good health of the Fasheh family. In memory of George Fasheh.

Diana Fasheh: For the good health of the Fasheh & Mukhar families. In memory of Suleiman Fasheh.

Yvonne Hanhan: For the good health of her daughters and their families. In memory of Simon Hanhan.

Gus & Cristina Anagnos: For the good health of the Anagnos family. In memory of Chris Skoby, Helen Skoby, Louie Skoby and George Anagnos.

Mitch & Maria Segal: For the good health of the Segal, McCrea and Snowden families. In memory of Andrew Segal.

Nuha Naser: For the good health of Cynthia, Randa & Ronnie, Lora and their families. In memory of John, Bolus and Nabiha.

Peter & Maria Jammal: For the good health of Peter and Maria Jammal and family. In memory of Mansour, Hanne, Laila and Tony Jammal.

Rima & Michel Gannage: For the good health of the Gannage and Smine families. In memory of Hind, Wadad, Edouard and Randa.

Roula Haddad: For the good health of Roula's siblings and their families. In memory of Bahij and Afaf Haddad.

Johnny & Juliana Khamis: For the good health of all the people who are suffering in Palestine..

George & Jeanette Omran: For the good health of George, Jeanette, Desiree and Hend Omran. In memory of George Jr. Omran, Dib & Arifeh Totah, Saleem & Fareedeh Totah, Showki Jadallah, Elias Botto, Audi Dudum, Kamel Totah and Bruce Haste.

Nawal Jaber: For the good health of the Jaber family. In memory of Salwa Kahou, James, Nicola, Maria and Said Jaber.

Marwan & Mona Awad: For the good health of the Awad and Eid families.

Nicolas & Sonia Azar: For the good health of the Azar, Mansour, Halaby and Baillou families. In memory of Jameel, Ssayha, Basil, Valery, Mike and Johnny.

Dania & Jonathan Baker: For the good health of the Amireh, Rizkallah, Baker, Mitri, Hina and Saba families. In memory of Mahfouz Amireh and Shyla Baker.

Hanna & Suad Eideh: For the good health of the Eideh, Khoury and Hanhan families. In memory of Imad Eideh.

George & Rowida Barghouth: For the good health of the Barghouth, Mansour and Jurac families.

Jad & Elaine Bateh: For the good health of the Bateh family. In memory of Bob, John, Nadia and Issa Bateh.

George & Adele Kreitem: For the good health of the kreitem, Sakhel, Smith, Sheils and ElHihi families. In memory of Tina, Andoni and Virginia Kreitem, Michael and Margaret Sakhel.

Reyad & Eva Katwan: For the good health of Reyad, Eva, Erica, Mousa, Rawan, Michael, Janelle, Zayn, Milan and Amira.

Richard & Nancy Godfrey: For the good health of the Godfrey, Bitar, and Sharkey families, the Redeemer Choir, the sick, suffering, and unhoused everywhere. In memory of Nicholas and Nelly Bitar, Virginia, and Emily.

Abdallah & Hala Saah: For the good health of the Saah and Mitri families.

Henry & Sheila Veizades: For the good health of Henry, Sheila, Gregory, Michael, Marge, the Veizades and Hanna families. In memory of Taft, Harrisis, Tancho, Tamara, Iskandar, Antonio, Tamra, Louis, Grace, Steliani, Nicholas and Ioanis.

Nayla Sleiman: For the good health of the Sleiman and Kawar families. In memory of Wajih Sleiman.

Victor & Inessa Vaisberg: For the good health of Victor, Inessa and their children and grandchildren and the Vaisberg family.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Thank you for your donation:

David & Hala Aboujudom. Gus & Cristina Anagnos. Marwan & Mona Awad. Ibrahim & Nadia Akra. Salem & Samia Aweiss. Nicolas & Sonia Azar. George & Rowida Barghouth. Jonathan & Dania Baker. Jad & Elaine Bateh. Richard & Annette Eid. Hanna, Suad & Sana Eideh. Osama & Hala Elmasu. Diana Fasheh. Hiyam Fasheh. Maher & Dima Fasheh. Michel & Rima Gannage. Stephen & Aisha Gillett. Richard & Nancy Godfrey. Roula Haddad. Yvonne Hanhan. Marge Hanna. Nawal Jaber. Peter & Maria Jammal. Johnny & Juliana Khamis. Reyad & Eva Katwan. Bassam & Dima Khoury. Ibtisam, Laila & Pierre Kreitem. George & Adele Kreitem. George & Ghazal Labban. Joseph & Najah Luois. Chip & Jennifer Lutton. John & Norma Mogannam. Nuha Naser. George & Jeanette Omran. Abdallah & Hala Saah. John & Linda Salah. Mitchell & Maria Segal. Nayla Sleiman. James & Gretchen Stroud. Henry & Sheila Veizades. Fr. Samer & Kh. Julianna Youssef.

