



## Archangel Michael Church

Η Εκκλησία του Αρχαγγέλου Μιχαήλ

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The Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

**Your nativity, O Christ our God, \* has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. \* For therein the worshippers of the stars \* were, by a star, \* instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, \* and to know You as Orient from on high. \* O Lord, glory to You.**



As Psalm 45, the third psalm read during the first hour of the Royal Hours of Christmas begins the following, “God is our refuge and power; a help in afflictions that severely befall us. Therefore, we will not fear when the earth is troubled.”

What an incredible amount of potential and confidence a person may have when they are aware of God’s presence in one’s life. One such person, who exemplifies the confidence in knowing that “God is with us!” is St. Nicholas, who is the source of the legend of Santa Claus.

While on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, the boat on which he travelled was met with a severe storm, which threatened the lives of all the passengers. St. Nicholas stood in prayer with his hand outstretched and rebuked the storm. The Saint knew “God is

with us!” In another instance, three young men were before the swordsman for execution. St. Nicholas grabbed the hand and sword of the executioner and revealed to the governor who the real culprits were in the crime. The governor repented in tears because he was bribed to sentence the young men to death. St. Nicholas knew that “God is with us!” These two examples from the life of St. Nicholas show a man strong in faith, who knew “God was with him” and showed no fear in the midst of great storms and the corrupt power of government.

Over the course of this past year the earth has trembled and we have been met with tremendous tragic events such as: natural disasters like the fires in Greece and California; a pandemic that just will not go away; torrential rain falls and floods in the United States and throughout the world; humankind’s addictive consumption that has had a colossal effect on the environment; an attack on the symbol of democracy that has created such insane scenarios that the most stable country in the world seems ready to fall apart...

Comfort! Strength! Solutions! One’s confidence will never be fulfilled in fullness, with human institutions. These great characteristics are found in the faith and worship that is rendered to “Emmanuel” (God Who is with us)! God is true power and true refuge.

As the celebration of the birth of Emmanuel approaches, His hope inspired angels to glorify the Child wrapped in swaddling cloths in the manger. It is Emmanuel who moved the Magi to travel from afar to offer their gifts of gold, myrrh, and frankincense. It is He Who brought the shepherds to abandon their flocks and to come and worship the Shepherd of all. The humble and mystical birth of Emmanuel changed the philosophical and logical mind of Joseph to believe in the unbelievable. It is “God Who is with us” that brought Mary to ponder and keep all these events in her heart. May Emmanuel (God Who is with us) fill everyone’s hearts with comfort, joy, courage, confidence to meet all the challenges that will come forward in the new year.

Peace! Grace! Mercy! And the Love of God, Who sent His only-begotten Son (Emmanuel), by the power of the Holy Spirit be with you and your family.

In Christ,

Fr. John K. Lardas

### Άγιοι και Εορτές

Η κατὰ σάρκα Γέννησις τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ Θεοῦ καὶ Σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἡ Προσκύνησις τῶν Μάγων. Τῶν θεασσαμένων Ποιμένων τὸν Κύριον.

### Saints and Feasts

The Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ; the Adoration of the Magi; the Shepherds who saw the Lord.

### Ἀντίφωνον Β΄

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθεὶς, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα.

### Antiphon II

Save us, O Son of God, who were born of a Virgin. we sing to You, Alleluia.

### Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς

Ἦ γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο· σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

### Hymn of the Feast (4<sup>th</sup> Mode)

Your nativity, O Christ our God, \* has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. \* For therein the worshippers of the stars \* were, by a star, \* instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, \* and to know You as Orient from on high. \* O Lord, glory to You.

### Εἰσοδικόν

Ἐκ γαστρὸς πρὸ ἑωσφόρου ἐγέννησά σε. Ὡμοσε Κύριος καὶ οὐ μεταμεληθήσεται. Σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθεὶς, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα

### Entrance Hymn (2<sup>nd</sup> Mode)

I have begotten You from the womb before the morning star. The Lord swore and will not repent. You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, who were born of a Virgin. We sing to You, Alleluia.

### Ἀντί Του Τρισάγιου

Ὅσοι εἰς Χριστὸν ἐβαπτίσθητε, Χριστὸν ἐνεδύσασθε. Ἀλληλούϊα.

### Instead of "Holy God"

All those who have been baptized in Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia.

### Κοντάκιον

Ἦ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἀστέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεός.

### Kontakion (3<sup>rd</sup> Mode)

On this day the Virgin bears \* the Transcendent in Essence; \* to the Unapproachable, \* the earth offers a small cave. \* Angels sing, and with the shepherds, \* offer up glory. \* With a star, the Magi travel along their journey. \* He was born for our salvation, \* a newborn Child, \* the pre-eternal God.

### Ὕμνος εἰς τὴν Θεοτόκον

Verse: Μεγάλυνον ψυχὴ μου, τὴν τιμιωτέραν καὶ ἐνδοξοτέραν, τῶν ἄνω στρατευμάτων.

