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DECEMBER 28, 2025

**AFTER-FEAST OF & SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
COMMEMORATION OF JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE
PROPHET AND KING, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF GOD**

الاحد بعد الاحتفال بميلاد ربنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages.

Glory... Both now...

الانتيفونا الأولى

أَعْتَرِفُ لَكَ يَا رَبُّ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِي، وَأُحَدِّثُ بِجَمِيعِ عَجَائِبِكَ. فِي مَجْلِسِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِينَ وَفِي مَجْمَعِهِمْ، عَظِيمَةٌ هِيَ أَعْمَالُ الرَّبِّ.

بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ يَا مُخَلِّصُ خَلَصْنَا.

مُدَبَّرَةٌ طَبَقاً لِكُلِّ مُرَادِهِ بِهَا. صُنْعُهُ الْإِعْتِرَافُ وَعِظَمُ الْجَلَالِ، وَعَدْلُهُ يَدُومُ إِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ.

المجدُ ... الآن

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the 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 abideth unto ages of ages.

There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous.

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

الأنتيفونا الثانية

طُوبَى لِلرَّجُلِ الَّذِي يَتَّقِي الرَّبَّ وَيَهْوَى وَصَايَاهُ جَدًّا. تَكُونُ ذُرِّيَّتُهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُقْتَدِرَةً.
خَلَّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ يَا مَنْ وُلِدَ مِنَ الْبَتُولِ، لِنُزِتَلَ لَكَ. هَلُوبِيَا.
الْمَجْدُ وَالْغِنَى فِي بَيْتِهِ، وَعَدْلُهُ يَدُومُ إِلَى دَهْرِ الدَّاهِرِينَ.
أَشْرَقَ النُّورُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ لِلْمُسْتَقِيمِينَ، النُّورُ يُشْرِقُ فِي الظُّلَامِ لِلْأَبْرَارِ، لِأَنَّهُ الرَّؤُوفُ وَالرَّحِيمُ وَالصِّدِّيقُ.
الْمَجْدُ ... الْآنَ ... يَا كَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ الْإِبْنَ الْوَحِيدِ...

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.

الأنتيفونا الثالثة

قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِرَبِّي: اجْلِسْ عَنْ يَمِينِي حَتَّى أَجْعَلَ أَعْدَاءَكَ مَوْطِنًا لِقَدَمَيْكَ. عَصَا قُوَّةٍ يُرْسِلُ لَكَ الرَّبُّ مِنْ صِهْيُون. مَعَكَ الرِّئَاسَةُ فِي يَوْمِ قُوَّتِكَ، فِي بَهَاءِ قِدِّيْسِيكَ.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

أبوليتيكيون القيامة بالحن الرابع

إِنَّ تَلْمِذَاتِ الرَّبِّ تَعَلَّمْنَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ الْكَرَّرَ بِالْقِيَامَةِ الْبَهْجِ، وَطَرَحْنَ الْقَضَاءَ الْجَدِّيَّ، وَخَاطَبْنَ الرُّسُلَ مُفْتَخِرَاتٍ وَقَائِلَاتٍ: سُبِّحِ الْمَوْتُ وَقَامَ الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُ، وَمَنْحَ الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعَظْمَى.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

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 therefrom 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.

أبوليتيكيون ميلاد المسيح بالحن الرابع

ميلادُكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا قَدْ أَطْلَعَ نَوْرَ الْمَعْرِفَةِ فِي الْعَالَمِ، لِأَنَّ السَّاجِدِينَ لِلْكَوَاكِبِ، بِهِ تَعَلَّمُوا مِنَ الْكَوَكِبِ السُّجُودَ لَكَ يَا شَمْسَ الْعَدْلِ، وَأَنْ يَعْرِفُوا أَنَّكَ مِنْ مَشَارِقِ الْعُلُوِّ أَتَيْتَ، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE

TWO

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

أبوليتيكيون الأحد بعد عيد الميلاد بالحن الثاني

يَا يَوْسُفُ، بَشِّرْ دَاوُدَ جَدَّ الإِلَهِ بِالْعَجَائِبِ الْبَاهِرَةِ، لِأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَ بَتُولًا حَامِلًا. فَمَعَ الرُّعَاةَ مَجَّدْتَ، وَمَعَ الْمَجُوسِ سَجَّدْتَ، وَبِالْمَلَائِكَةِ أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ. فَابْتَهِلْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الإِلَهِ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نَفُوسَنَا.