General Parish Meeting Jan 25, 2026

The General Meeting of our Parish will be taking place on the third Sunday After the Feast of Theophany, January 25th after the Divine Liturgy.

The appointed nominating Committee; Salim Asfour and Osama Elmasu, Bassam Khoury, Linda Salah and Dania Baker, will prepare the Names to run on the Parish Council for 2026.

PARISH COUNCIL 2025

The Parish Council members' of 2025. Chair President; Bassam Khoury, Vice-Chair; Linda Salah, Treasurer; Dania Amireh Baker, Secretary; Maria Segal, Jad Bateh, Sana Eideh, Johnny Khamis, Didi Kreitem, Maher Fasheh and Rowida Barghouth. Sheila Veizades will represent the Antiochian

Women Committee and Salem Aweiss will represent the Men Fellowship Committee.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN 2025

The Antiochian Women Committee Leaders of 2025. Wardeh Asfour, Rowida Barghouth, Rima Gannage, Diana Khoury, Sheila Veizades and Hala Aboujudom (Sunshine).

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults (college age and up to 39-1/2) meet on the first Sunday of the month and organize social, educational, and volunteer activities. For more information, please contact Fr. Theodor Sakellar @ 408-455-8145

SOYO (YOUTH GROUP 12-18 YEARS)

Our SOYO (Youth Group) is active through the leadership of the Advisors: Dominic Youssef and Caesar Haddad. The officers are: President; Riad Akery, Vice-President; Christina Alnweisser Secretary; Mila Haddad, Treasurer; Gabreilla Ajlouni, Social Media Coordinator; Adriana Ajlouni.

Orthodoxy 101 Class

This week and next: We explore the Church and her worship. Join us as we learn, discuss, and grow together in understanding the heart of Orthodox worship.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

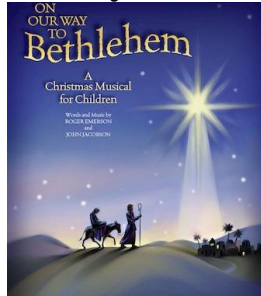
Sunday School Registration is now open. Please register your children ASAP. Registration forms are available at the church hall or on church Website: <http://www.orthodoxredeemer.org/schoolregistration>

School Schedule:

Sunday school starts 9/14/25 and ends 5/17/26. Sunday school graduation Ceremony will be on 5/17/26. Sunday school classes begin after communion and ends at 12:30pm.

Teachers: Samuel Hage, Hussam Ibrahim, Dimitry Youssef, Heather Simonovich, Randa Hanani and Jocelyn Mikhael. Caitlin Timothy and Alia Nystrom as back-up/support.

"On Our Way to Bethlehem"



CHRISTMAS PLAY

Sunday December 21, 2025

It's time for our annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant!

"On Our Way to Bethlehem"

Please Join us after the Divine Liturgy.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

Please save the date

- **Advent Fast:** *Fast starts November 15- December 24.*
- **Christmas Services:** *Evening, Divine Liturgy for the Nativity on Dec 24th @ 7:00pm*
- **Blessing the Holy Water:** *January 5, 2026, Festal Orthos @6:00pm and Divine Liturgy @7:00pm for the feast of Theophany and blessing of the Holy water.*
- **General Parish Meeting:** *January 25, 2026.*

Silent Hands

By His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

I am struck by the silence in which You entered our wretched world, my sweet Jesus. You came to us, my Lord, with awe-filled humility. You did not appear in glory and splendor. You turned toward us with a veiled majesty and stillness. You were born in the flesh on a quiet night, in a desolate place where no people dwell. And a great multitude of men was not present at Your birth.

You wished to tell a few shepherds who, in the stillness of the night, were beginning to rest from the day's toil. You sent Your angels to announce to them, with great joy, "Unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." And You encouraged them with a multitude of angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Did You choose them alone, above all others, because You knew that the simplicity of their lives would grant them the ability to discern Your divinity, and consequently, to accept Your message of salvation?

You said with Your silence, O Christ, that noise does not produce life, and that being satisfied with appearances increases problems, and does not solve them.

Silence was not only at Your birth, but You willed it to be Your constant companion throughout the years You spent among us. Did You not conceal your Messianic mystery, choosing to reveal it only on the Cross?

And in performing miracles, did you not ask those whom You healed not to spread the news of their healing, but to simply thank God?

You asked no thanks from anyone. You sought neither praise nor glorification.

Even Your glorious Resurrection, O Lord, was accomplished in silence. It was not accompanied by clamor or noise. There was an earthquake, yet no one felt it. We learned of Your Rising from the women who brought spices, who found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

And Mary Magdalene did not recognize you until you called her by name, for she mistook You for the gardener!

Silence, my Lord, is a language understood only by those freed from the noise of their passions. It is the language of the age to come, as your saint, Isaac the Syrian, said.

You deign to lower Yourself, though You are the Most High Lord. You become humble, though You are the Almighty God. You take on flesh and blood, though You are the Holy of Holies!

You become poor so that we may become rich. You empty Yourself so that we may be filled. You die so that we may live. You distribute Yourself to us so that we may be nourished.

And because You alone are the Compassionate One, You saved us without fanfare. Yes, O Christ, for compassion is born of a full heart, and the full heart needs no adornment.

If we were truly captivated by You, we would no longer seek life from anyone else, our very beings would be filled with Your presence, and we would never again drink water that does not quench our thirst.

If we were to prostrate ourselves at Your feet this feast day to behold Your unique beauty, then the "good portion" would be ours. +++

You saw us floundering in pain and misery, so You pitched Your tent in our neighborhood, and it remains there, to open for us the door to true life.

You came to us in absolute simplicity to tell us, through action and not just words, that You are all we need.

You taught us, from your humble manger, that we cannot find You unless our souls are emptied of all worldly glory. How can we know Your worth unless we experience that "money is ashamed to be gathered in the presence of your poverty?"

Strengthen us so that we do not run from confronting ourselves, but rather that we may present ourselves to You as we are, so that Your silence may purify us, and we may join Your angels in praise.

Strengthen us so that we do not flee to what makes us forget our reality, but rather face it armed with Your gentle strength, so that we may find the security we lack and yearn for at the same time.

Be with us, O Almighty and Compassionate Jesus, so that we may not throw ourselves into the noise of the flesh, or money, or pride, or any of the deceptive noises of this world. You neither argued nor disputed nor engaged in debates to prove that You are the truth. You simply said, "I am the truth, I am the way, I am the life." And those who believed You discovered the truth of what You said. As for us, Your followers, it is ours to take refuge in the shadow of Your humility, confident in Your power at work within us.

Teach us, O Lord, on this day of Your birth, to kneel and be silent, so that we may be filled with You.

Teach us, O Lord, to gaze upon Your manifest poverty, so that we may cast off our deadly desires and taste the joy of liberation from enslavement to them.

Grant, O Lord, our hearts a tranquility that makes them independent of the allurements of this world, so that they may find true peace.

We yearn for peace on this feast day. O Lord, guide our steps to Your true path, so that when we experience Your peace, we may, by Your grace, share it in deed, not just in word.

The shepherds bowed down to You, possessing nothing but their need for You. O Lord, help us to cast aside to whatever we cling when we come to You.

Grant us the courage, O Jesus, to accept that we cannot truly open our hearts to You unless we come to You with empty hands.

اليدان الصامتتان بقلم المترولوجيت سابا (اسبر)

يذهلني الصمت، الذي دخلت فيه إلى عالمنا الشقيّ، يا يسوع الحلو.

أتيتنا، يا سيّدي، بخفيّ مهيب. لم تظهر بمجدٍ وعظمة. انعطفت علينا بجلالٍ خفيّ وسكون. وُلدت، بالجسد، في ليلة هادئة، وفي مكان مقفر، لا يقيم البشر فيه. وما حضر ولادتك رهط كبير من البشر.

سُئِلَتْ أن تخبر بضعة رعاة كانوا، في هدأة الليل، قد بدأوا يستريحون من عناء النهار. أرسلت ملائكتك لتبشّرهم "بفرح عظيم: وُلد لكم مخلص هو المسيح الرب". وشجّعتهم بجمع ملائكة يستبّحون قائلين: "المجد لله في الأعالي، وعلى الأرض السلام، وفي الناس المسرّة."

