

Peace of God! Christ is Born!
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)

Herod wanted to kill the infant Jesus. He ordered the killing of all young males under age two in his anger. Many years later, Jesus would suffer on the Cross. The desire to rid the world of the Savior was relentless.

The killing of young children did not stop with Herod. Abortion has taken the lives of countless children. The attitude of that led to Jesus Christ's crucifixion continues among many until the present day.

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

Each human life is worthy and merits the firmest defense. Jesus' birth, life, death on the Cross and Resurrection establish the value of each human life. The killing of children is without valid defense

The young Jesus survived the threat of Herod. Jesus overcame His death on the Cross. He rose from the Tomb. We celebrate Jesus' birth at this time in the Church. We continue to celebrate His Resurrection with each Divine Liturgy.

Believers benefit from dwelling on the meaning of Jesus Christ taking on human flesh. Benefit exists in knowing Jesus had a human body while at the same time remaining Divine.

The joy of the Nativity abounds in the Church in the present. Christ's joy exceeds all joy. The heart, mind and soul embracing the joy of Christ are manifested in human actions and in human relationships.

God's Holy Church is filled with joy on the Feast of the Nativity. Nativity joy is celebrated liturgically until the Leave-taking of the Feast. Christ's birth is reason for believers to focus their lives on the path of Christ leading to His Kingdom.

Too many people with similar interests as Herod exist in the world. The desire to stifle the way of Christ exists in parts of the world. Some individuals, groups and nations are restrictive and antagonistic to Christianity.

The United States of America offers freedom to worship and proclaim belief in Jesus Christ. United States residents do well to protect the freedom of worship. Thank God for the freedom to worship.

Believers making good use of freedom of worship improve their families and their communities. Human relationships founded in Jesus Christ build and strengthen the community.

Jesus was born in humble circumstances. Jesus did not enter the world in luxury. Jesus, Mary and Joseph traveled by a simple way on an animal. Jesus did not advocate or teach ways of accumulating excessive riches.

Jesus' humility and humble way of life serve as the basis for believers to assess and evaluate personal goals and interests. Personal views on young children and giving birth to children need constant review.

Christ's birth brings joy to the Christian world. Self-analysis will reveal if life is being lived in ways consistent with Christ's teachings which lead to constant joy. Repentance is always possible for believers to begin life anew in Christ.

Thank God for the Church setting aside time to honor and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Thank God for the clergy, choirs and church supporters making the celebration of Christ's birth possible.

Thank God for nations that have freedom of worship. It very easy to take freedom of worship for granted. Freedom of worship is to be protected and fully utilized.

The Church witnesses to Christ's birth throughout the world. Communism and other forces of suppression have not eradicated the celebration of Jesus' birth. Even in times of war, soldiers have paused to celebrate Jesus Christ.

Christ's birth brings light to the dark moments of life. Christ's birth brings peace to receptive hearts, minds and souls. Thank God for the opportunity to celebrate Jesus' birth. Christ is Born! Indeed He is Born!

The Sunday after the Nativity. Holy 14,000 Infants of Bethlehem. Venerable Marcellus. December 29, 2025/January 11, 2026. Father Rodney Torbic