



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

December 25, 2010

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The Reverend Clergy

Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Esteemed Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils and Philotochos Societies, Faculty & Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Greek Orthodox Communities of our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey,

My Beloved in the Lord,

*"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (which means, God with us)." (Isaiah 7: 14)*

*"...behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet..." (Matthew: 20-22)*

Today the earth receives her King and Salvation is born into the world. All of God's creation today rejoices as God Himself has condescended to our lowly nature and taken on flesh. He has allowed Himself to be born into creation so that He could redeem that very same creation; returning everything from corruption to the divine and heavenly. Christ Himself, being the pre-eternal Word of God, took this burden upon Himself, this true act of love, so that He could teach and impart to us His Gospel, so that we who are sinful beings and the fallen creation, would have a pathway back to Paradise. The Garden that man was once long ago cast out of, whose gates were sealed and guarded by the Cherubim, have been reopened by the very one who sealed it –Almighty God, by the Word, Jesus Christ.

It is my sincere prayer for all the faithful Communicants of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey that this Christmas, we would all regain that true sight and recognize the New Born King and His Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit, so that with that sight regained, we would correct our course in this life and then be able to lead others, by the grace of God, to salvation that is born into the world today. I exhort all of you within our Holy Metropolis to put aside the window dressing and ornaments, to cast aside gifts that will only decay, and to embrace the One who brought about the creation of all things.

Let us also realize that our Lord allowed us to partake in this salvation. Through the purity and obedience of a young virgin, our blessed Theotokos, we are now active participants in salvation, with our Lord. We marvel at the One who bore the Light, by which all of creation would be redeemed. I hope and pray that all of you have a most blessed Christmas and that the New Born King will continue to enlighten and strengthen all of you and your families during this most special and holy time of year. I remain,

With Paternal Love in the New-Born King and God,

† EVANGELOS  
Metropolitan of New Jersey