هل اخترتهم وحدهم، دون غيرهم، لأنك تعرف أنّ بساطة حياتهم، تمنحهم القدرة على تمييز ألوهيتك، وتالياً قبول رسالتك الخلاصيّة؟

قلت بصمتك، يا مسيحي، إنّ الصخب لا يُنتج حياةً، وإنّ الاكتفاء بالمظاهر، يزيد من المشاكل، ولا يحلّها.

+++

ما رافق الصمت ولادتك فقط، بل أردته ملازماً لك، طوال السنوات التي قضيتها بيننا. أمّا أخفيت سرّك الماسيانيّ، ولم تتشأن أن تكشفه إلا على الصليب؟!

وفي اجترارك العجائب، أمّا اعتدت أن تطلب، ممّن تشفيهم، عدم إذاعة خبر الشفاء، والاكتفاء بشكر الله؟!

ما طلبت شكراً من أحد. ولا سعيت إلى مديح أو تمجيد.

حتّى قيامتك العظيمة، يا ربّ، تمّت بصمت. ولم تترافق بالضجّة والضوضاء. حدثت زلزلة ولم يشعر بها أحد. عرفنا بها من حاملات الطيب، اللواتي وجدن الحجر مدحرجاً عن باب القبر.

ولم تعرفك المجدليّة، إلا عندما ناديتها باسمها، لأنها ظنّتك البستاني!

الصمت، يا سيدي، لغةٌ لا يعرفها إلا المتحرّرون من ضجيج أهوائهم. إنّها لغة الدهر الآتي، بحسب قول قديسك اسحق السوري.

+++

تتنازل، وأنت الربّ العليّ. تتّضع، وأنت الإله القدير. تتوارى في لحم ودم، وأنت قدّوس القديسين!!

تفتقر لتعطينا. تُخلي ذاتك لتملأنا. تموت لتحيينا. توزّع ذاتك علينا لتغذيّنا.

ولأنّك وحدك الحنان، خلّصتنا دونما جَلْبَة. نعم، يا مسيحي، فالحنان وليد القلب الممتلئ؛ والمليء لا يحتاج إلى الأضواء.

لو فُتّنا بك كفاية، لما عدنا نطلب الحياة من عند غيرك، ولكانت ذواتنا امتلأت من حضرتك، وما شربنا بعدُ ماءً لا يروي.

لو أنّنا نرتمي عند قدميك، في هذا العيد، لنرى إلى جمالك الفريد، لصار "النصيب الصالح" حصّتنا.

+++

رأيتنا نرتع في الألم والشقاء، فنصبت خيمتك في حيّنا، ولا تزال، لتفتّح لنا باب الحياة الحقّة.

أتيتنا بالبساطة المطلقة، لتقول لنا، فعلاً لا قولاً فقط، إنّك أنت من وما نحتاجه.

فعلمّتنا، بمذودك الوضع، أنّنا لا نجدك، إلا إذا أقفرت نفوسنا من كلّ مجد دنيويّ. كيف نعرف قيمتك، ما لم نختبر أنّ "المال يخلّج قرب فقرك أن يُلمّ؟!"

شدّنا لكي لا نهرب من مواجهة أنفسنا، ولكي نقدّمها لك، بما هي عليه، فيطهرها صمتك، ونشارك ملائكتك التسبيح.

قوّنّا، لكي لا نهرب إلى ما ينسينا واقعنا، بل لنواجهه متسلّحين بقوتك الناعمة، فنجد الأمان الذي نفتقده، ونتوق إليه في الوقت ذاته.

كن معنا، يا يسوعي القدير والرقيق، لكي لا نلقي بأنفسنا في ضجيج الجسد، أو المال أو التعظم، أو أي شيء من ضوضاء الدنيا الخداعة

+++

ما جادلت ولا خاصمت ولا دخلت في مساجلات، لتثبت أنك الحق. قلت فقط: "أنا الحق، أنا الطريق، أنا الحياة...". ومن صدقك اكتشف صدق ما قلته. أما نحن، أتباعك، فلنا أن نتوارى في ظل تواضعك، واثقين من قدرتك الفاعلة فينا!!

+++

علّما، ربّي، في ميلادك هذا، أن نجثو ونصمت، لكي نمتلئ منك.
علّما، ربّي، أن نحدّق في فقرك الظاهر، فنخلع عنا شهواتنا القاتلة، ونذوق فرح التحرّر من استعبادها لنا.

