



St. Innocent Orthodox Church

✙ 50th Anniversary: 1967-2017 ✙ Moscow Patriarchal Parishes ✙

23300 W. Chicago † Redford, MI 48239 † 313-538-1142 † Fax: 313-538-8126

Church Website: www.stinnocentchurch.com † E-Mail: froman@firebirdvideos.com

St. Innocent Monastic Community: 9452 Hazelton, Redford, MI 48239 † 313-535-9080

PASTOR: Mitered Archpriest Fr. ROMAN STAR † Cell: 313-319-0590

Dean, Central States Deanery, Patriarchal Parishes

DECEMBER 3, 2017

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr. DANEIL SHIRAK † 313-295-3073

Fr. JOSHUA GENIG † 630-936-6386

EPISTLE: Ephesians 5:9-19 (#229)

DEACON: Dn. Michael Comerford, Attached

GOSPEL: St. Luke 18:18-27 (#91)

ATTACHED: Sister Ioanna

TONE: 1

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Elizabeth Star Hatfield

READERS: Robert Latsko, George Hanoian; William Davis

✙ 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ✙

† 9:15am — HOURS & AKATHIST &/OR CANON; CONFESSIONS †

† 10am — DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM †

COMMEMORATED TODAY: Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias—635-605 B.C.). Ven. Savva (Sabbas), Abbot of Zvenigorod, disciple of Ven. Sergius of Rádonezh (1406). St. Theodulus, Eparch of Constantinople (ca. 440). Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas' Monastery (558). Hieromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria (606). Monk Martyr Cosmas of St. Anne's Skete (Mt. Athos).

FOR THE REPOSE OF: Estelle & Joseph Star; Anna & John Witkowski; Michael Sr. & Margaret Rusko; Mary, Andrew, Daniel, Michael & Lottie Yakuber; Ross & Margaret Falsetti; Helen, John & Carole Andrayko; Peter & Theresa Harvilla; Betty Martell; Frances, Todd & John Smoly; Peter Glover; Irene Adams; Ethel Elizabeth & Wayne Joshua deVyver, David Horka; Michael Rusko; Anna Lichagina, Yelena & Zinaida Korniyevskaya; Joseph Nossal; Michelle Tucker; Todd Comerford, John Manier, Jr.

MEMORY Catherine Alexiev, newly departed, who reposed on November 3rd (*Assumption ROCOR Cathedral, Ferndale*)

ETERNAL! Donald Yakuber, newly departed, who reposed on Friday, November 17th (& was buried on Monday, Nov. 20th)

FOR THE HEALTH OF: Archimandrite Seraphim; Priest Daneil, Mat. Debra & Corrina Shirak; Priest Joshua, Mat. Abigail, Emma, Clare, Rose & Anna Genig; Deacon Michael, Mat. Mary Ellen & Julius Comerford; Matushka Mary Donahue; Reader Robert Latsko, Reader George & Betty Hanoian, William Basil Davis, Rose Nossal, Mary Glover, Nancy Cupp, Vasiliki Stamoulis, Gerald Martell, Azbehat, Carl deVyver, Jo Anne Nicholas, Joan Rusko, Daria, Joseph Nossal, Ed Manier, Pat Harbut, Iskias Naizghi, Fr. Vasily Kuzmych, Fr. Dimitrie Vincent

ALSO FOR: Caitlin Minnick, who celebrates her Birthday, on Saturday, 9 December

✙ **MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!** ✙

SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEK (*Nativity Fast, 11/15-12/24: No meat, fish, dairy, alcohol till 12/25*)

Wednesday 12/6 10am **DIVINE LITURGY** for the FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS, WONDER-WORKER, ABP. OF MYRA

Saturday 12/9 4pm **GREAT VESPERS & CONFESSIONS**

Sunday 12/10 **27th Sunday After Pentecost**

9:15am Hours & Akathist/Canon; Confessions

10am **DIVINE LITURGY**, followed by Coffee Hour & Decorating of the church and hall by children

Up-coming Divine Services: Wednesday, December 13th, Feast of St. Herman of Alaska, Liturgy, 10am

Wednesday, December 20th, Feast of St. John of Kronstadt, Liturgy, 10am

PROSPHORA FOR TODAY IS OFFERED BY: **Nick & Jo Anne Nicholas**

In Memory Eternal of: Parents: Nick & Mary Nicholas, William & Gwendolyn Brashaw; siblings: Constance & Phil Phillips, Bill Brashaw, Pete Peponis; aunts & uncles: Spiro & Mary Nicholas, Pete & Andrew Kastel, Demitra Lebeau; friends: Frank Germany, John Wells; and **For the Health of:** daughter: Dawn Marie (Eric) Dalsasso; grandchildren: Carl (Brionne) Dalsasso, Darlene Wood; great-grandchildren: Lyla, Jovanni, Daniel Jr; siblings: Shirley Peponis, Jill & Sam Mitchell; cousins: Ted Nicholas, Patricia & Erne Marxen; all members of the Nicholas, Brashaw, Dalsasso, Marxen & Peponis families; parishioners & friends; St. Innocent Church, St. Innocent Monastic Community, Fr. Roman, Fr. Daneil, Fr. Joshua, Fr. Dn. Michael; Sister Ioanna; And **in Thanksgiving for:** our Church Wedding Anniversary on February 15th.