Μυστήριον ξένον, ὁρῶ καὶ παράδοξον! οὐρανὸν τὸ Σπήλαιον, θρόνον Χερουβικόν, τὴν Παρθένον, τὴν φάτνην χωρίον, ἐν ᾧ ἀνεκλήθη ὁ ἀχώρητος, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, ὃν ἀνυμνοῦντες μεγαλύνομεν.

### Hymn to the Theotokos (1<sup>st</sup> Mode)

Verse: O my soul, magnify her who is greater in honor and in glory than the armies of heaven.

I see here a strange and paradoxical mystery. \* For, behold, the grotto is heaven; \* cherubic throne is the Virgin; \* the manger a grand space \* in which Christ our God the uncontainable reclined as a babe; \* Whom in extolling do we magnify.

### Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir of God through Christ.

### Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου 4:4-7

Ἀδελφοί, ὅτε ἦλθεν τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ, γενόμενον ἐκ γυναικός, γενόμενον ὑπὸ νόμον, ἵνα τοὺς ὑπὸ νόμον ἐξαγοράσῃ, ἵνα τὴν υἰοθεσίαν ἀπολάβωμεν. Ὅτι δέ ἐστε υἱοί, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ εἰς τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν, κρᾶζον, Ἀββᾶ, ὁ πατήρ. Ὡστε οὐκέτι εἶ δοῦλος, ἀλλὰ υἱός· εἰ δὲ υἱός, καὶ κληρονόμος θεοῦ διὰ Χριστοῦ.

### Matthew 2:1-12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

### Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 2:1-12

Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ γεννηθέντος ἐν Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἐν ἡμέραις Ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως, ἰδοὺ μάγοι ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν παρεγένοντο εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα λέγοντες· ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ τεχθεὶς βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων; εἶδομεν γὰρ αὐτοῦ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ καὶ ἦλθομεν προσκυνῆσαι αὐτῷ. Ἀκούσας δὲ Ἡρώδης ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐταράχθη καὶ πᾶσα Ἱεροσόλυμα μετ' αὐτοῦ, καὶ συναγαγὼν πάντας τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ γραμματεῖς τοῦ λαοῦ ἐπυνθάνετο παρ' αὐτῶν ποῦ ὁ Χριστὸς γεννᾶται. οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ· ἐν Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας· οὕτω γὰρ γέγραπται διὰ τοῦ προφήτου· καὶ σὺ Βηθλεὲμ, γῆ Ἰούδα, οὐδαμῶς ἐλαχίστη εἶ ἐν τοῖς ἡγεμόσιν Ἰούδα· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ ἐξελεύσεται ἡγούμενος, ὅστις ποιμανεῖ τὸν λαόν μου τὸν Ἰσραὴλ. Τότε Ἡρώδης λάθρα καλέσας τοὺς μάγους ἠκρίβωσεν παρ' αὐτῶν τὸν χρόνον τοῦ φαινομένου ἀστέρος, καὶ πέμψας αὐτοὺς εἰς Βηθλεὲμ εἶπε· πορευθέντες ἀκριβῶς ἐξετάσατε περὶ τοῦ παιδίου, ἐπὰν δὲ εὑρήτε, ἀπαγγείλατέ μοι, ὅπως καὶ ἐγὼ ἐλθὼν προσκυνήσω αὐτῷ. οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες τοῦ βασιλέως ἐπορεύθησαν· καὶ ἰδοὺ ὁ ἀστήρ ὃν εἶδον ἐν τῇ ἀνατολῇ προῆγεν αὐτούς, ἕως ἐλθὼν ἔστη ἐπάνω οὗ ἦν τὸ παιδίον· ἰδόντες δὲ τὸν ἀστέρα ἐχάρησαν χαρὰν μεγάλην σφόδρα, καὶ ἐλθόντες εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν εἶδον τὸ παιδίον μετὰ Μαρίας τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ πεσόντες προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἀνοίξαντες τοὺς θησαυροὺς αὐτῶν προσήνεγκαν αὐτῷ δῶρα, χρυσὸν καὶ λίβανον καὶ σμύρναν· καὶ χρηματισθέντες κατ' ὄναρ μὴ ἀνακάμψαι πρὸς Ἡρώδη, δι' ἄλλης ὁδοῦ ἀνεχώρησαν εἰς τὴν χώραν αὐτῶν.



**Christmas Carols for  
Christmas Eve**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! The herald angels sing:  
Glory to the Newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all ye nations rise;  
join the triumph of the skies.  
With Angelic Host proclaim:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! The herald angels sing:  
Glory to the Newborn King!

**The First Noel**

The first Noel the angels did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

**Silent Night**

Silent Night! Holy Night!  
All is calm; all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

**Άγια Νύχτα**

Άγια Νύχτα, σε προσμένουν  
Με χαρά οι χριστιανοί  
Και με πίστη ανυμνούμε  
Το Θεό δοξολογούνε  
Μ' ένα στόμα, μια φωνή  
Ναι με μια φωνή

Η ψυχή μας φτερουγίζει  
Πέρα στ' άγια τα βουνά  
Όπου ψάλλουν οι αγγέλοι  
Απ' τα ουράνια θεία μέλη  
Στον Σωτήρα «Ωσαννά»  
Ψάλλουν «Ωσαννά»

**Christmas Carols for  
Christmas Eve**

**Aghia Nihta**

Aghia Nihta, se prosmenoun,  
me hara, I Hristiani.  
Ke me pisti animnoume,  
Ton Theon doxologhoume  
M'ena stoma, mia foni.  
Ne, me mia foni.

I psihi mas fteroughizi  
pera st' aghia ta vouna  
Ki' opou psaloun I angheli  
ap'ta ourania thia meli  
Sto Sotira Osana, Psaloun Osana!

**We Three Kings**

We Three Kings of Orient are  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder Star.  
Oh - Star of Wonder! Star of Night!  
Star with Royal Beauty Bright!  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to that Perfect Light.

**O Come All Ye Faithful**

O Come all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him  
born the King of Angels.  
O come let us adore Him!  
O come let us adore Him!  
O come let us adore Him – Christ the Lord!

**Καλήν Εσπέραν**

Καλήν εσπέραν άρχοντες,  
αν είναι ορισμός σας,  
Χριστού τη Θεία γέννηση,  
να πω στ' αρχοντικό σας.  
Χριστός γεννάται σήμερα,  
εν Βηθλεέμ τη πόλη,  
οι ουρανοί αγάλλονται,  
χαίρεται η φύσις όλη.

Εν τω σπηλαίῳ τίκτεται,  
εν φάτνῃ των αλόγων,  
ο βασιλεύς των ουρανών,  
και ποιητής των όλων.  
Πλήθος αγγέλων ψάλλουσι,  
το Δόξα εν υψίστοις,  
και τούτο άξιον εστί,  
η των ποιμένων πίστις.

### **Kalin Esperan**

Kalin esperan arhontes  
an ine orismos sas  
Xristu ti thia genissi  
Na po st' arhontiko sas  
Xristos gennate simeron  
en Vithleem ti poli  
I ourani agalonte  
Herete I fissis oli

En to spileo tiktete  
en fatni ton alogon  
o vassilefs ton ouranon  
ke piitis ton olon  
plithos agelon psalousi  
to doksa en ipsistis  
ke touton aksion esti  
I ton pimenon pistis

### **Αρχιμηνιά**

Αρχιμηνιά κι Αρχιχροινιά  
ψηλή μου δεντρολιβανιά  
κι αρχή καλός μας χρόνος  
εκκλησιά με τ' άγιο θρόνος.

Αρχή που βγήκε ο Χριστός  
άγιος και Πνευματικός,  
στη γη να περπατήσει  
και να μας καλοκαρδίσει.

Άγιος Βασίλης έρχεται,  
και δεν μας καταδέχεται,  
από την Καισαρεία,  
συ' σαι αρχόντισσα κυρία.

Βαστά εικόνα και χαρτί  
ζαχαροκάρνο, ζυμωτή  
χαρτί και καλαμάρι  
δες και με-δες και με το παλικάρι.

Το καλαμάρι έγραφε,  
τη μοίρα του την έλεγε  
και το χαρτί-και το χαρτί ομίλει  
Άγιε μου-άγιε μου καλέ Βασίλη.

### **Arhiminia**

Arhiminia ki arhihronia  
psili mou dentrolivania,  
ki arhi - ki arhi kalos mas hronos,  
ekklisia - ekklisia me t' agio thronos.

Arhi pou vgike o Hristos  
agios kai pnevmatikos,  
sti gi - sti gi na perpatisei  
kai na mas - kai na mas kalokardisei.

Agios Vasilis erhetai  
kai den mas katadehetai  
apo - apo tin Kaisareia  
eisai arho - eisai arhontissa, kiria.

Vasta eikona kai harti  
me to Hristo to litroti,  
harti - harti kai kalamari,  
des kai me - des kai me to palikari.

To kalamari egrafe  
Ti mira tou tin elege  
Kai to harti – kai to harti omili  
Agie mou – Agie mou kale Vasili

### **Joy to the World**

Joy to the world the Lord is come.  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and Nature sing  
And Heaven and Nature sing  
And Heaven and Heaven and Nature Sing.



# M e r r y C h r i s t m a s



To Our Archangel Michael Church Family !!



*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.*

John 3:16-17



On a silent and Holy Night, a Miracle happened. Angels announced the joyful news.

A Special Gift from God - the birth of Jesus - this is love - this is truly Christmas.

Christmas is an expression of Holy Love as the cradle was overshadowed by the cross.

The hands that formed the universe were pierced by the nails on Calvary.

God took four nails and the precious blood of Jesus and wrote the greatest love story that the world has ever heard.





*Christ is Born!*



*Glorify Him!*