

The Archangels Diocese

Saints Peter and Paul Mission

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

25 December 07 January 2017

Bishop Alexios Blumer

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Greetings and blessed Congratulations' on the Nativity of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ! My Beloved Bishops, Priests and monastics of all ranks, Deacons, Sub-Deacons, readers and Faithful.

Oh, come and behold, Our Savior is Born, rejoice in the Lord, where we declare the present mystery, for the disunion has been destroyed. The sword has been turned back, the Cherubim has turned back from the tree of life and we partake of the food of paradise, whence because of disobedience we have been expelled.

How do we understand this? The image of Eternity has taken on the form of a servant. Now, thru God's love for us we are invited once again, to Eternal Salvation thru the Father giving unto us His Son, to abolish our ancestral sin, thru our own baptism and regeneration, confession and forgiveness from sin. How can we comprehend His love for us? How do we conclude to the virtues of meekness, humility, kindness, love, mercy, and forgiveness? Oh, sweet infant Immortal, child unburdened, how do we look upon thee? How can we imitate thy tenderness and love for us? Dare we ask for mercy and strength to overcome our sin, confess openly and behold the beauty you have given to us. Where could our desires lead us if we live our life seeking thee? We bow to thee, honor and glorify thee all the days of our lives. Our corruption is inconsolable, we are weak and distracted but for a moment we remember and look toward thee in awe. Will you give us strength to come willing unto you, and forgive us our transgressions accept our supplications, and accept the little offering of love we have with mercy.

And behold Our Glorious Mother, the Theotokos unwedded, and not having suffered change, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and bringing forth your Son and our Saviour. How tender thy mystery is that thou have brought forth the Light of the world. Pure, Holy and spotless Mother, our eternal Mother, can you hear our

supplications and lighten our heart, from our endless sin. You have brought all that a Mother can bring us, you have thru God brought forth life.

If this is our reflection on the Nativity, we can hope thru desire to look upon the Birth of Life Immortal Our Glorious King, and God. We must have these desires every moment in our heart, these reflections, make them your own, change them that they may change you. Do not be distracted by the evil one, passions of life, distemper towards others. Look upon the Birth and the Christ child as your embodiment of love and compassion. Strengthen your soul with prayer turn toward Christ, because He has come into the world for each of us one to another personally, to impart His gift of Love and life everlasting if we choose it.

Today we live in a world of martyrdom, hate, immorality, sin, self-indulgence. We do not have time to look to the left or the right of ourselves, we must look only at ourselves. We are in peril of our souls. The world wants to pull us into heresy daily, and they grow like dandelions in the field. How can we not see what is around us? Take refuge in prayer, fasting, the sacraments of the church. Good will toward your fellow man, alms giving are important, and our guide. Our pride, judgement, and opinion towards one another keep far from existence. Talk to your Priest, and to others in your spiritual family, keep one another in check, and turn your attention towards God at all times. Remember a weak person asking for support is more pleasing to God, than an arrogant man who knows everything, but has not lived one day for God. Most importantly give all Glory to God today and forever.

May this Nativity bring you joy, love, steadfastness, and happiness today and thru out the year, Amen.