



+ In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit +

January Newsletter

By: **Dr. Maher Rizkalla, PhD.**

Feast of the Nativity of Christ is a celebration of the Incarnation of the Eternal Word, the Son of God; in fact, through His incarnation the world is transfigured and restored. With the appearance of God, the world entered a new beginning and took on a new direction. He restored the likeness of God in us, and showed us the way to the Father. In incarnation, God became a real man to identify and save His creation. In that day, *"the whole creation is made rich: let it rejoice and be of good cheer. The Master of all has come to live with His servants, and from the bondage of the enemy. He delivers us who were made subject to corruption (Rom. 8.20, 21).* At His birth, the ray of light from heaven shone over the place of the Incarnation and pointed directly to the Christ-child who was laying in the manger. Therefore, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ has become a turning point in the history of mankind; marking the birth of humanity; for in the Nativity was the Incarnation, and in the Incarnation was Salvation, and through Salvation we received adoption by becoming heirs to the heavenly Kingdom. Therefore, the most important reason for salvation was to resolve the redemption issue and to bring man to his first rank, which he had fallen off because of the original sin. In that day, God became with us "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14) meaning God is with us. All Creation offered thanks:

1. The angels offered a hymn;
2. The heavens offered a star;
3. The Magi offered gifts;
4. The shepherds offered their wonder;
5. The earth offered its cave;
6. The wilderness offered the manger: and
7. we "humanity" offered a virgin Mother

Adoption. "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4,5).

Partakers of the divine nature. "Those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit" (Hebrews 6:4). Blessed in Him. Our new man has become renewed in the Creator's image "since you have put off the old man with his deeds" (Colossians 3:9) and our human nature has become blessed in him after He has given our nature the spirit of power and victory. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8). God's proximity to us. God became close to man "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life" (1 John 1:1). Establishment of Peace on Earth. "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:13, 14).

❖ Conclusion

In the great love that God has offered me, what shall I offer Him in this Nativity feast? Let us all ask Him to have our hearts mangers for Him so He can clean them and purify them from all wrath and distress. Let us all work on our resolutions to love Him accordingly and follow His commands.

Services Schedule

Sunday

Sunday Liturgy
9:00 A.M. – 12:10 P.M.

Sunday School
12:05 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Saturday

Hymns Lesson
6:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Offering of Incense
7:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Bible Study
7:30 P.M. – 8:15 P.M.

Midnight Praise
8:30 P.M. – 10:30 P.M.

Wednesday

Family Meeting
7:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

Thursday

Offering of Incense
7:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Friday

Holy Liturgy
6:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.

Youth Meeting
6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Women's Bible Study
7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Servants Meeting
8:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

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