ربّي، امنح قلوبنا هدوءاً يغنيها عن بهرجات الدنيا، لتتعم بالأمان الحقيقي.
نفتقد في هذا العيد السلام. ألا سدّدت خطانا، ربّي، إلى طريقك الحق، حتى إذا اخترنا سلامك، نستطيع، بنعمتك، أن ننقله فعلاً لا كلاماً.
سجد الرعاة لك، وما بيدهم شيء، إلا فقرهم إليك. ألا ساعدتنا، ربّي، على أن نرمي ما تتمسك أيدينا به، حينما نأتي إليك.

امنحنا الشجاعة، يا يسوعي، لنقتنع بأننا لا نقدر أن نفتح قلوبنا لك حقاً، ما لم نأت إليك بيدين فارغتين.



The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch

November 14, 2025

Christ is in our Midst!

On behalf of *The Order Of Saint Ignatius of Antioch*, I would like to share with you the joy of this holy month, as we fast and pray in preparation for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This coming year marks the **50th anniversary** of the establishment of The Order by Metropolitan Phillip of thrice blessed memory. It is hard to believe that 50 years have passed. 50 years of dedication, of faithful service, and of living our Christian faith, not only in words, but in deeds. But what has The Order truly accomplished over these years?

- ~ Is supporting our Clergy Retirement a worthy cause? Imagine a priest who has dedicated his entire life to his Church, embracing his parishioners in their happy and sad moments, yet finding himself in need during his retirement years.
- ~ Is supporting our Youth camps and Christian education a worthy cause? It would be difficult to envision a future in which our children grow up weak in their faith and unprepared to face the many challenges of modern life.
- ~ Is supporting charities and organizations like Project Mexico and IOCC a worthy cause? Think of a child going to bed hungry! How sad is that!
- ~ And when did helping those in need become a luxury that Christians could no longer afford? Special Olympics, missions and evangelism, parish development, and much more, have become the mission of our beloved Order Of Saint Ignatius of Antioch.

Why? Because the men and women wearing red ribbons among you this month have taken it upon themselves to make a difference. They have chosen to sacrifice so they can ensure a better life in their communities. They have committed themselves to helping every seminarian and young person in our Archdiocese fulfill their calling to become priests, devout Orthodox Christians, and spiritual leaders in their community.

Additionally, we have launched “**The Order in Action**” events, connecting our parishes with their surrounding communities through acts of charity.

The Order remains **humble**, and we welcome the small gift just as gratefully as the large one. We wear crosses with red ribbons to remember the blood of our martyrs and the depth of their sacrifice, and also to raise awareness, so that people may join us. How small our sacrifices seem in comparison, and yet, how profound their impact can be for those who receive our help.

For each member of The Order, it is not about the numbers, nor is it about the total amount of giving. It is about GIVING - The joy of giving with humility, love and compassion, and without expecting anything in return. Saint Ignatius states in his letters that he does not want to be called a Christian, but to actually **be** one.

Brothers and sisters, The Order is a **family**. A family within our Church family, rooted in our Orthodox tradition of living together, sharing, and caring for one another. We invite you to speak to members of The Order and to your priest, so that you may join our family and be united and blessed in our common cause.

In closing, on behalf of myself and all the members of The Order, we wish you a blessed Christmas celebration filled with peace, joy, and good health. May Jesus be born anew in our hearts.

Your brother in Christ,

Ramzi Khairallah, MD
North American Chairperson
The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch 140 Church Camp Trail Bolivar, PA 15923 Ph: (724) 238-3677, xt. 410

DIocese of Los
Angeles & the
West

**THE YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY**

DLAW YAM

WINTER *Retreat*

Join us on...

January 16th-18, 2026

at St. Nicholas Ranch

in Dunlap, CA

Early Bird

\$190

by **12/13**

Final Price

\$220

by **12/27**

Spend this winter weekend with us!

**Scan the QR code to
register!**



Link to register!



<https://dlawyam.com/2026-dlaw-winter-retreat>



BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

End-of-Year Campaign Update



- Raised: \$3.5M for the new hall & learning center
- County requirements nearly complete
- Promising discussions with school operators
- Goal: Break ground by mid-2026
- Remaining need: **\$750,000** for loan approval



If you are able, please consider an end-of-year tax-deductible gift to support our parish's future.

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