TROPARION OF TRANSFIGURATION – TONE SEVEN

When Thou was Transfigured on the mountain top, O Christ our God. Thou didst reveal thy glory to thy disciples as they could bear it. Enlighten us poor sinners as well with thine everlasting light through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Giver of light, glory to Thee.

طروبارية التجلي على اللحن السابع

لَمَا تَجَلَّيْتَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الإِلَهِ فِي الْجَبَلِ، أَظْهَرْتَ مَجْدَكَ لِلتَّلَامِيذِ بِحَسْبِ مَا اسْتَطَاعُوا. فَأَشْرَقَ لَنَا نَحْنُ الْخَطَاةَ نَوْرُكَ الْأَزَلِي، بِشَفَاعَةِ وَالِدَةِ الإِلَهِ، يَا مَانِحَ النُّورِ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed * before the ages as God.

قنداق لعيد ميلاد المسيح باللحن الثالث

اليَوْمَ الْبَنُوْلُ تَلِدُ الْفَائِقَ الْجَوْهَرِ، وَالْأَرْضُ تُقَرِّبُ الْمَغَارَةَ لِمَنْ هُوَ غَيْرُ مُقْتَرَبٍ إِلَيْهِ. الْمَلَائِكَةُ مَعَ الرُّعَاةِ يُمَجِّدُونَ، وَالْمَجُوسُ مَعَ الْكَوْكَبِ فِي الطَّرِيقِ يَسِيرُونَ، لِأَنَّهُ قَدْ وُلِدَ مِنْ أَجْلِنَا صَبِيٌّ جَدِيدٌ، الْإِلَهَ الَّذِي قَبْلَ الدُّهُورِ.

THE EPISTLE

God is wondrous in His saints.

In the churches, bless ye God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

الرسالة

عَجِيبٌ هُوَ اللَّهُ فِي قَدِيسِيهِ. فِي الْمَجَامِعِ بَارِكُوا اللَّهَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ غَلَاطِيَّةِ. (19-11:1)

يَا إِخْوَةُ، أَعْلَمُكُمْ أَنَّ الْإِنْجِيلَ الَّذِي بَشَّرْتُ بِهِ، لَيْسَ بِحَسَبِ الْإِنْسَانِ. لِأَنِّي لَمْ أَسْلَمْهُ أَوْ أَتَعَلَّمْهُ مِنْ إِنْسَانٍ، بَلْ بِإِعْلَانِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ. فَإِنَّكُمْ قَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ بِسِيرَتِي قَدِيمًا فِي مِلَّةِ الْيَهُودِ، أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَضْطَهُدُ كَنِيسَةَ اللَّهِ بِإِفْرَاطٍ وَأُدْمَرُهَا. وَأَزِيدُ تَقَدُّمًا فِي مِلَّةِ الْيَهُودِ عَلَى كَثِيرِينَ مِنْ أَثْرَابِي فِي جِنْسِي، بِكَوْنِي أَوْفَرَ مِنْهُمْ غَيْرَةً عَلَى تَقْلِيدَاتِ آبَائِي. فَلَمَّا ارْتَضَى اللَّهُ، الَّذِي أَفَرَزَنِي مِنْ جَوْفِ أُمِّي وَدَعَانِي بِنِعْمَتِهِ، أَنْ يُعْلِنَ ابْنَهُ فِيِّي لِأُبَشِّرَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْأُمَمِ، لِسَاعَتِي، لَمْ أَصْغِ إِلَى لَحْمٍ وَدَمٍ. وَلَا صَعَدْتُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ إِلَى

الرُّسُلِ الَّذِينَ قَبْلِي، بَلِ انْطَلَقْتُ إِلَى دِيَارِ الْعَرَبِ، وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ رَجَعْتُ إِلَى دِمَشْقَ. ثُمَّ إِنِّي بَعْدَ ثَلَاثِ سِنِينَ، صَعِدْتُ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ لِأَزُورَ بُطْرُسَ، فَأَقَمْتُ عِنْدَهُ خَمْسَةَ عَشَرَ يَوْمًا. وَلَمْ أَرْ غَيْرَهُ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ سِوَى يَعْقُوبَ أَخِي الرَّبِّ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him.” And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called My Son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.” But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتِّلْمِذِ الطَّاهِرِ. (23-13:2)

لَمَّا انْصَرَفَ الْمَجُوسُ، إِذَا بِمَلَاكِ الرَّبِّ ظَهَرَ لِيُوسُفَ فِي الْحُلَمِ، قَائِلاً: قُمْ فَخُذِ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَاهْرُبْ إِلَى مِصْرَ، وَكُنْ هُنَاكَ حَتَّى أَقُولَ لَكَ. فَإِنَّ هِيرُودُسَ مُزْمِعٌ أَنْ يَطْلُبَ الصَّبِيَّ لِيُهْلِكَهُ. فَقَامَ وَأَخَذَ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ لَنِيلاً، وَانْصَرَفَ إِلَى مِصْرَ وَكَانَ هُنَاكَ إِلَى وَفَاةِ هِيرُودُسَ، لِيَتِمَّ الْمَقُولُ مِنَ الرَّبِّ بِالنَّبِيِّ الْقَائِلِ: مَنْ مِصْرَ دَعَوْتُ ابْنِي. حِينَئِذٍ، لَمَّا رَأَى هِيرُودُسُ أَنَّ الْمَجُوسَ سَخَرُوا بِهِ، غَضِبَ جَدًّا، وَأَرْسَلَ فَقَتَلَ كُلَّ صِبْيَانٍ بَيْتَ لَحَمٍ وَجَمِيعِ تَحُومِهَا، مِنْ ابْنِ سَنَتَيْنِ فَمَا دُونَ، عَلَى حَسَبِ الزَّمَانِ الَّذِي تَحَقَّقَهُ مِنَ الْمَجُوسِ. حِينَئِذٍ، تَمَّ مَا قَالَهُ إِرْمِيَاءُ النَّبِيُّ الْقَائِلُ: صَوْتُ سَمْعٍ فِي الرَّمَاةِ، نَوْحٌ وَبُكَاءٌ وَعَوِيلٌ كَثِيرٌ، رَاحِيلُ تَبْكِي عَلَى أَوْلَادِهَا، وَقَدْ أَبَتْ أَنْ تَتَعَزَّى لِأَنَّهُمْ لَيْسُوا بِمَوْجُودِينَ. فَلَمَّا مَاتَ هِيرُودُسُ، إِذَا بِمَلَاكِ الرَّبِّ ظَهَرَ لِيُوسُفَ فِي الْحُلَمِ فِي مِصْرَ، قَائِلاً: قُمْ فَخُذِ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَادْهَبْ إِلَى أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ، فَقَدْ مَاتَ طَالِبُو نَفْسِ الصَّبِيِّ. فَقَامَ وَأَخَذَ الصَّبِيَّ وَأُمَّهُ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ. وَلَمَّا سَمِعَ أَنَّ أَرْخِيْلَافِسَ قَدْ مَلَكَ عَلَى الْيَهُودِيَّةِ مَكَانَ هِيرُودُسَ أَبِيهِ، خَافَ أَنْ يَذْهَبَ إِلَى هُنَاكَ، وَأُوحِيَ إِلَيْهِ فِي الْحُلَمِ، فَانْصَرَفَ إِلَى نَوَاحِي الْجَلِيلِ. وَاتَى وَسَكَنَ فِي مَدِينَةٍ تُدْعَى نَاصِرَةَ، لِيَتِمَّ الْمَقُولُ بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ: إِنَّهُ يُدْعَى نَاصِرِيًّا.



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!

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OFFERED BY: Yvonne Hanhan on the occasion of her birthday (Dec 22) and the good health of her children, grandchildren and the Hanhan family. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Johnny and Narmen Akkary for the good health of their children's birthday, Riad (Dec 23) and Christian (Dec 24), and the good health of Rayan and the Akkary family. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Richard and Annette Eid for the good health of their daughter Gianna on the occasion of her birthday (Dec 28) and the good health of their children; Dimitri, Mario, Jimmy and Joelle and the Eid family. Many Years!



COFFEE HOUR

Offered By: St. IGNATIUS Members

(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)

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: Maia Segal

Epistle: Arabic: Suad Kattuah

Epistle: English: Dania Amireh-Baker

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.



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

Please save the date

- **Blessing the Holy Water:** Monday 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.

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 630/2025

Nativity 2025

My esteemed brothers, the right reverend bishops of the Archdiocese,

My beloved sons, the priests and deacons of the Archdiocese,

My children in Christ, the dearly loved in the Lord, the sons and daughters of the Archdiocese,

In these blessed days, the Holy Church reminds us of the great event accomplished by God for our salvation: the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Church calls this feast “the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh.” The emphasis is not so much on birth as it is on the Incarnation. The One who is born is Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” By the birth of Christ, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Let us therefore not be satisfied with the outward expressions of the feast, but enter into its depth and its reflection in our lives and growth, so that we may come to know the “abundant life” which He came to give us.

