

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!

The current Gospel reflects the animosity Herod maintained against the New Born Christ Child and his interest in killing Him. Herod's animosity materialized in the killing of all children of two years of old and under.

The killing of young children is horrific and occurs too often up to the present days. The killing of unborn children has been a widespread and desired practice among many in the current world.

The Lord Jesus Christ's life was spared during His Infancy and until Adulthood. When later in Life the Lord Jesus Christ was Crucified, He defeated death and rose from the Tomb.

During this time of the Feast of the Nativity, it is extremely beneficial to consider the Birth of the Lord Jesus deep within the heart, mind and soul. This is the time for Jesus Christ to dwell and live deep within each of us.

Each person's soul hungers for the authenticity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is deep within each person. The Church helps believers to recognize the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Jesus Christ manifests Himself in the Church and enriches the lives of believers through the Holy Mysteries. Jesus Christ's Peace, Love and Joy radiate throughout God's Holy Church in every century and throughout the world.

The celebration of the Feast of the Nativity in God's Holy Church enables believers to be educated about Christ's Birth. Believers experience the Birth of Jesus Christ on a personal and collective basis in the Church.

Open hearts, minds and souls personally experience Jesus Christ's Birth. The Mystery of Christ's Birth exceeds human understanding yet is realized each year in the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity.

Christ's Peace, Love and Joy come alive in God's Holy Church on the Feast of the Nativity. Christ's Peace, Love and Joy live within the hearts, minds and souls of all fervent believers.

The Herod of old exists in different forms in the present world and with different identities. Forces against Christ always exist. Evil is always present. The Triumphant and Resurrected Christ is present to dispel and overcome evil.

God's Holy Church provides the nourishment for believers to deal with evil. The Church enables believers to experience the Resurrected Christ in the Divine Liturgy.

Jesus Christ keeps believers strong against the forces of evil. The Church provides the pathway to the Kingdom of God and eternal life. The Feasts of the Church are integral to the narrow path leading toward the Kingdom of God,

The hunger of the soul is nourished with each Feast of the Church. Believers' lives are enriched with the celebrations of the Church's feasts. The Life of Christ is made known to the world through the Feasts.

Believers grow in Christ with each festal celebration. Jesus Christ becomes better known to each believer attentive to the meaning of the feasts. The Church's celebrations are instructive and educational in additions to being joyful.

Give abundant thanks to the Lord for the Feast of the Nativity. Be grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the Feast in peace and freedom. Be increasingly attentive to the content of the Divine services to be better educated.

Let each Feast be a time of personal renewal and growth in Jesus Christ. Prepare daily for Jesus Christ's glorious Second Coming. Constantly repent of sins and be vigilant against the forces of evil.

God's Holy Church is a blessing beyond measure. Do not take the Church for granted. Do not be lukewarm in celebrating Jesus' Birth. Fervent belief in Jesus Christ transforms personal life.

Fervent belief in Jesus Christ brings Christ's Peace, Love and Joy alive in the believer. God's Holy Church makes possible the celebrating of the Birth of Jesus Christ. Be ever thankful! Peace of God! Christ is Born!

The Twenty Ninth Sunday after Pentecost. Sunday after the Nativity. Virgin Martyr Anysia. Venerable Teodora of Caesaria in Cappadocia. December 30, 2024/ January 12, 2025. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic