



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

CHRISTMAS 2024

Ἰδοὺ ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἔξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσουσιν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουήλ· ὃ ἐστὶν μεθερμηνευόμενον Μεθ' ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός. Ματθ. 1:23

«Ὁ οὐρανός καὶ ἡ γῆ, σήμερον ἠνώθησαν, τεχθέντος τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Σήμερον Θεός ἐπὶ γῆς παραγένονε, καὶ ἄνθρωπος εἰς οὐρανοὺς ἀναβέβηκε». Ἰδοὺ, ὁ ἐνανθρωπήσας Τίος καὶ Λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, ὁ Σωτήρας τοῦ κόσμου ἀνάμεσά μας. Ὁ Θεός κατήλθε στή γῆ γιὰ νὰ ἀναβιβάσει στὸ ὕψος τοῦ οὐρανοῦ τὸν ἄνθρωπο. Ἦλθε ὁ Κύριος γιὰ νὰ θεραπεύσει τὸ μέγα τραῦμα, τὸν ἄνθρωπο. Ἦλθε ὁ Κύριος γιὰ νὰ σώσει τὸν ἄνθρωπο ἀπὸ τὸν θάνατο, τὴν ἁμαρτία καὶ τὸν διάβολο. Ἦλθε ὁ Κύριος γιὰ νὰ φέρει τὴν εἰρήνη τοῦ οὐρανοῦ στὸν ταραγμένο κόσμο.

Μὲ μετάνοια ἀληθινή, μὲ ταπεινώση περισσὴ καὶ καθαρὴ καρδιά ἄς πορευθοῦμε καὶ ἐμεῖς ὅπως οἱ ποιμένες πρὸς τὴν Βηθλεὲμ γιὰ νὰ συναντήσουμε τὸν τεχθέντα Κύριο. Ἄς προσεγγίσουμε τὸ μέγα μυστήριό τῆς ἐνανθρωπήσεως τοῦ Κυρίου μὲ τὴν συμμετοχὴ μας στὰ μυστήρια τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας καὶ στὴ Χάρη τοῦ Θεοῦ. Καὶ ἄς προσευχηθοῦμε ἀπὸ καρδίας ὁ ἐν σπηλαίῳ γεννηθεὶς Κύριος νὰ καταπαύσει τοὺς δαιμονικοὺς πολέμους καὶ νὰ χαρίσει εἰρήνην στὶς καρδιὰς τῶν ἀνθρώπων.

Καλὰ Χριστούγεννα καὶ εὐλογημένο τὸ νέον ἔτος 2025

"Behold, the virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call his name Emmanuel" (which means "God with us"). Matthew 1:23

"Heaven and Earth have been united today, now that Christ has been born. Today God has appeared on Earth, and Man has ascended to the Heavens." Behold, the Incarnate Son and the Logos of God the Father, our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world is in our midst. God has descended to Earth so that He may raise Man to the heights of Heaven. The Lord has come to heal Man of his great wound. The Lord has come to save Man from Sin, death, and the devil. The Lord has come to bring the peace of Heaven to a troubled and distressed world.

With true repentance, with abundant humility, and with a pure heart, let us journey, like the Wisemen of old, to Bethlehem so that we may greet our Newborn Jesus. Let us approach the great Mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord by participating in the Holy Sacraments of our Church, and in the joy of God. And let us pray with all our hearts that our Lord, who was born in a cave, may bring an end to demonic wars and grant peace to the hearts of all Mankind.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2024!

With Paternal Love and Blessings in Christ, the Newborn King,

Metropolitan Apostolos
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