✙ **CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST! ✙ HE IS NOW & ALWAYS SHALL BE! ✙**

CANDLES FOR LAST SUNDAY, 26 NOVEMBER

YEARLY CHURCH VIGIL LAMPS:

Royal Doors Lamp: In Memory of Husband, Joseph; Son, Kenneth; parents, Michael & Margaret Rusko, & John & Martha Nossal, *by Rose Nossal*

Altar Candelabra: In Memory of Parents, Nicholas and Susan Yakuber, *by son, Donald Yakuber*

Altar Candles (2): In Memory of Irene Adams, *by Goddaughter, Rose Ann Everhardt*

Iconostasis Lamps: In Memory of departed family & friends; & Health of family & friends, *by Fr. Protodeacon Daniel & Mat. Irene Sudol*

Candles on the Solea: In Memory of Peter & Theresa Harvilla, Norman & Monica Holst, & Ricky Ellis, *by Jason & Debra Truskowski*

Table of Oblation Lamp: In Memory of Parents, Helen & John Andrayko, Sr. & sister, Carole Andrayko, *by John Andrayko, Jr.*

Reliquary-Icon Lamps: Sts. Innocent, Tikhon & Herman: Health of Joseph/Sue; Robert/Diane; Pat/John; Joseph B., Jared, Jay; Rachele/Aaron, Gabriel; Tricia, Lindsey; & In Memory of sisters, Anna, Margaret, Theresa & Irene; & brothers, John, Edwin & Michael *by Rose Nossal*

Reliquary-Icon Lamps: Sts. Elizabeth & Raphael: Health of the Genig and the Just Families, *by Fr. Joshua & Matushka Abigail Genig*

Reliquary-Icon Lamps: St. Seraphim & St. Alexis: In Memory of Ross & Margaret Falsetti, *by daughters, Rose Ann Everhardt & Margie Martell*

Reliquary-Icon Lamps: St. Nestor & St. Gerontius: In Memory of Rusko Family: Grandparents, Anna, Alexandra, Mike, Margaret, John, Mary, George, Pauline, Pete, Irene, Andrew, Anna, Grandparents Nickolas & Anna Schulik, *by Rose Nossal*

Reliquary-Icon Lamps: St. Hilarion & Sts. Alexandra & Martha: In Memory of Parents, Ethel Elizabeth & Wayne Joshua; Robert David H; // & Health of brother, Carl, *by Sister Ioanna*

IN MEMORY OF (MEMORY ETERNAL!)

Joseph & Estelle Star, *by son Father Roman and family*

Paul & Alexandra Yupco, Basil & Ellen Starinshak, *by grandson, Father Roman and family*

John & Anna Witkowski, *by daughter, Matushka Rose Marie and family*

Samuel & Mary Kupec, *by granddaughter, Matushka Rose Marie and family*

Parents, Helen & John Andrayko, and sister, Carole Andrayko, *by John Andrayko + + + My husband, Michael Rusko, by Joan Rusko*

My husband, Joe; my sisters, Margaret & Ross Falsetti, Anna & Mike Elaschat, Theresa & Pete Harvilla, Irene, & brothers, Michael, John & Edwin Rusko; niece, Rose Mary & Dean Hough; Joe's brothers, Raymond & Walter Nossal, & sisters, Theresa, Florence & Helen Nossal, *by Rose Nossal + + + Pete & Theresa Harvilla, by Mary Ann Harvilla & Kay Truskowski + + + Jaimie Truskowski, by daughter Kay T.*

Parents, Ethel Elizabeth & Wayne Joshua; David H; Nina I (11/13); Marion P; Fr. Photius (11/1); Archm. Roman; Mo. Benedicta, Molly, Olive, Donald Yakuber, *by Sr. Ioanna + + + Donald Yakuber, by Nancy Cupp (2x ?) + + + Parents, Michael & Lottie Yakuber, by Nancy Cupp*

Donald Yakuber, *by the Rock family + + + Donald Yakuber, by the Riley family + + + Donald Yakuber, by Linda Leith & family*

Donald Yakuber, *by June Rock + + + Donna Miller (newly departed, 11/25/17), by cousin Fr. Roman & Mat. Rose Marie & family*

Child Lana, Shirley, Betty, Marsha, Paul, *by Becky Jurczynsyn + + + Thelma Ratcliff, Louis Pitts, Gloria Robinson, Reginald Bell, by Maniers*

FOR THE HEALTH OF: (MANY YEARS!)

