

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Bishop THOMAS



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Headquartered in the
Mid-Atlantic States

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

2024 Greeting for the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Beloved in Christ,

On this joyful occasion of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we greet you with all spiritual love and blessings. The Blessed Child who is born in a manger for our salvation, gladdens the whole universe and by his condescension takes on our fallen human nature and sets us free from the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Through Him, we have been lifted from darkness to light, from despair to hope, from sorrow to joy!

St. Ephraim the Syrian (4th century) wrote a significant number of hymns, poems and homilies during his life lived as an ascetic. One of his collections of hymns is titled “19 Hymns for the Nativity of Christ.” The following is an excerpt from Hymn 2:

Blessed be that Child, Who gladdened Bethlehem today!
Blessed be the Babe, Who made manhood young again today!
Blessed be the Fruit, Who lowered Himself to our famished state!
Blessed be the Good One, Who suddenly enriched our necessitousness and supplied our needs!
Blessed He Whose tender mercies made Him condescend to visit our infirmities!

Blessed be He Whom our mouth cannot adequately praise, because His Gift is too great for skill of orators [to tell]; neither can the faculties adequately praise His goodness. For praise Him as we may, it is too little.

And since it is useless to be silent and to constrain ourselves, may our feebleness excuse such praise as we can sing.

How gracious He, Who demands not more than our strength can give! How would Your servant be condemned in capital and interest, did he not give such as he could, and did he refuse that which He owed! Ocean of glory Who needs not to have Your glory sung, take in Your goodness this drop of praise; since by Your Gift You have supplied my tongue a sense for glorifying You.

May we lift our voices in praise of our incarnate Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and through our lives may we magnify Him with the heavenly hosts! Blessed Feast!

Yours in Christ,

Rt. Rev. Bishop THOMAS (Joseph)

Auxiliary Bishop

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

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