

The Sunday after the Nativity

Matthew 2:13-23

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene. (KJV)

Peace of God! Christ is Born!

Every single child is precious. Every single life is precious. The current Gospel speaks about Herod seeking to kill children ages two and under. Herod wanted to kill the Christ-Child.

Archelaus is mentioned also as a possible danger to the Christ-Child, Jesus Christ's birth is celebrated in the present. Mindful believers attentive to the news are aware of the strong interest in abortion to continue the killing of children,

Society is measured by the way the way each person is treated. Christ's birth in the taking of human flesh draws attention to the value of each human birth. Each child is to be embraced and welcomed into the world with love and joy.

Progress is needed to root out the sin in the present world. Restoring love and value to human birth is a challenge. God's wisdom is necessary to reduce the rancor that arises around the giving birth to children.

Jesus Christ's birth is a time of great joy. Mary and Joseph were blessed among all males and females through the centuries to have the responsibility of protecting and caring for the Christ-Child.

Mary was chosen among all women of all centuries to be the birth-mother of the Christ Child. Her Divine selection and the action of the Holy Spirit exceed the capacity of the finite mind to fully understand and comprehend.

Joseph's responsibility in the face of the dangers mentioned in the present Gospel is not commonly highlighted. Today's world is often considered dangerous. Herod's actions in killing young children are mind-gripping.

The joy of the Feast of the Nativity cannot be over shadowed by Herod's actions. Joseph, Mary and Jesus were able to travel and remain safe. Jesus was able to grow to adulthood.

Our love for Christ and our life-in Christ is certainly linked with the Virgin birth and the dangers that arose immediately. God's protection of the Christ-Child is evident.

God's action in today's world is evident for persons with eyes to see. The Church helps believers to find the way through the dangers of present-day life. God's Holy Church is a haven of peace in a world filled with danger.

Each day the Church sets forth Divine services, wisdom and instruction to lead believers to the Kingdom of God. Wise believers look daily to the Church for nourishment, direction and strength.

The Church is within reach of each person seeking to address the hunger of the soul. The Church is present to enable the believer to unite and remain united with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ taking on human flesh and dwelling among the living set in motion a change in the world that continues until the Second Coming. God's Church enables believers to live, prepare and to grow in Christ until the Second Coming.

Believers seeking to understand the world's events learn from the Church's history and teachings through the centuries. The saints offer words of wisdom to address current and future concerns.

Jesus Christ's teachings and life including His death on the Cross and Resurrection give believers the basis for continuing until the Second Coming. Jesus Christ's Nativity lifts believers' minds to the heights and to the heavens.

Joy fills believers' hearts with the knowledge of Jesus Christ's birth. New life in Christ becomes possible. Jesus Christ is stronger than sin. Jesus Christ is stronger than death.

Each family, each home, each person benefits from Jesus Christ's relationship with Mary and Joseph. Each believer benefits from realizing the danger Jesus faced from the time of His birth.

Every child faces danger at birth. A home filled with love and care make a difference for children brought into the world. Protective, loving and caring parents make a difference in raising children.

The Church is where to learn about child-rearing. The Church provides nourishment for parents and children during life's journey to the Kingdom. Be thankful for Jesus' birth and safe passage to adulthood.

Peace of God! Christ is Born!

The Sunday after the Feast of the Nativity. Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos. December 26, 2022/January 8, 2023. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic