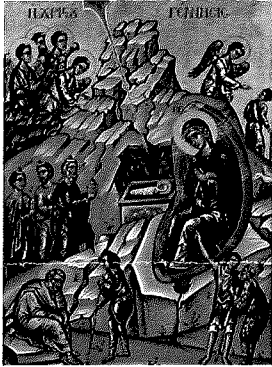




## Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

The Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

His Eminence, Archbishop JOSEPH



**“Today Christ is born in Bethlehem of the Virgin. Today the Beginningless doth begin, and the Word becometh incarnate. The powers of heaven rejoice, and earth is glad with mankind. The Magi do offer presents, and the shepherds with wonder proclaim. As for us we shout ceaselessly, crying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.”**

(Second Orthros Doxastikon of Nativity)

Beloved in Christ:

**Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

**المسيح ولد ، فمجدوه !**

**Χριστός γεννάται! Δοξάσατε!**

**Христос се роди! Ваистину се роди!**

On this Holy Day of the Incarnation of the Word of God, the Feast of the Most Holy Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us contemplate the mystical union of God and man. The Virgin conceived a child that was in every way human, and thus our Lord, out of His infinite and pure love, shared in our hardships and struggles bearing the weight of our fallen nature in His own Person, that we might be freed from our sin.

Having completed the journey of Advent, purified by repentance, fasting, prayer and almsgiving, let us embrace the joy and warmth of the birth of our Savior – the unassuming child who was born quietly, humbly. The King of Glory who was born of a mother, turned away from every house, in a cave among the animals who could not speak. With our entire being now healed, changed and renewed, let us adorn Him with the gifts He desires most from us - love and forgiveness, peace and joy among men and in all the world.

Yours in His Service,