I greet you on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh, and I pray that your days may be blessed and your lives made holy by His abiding presence within you and among you. I place before you some sayings of the French Orthodox theologian Olivier Clément (+2009), hoping they may help you reflect on some of the essential meanings of the Feast of the Nativity, so that you may live it more deeply.

Olivier sees the Nativity as a call to allow the incarnate Word to dwell within us, so that we in turn may become words of consolation and hope. Thus, the feast becomes more than a season or beautiful rituals; it becomes a daily journey of discipleship, through which the world is renewed from within, the logic of domination is replaced by the logic of giving, and the night of humanity is illumined by a light that never fades.

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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Among his sayings:

- The Nativity is the beginning of the revolution of divine love, in which God enters into human fragility in order to transform it into glory. (*The Song of Tears*)
- God did not come to Bethlehem to assert power, but to reveal a weakness stronger than all power: the power of love. (*The Roots of Christian Mysticism*)
- The Nativity is not an event of the past, but a mystery present at every moment, for God continues to be born in the heart of the one who opens himself to Him. (*The Transfiguration of Death*)
- Christ came so that we might fulfill our humanity in Him, that He might raise it to its full stature in love and freedom. (*The Song of Tears*)
- The Incarnation of Christ proclaims that time is no longer a closed circle, but has become a path to eternity, because God has entered our history. (*The Song of Tears*)
- The cave is no longer merely a place, but the human heart when it opens itself to the presence of God. (*The Song of Tears*)
- In a world consumed by nothingness and despair, the light of the Nativity shines forth to say to us: You are not alone—God is with you, God is within you. (*The Roots of Christian Mysticism*)

On this blessed feast, my prayer for you is that God may remain with you, that you may always be aware of His presence, and that you may respond to Him.

May every Nativity find you in all goodness.

With my love and prayers,



+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

THE SYNAXARION

On December 28 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the twenty thousand martyrs burned in Nicomedia; and Venerable Simon the myrrh-streaming, founder of Simonopetra monastery on Athos.

On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of God and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.

Verses

I honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin, who to be her protector was alone chosen.

Thou art a carpenter's son, but also the brother of the Lord that built all with a word, O blest James.

What shall I say, seeing that the Lord testifieth, as a man after Mine own heart, I have found David.

David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David's seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Amen.

Gratitude

The Order of St. Ignatius Supports
The Retired Clergy Allowance

... you help give comfort and financial assurance to our retired clergy and their families. You express your gratitude to your beloved priest, faithful counselor and comforting friend who's been with you during your times of need, joy and sorrow.

We Need Your Help To Do More ...

For over 48 years, members of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch have shown steadfast generosity. Since 1976, your nearly \$50 million in gifts have fueled the ministries and charitable work of our Antiochian Archdiocese. As the Archdiocese grows, so do its needs. We ask for your continued support—not just to sustain our efforts, but to expand them for future generations.

The Order now provides \$270,000 annually for the Retired Clergy Allowance.

With more clergy entering retirement, this need continues to rise and we need to help.

In a world pulling young people away from the Church, we must do more. Our current \$380,000 budget supports vital programs, but demand is outpacing resources. These are just two of the many areas where your generosity can make a lasting difference.

Help us do more. For our clergy. For our youth. For our Church.

**\$500 or \$1,000 In 2025 Just
Doesn't Go As Far As It Did In 1976**

It takes
\$1,677 today
to maintain
the purchasing power of
\$500 in 1976



It takes
\$3,353 today
to maintain
the purchasing power of
\$1,000 in 1976

NOTE: Calculations are based on a 2.5% inflation rate over a 48-year period and are for illustrative purposes only.



The Order of
Saint Ignatius
of Antioch

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor.

— Saint Ignatius of Antioch

Annual Gift Increase

Increase your gift of
\$500/yr. or \$41.67/mth
as a Knight or Dame
to

\$1,000/yr. or \$83.33/mth
as a Knight or Dame Commander

Life & Metropolitan Upgrade

The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program

You can upgrade to Life Member or
Metropolitan Member for a gift of
\$10,000 or \$20,000
paid over a 2-year or 3-year period.

See gifting options page for more details.

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.

GIVE TO ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER



<https://www.orthodoxredeemer.org/funds>