Elizabeth & Lawrence, Caitlin & Zachary, *by parents & grandparents, Father Roman & Matushka Rose Marie*

Gregory & Tamiko Star, *by parents, Father Roman & Matushka Rose Marie*

Children, Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren; Monk Fr. Sdn. Tikhon (Dade); *by Rose Nossal*

Father Roman & Matushka & family; Sister Ioanna; John Andrayko; Nancy; Mary G; Jo Anne N; Grandson Joey (*in the Navy Reserves*) & all people in the Armed Forces; & all St. Innocent Church parishioners, *by Rose Nossal + + + Family & Friends, by Mary Ann Harvilla & Kay*

Brother, Greg & Donna; nephew, Gregory & Liz & unborn-baby; & nephew, Alex, *by Mary Ann & Kay + + + Ed Manier, by Mary Ann H. & Kay*

Archimandrites Nafanail, Gregory & Seraphim; Fr. Roman & Mat. Rose Marie; Fr. Lawrence B & fam; Fr. Laurence L & fam; Fr. Daneil & fam; Fr. Joshua & fam; Fr. Dcn. Michael & fam; Mat. Mary D; Carl; Monk Fr. Tikhon; Sdn Andrew; Rdr Robert; Robert M; David Samuel/Sky & Avi; JoAnne/Nick; Athanasius; John A; Ed/Tiffany; Kim/Mark & fam; Frances/Ken; Deborah H; Rose; Vasiliki; Billy/Fonda, *by Sr. Ioanna*

Rose Nossal, *by John Andrayko + + + John Andrayko (May God watch over him), by Rose Nossal + + + Health & Salvation of Manier Family*

Alice & Autumn & unborn-baby, *by grandmother, Frances Roy + + + Anastasia (Ana) & John (Jasiu) (for peace), by mother, Frances Roy*

Leia, Mike, Reece & Wyatt Wilson; Bob/Joan Jurczynsyn; Toni /Richard Bussen; Pete, Krista, Jacob, Clair, Matt & Paul Stelmaszek; Damon Trestain, Levi Troyer, Briana Saylor, Ed Maresh, *by Becky Jurczynsyn + + + Health, family, Wosen (???) , by Nancy Cupp ???*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: NEXT SUNDAY, December 10th, after Liturgy, our church and hall will be decorated for the Nativity/Christmas feast by the children. Please plan to have all the children present to help with this joyful occasion.

(2) COCC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT: NEXT SUNDAY, December 10th, at 6:00 pm, the annual Nativity/Christmas Orthodox Concert in Metro-Detroit will be held at St. Mary the Protectress (Pokrov) Church at 21931 Evergreen, between 8 and 9 Mile Roads. The concert will feature Nativity hymns and carols from Greece, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine and other lands sung by choirs from local Orthodox churches, plus English-language hymns sung by these choirs with members of the Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit and a sing-a-long of popular carols. An afterglow reception will follow. Free-will donation. Bring canned food for the poor. (*See the poster on the bulletin board in the parish hall.*)

(3) CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: We still have 4 of the 6 giant poinsettia plants that will beautify our temple at Christmas to be donated, at \$25 each. **CHRISTMAS BOWS:** Mary Ann has made up many new, attractive "Christmas Bows," that will decorate our Christmas tree in the temple during this holy Nativity and Theophany season. Please donate as many "bows" as you possibly can (\$5 each), and write the names of your living and departed loved ones on them, for whom you offer prayers during the holy season. We rely on this annual fund raiser to help us pay our bills.

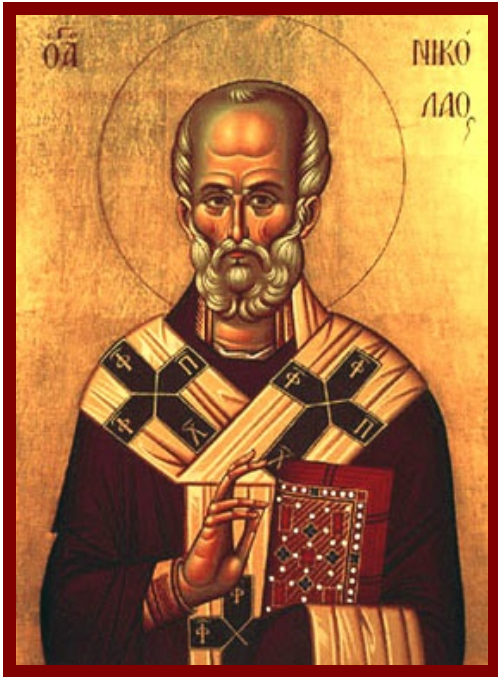
(4) ANNUAL FALL BLANKET CAMPAIGN. The 200 blankets have been paid for. Thank you to all those who donated.

(5) PLEASE PRAY FOR FR. VASILY & FR. DIMITRIE VINCENT, Pastor of St. Thomas (Albanian OCA) Church in Farmington Hills, both of whom are recuperating from major surgery.

(6) LISTEN EACH SUNDAY TO THE COCC'S DETROIT'S OWN ORTHODOX RADIO HOUR [DOOR] ON WNZK 690-AM, 4-5pm. On your radio, or live on computer at <http://www.doorradio.org>. After the broadcast, all programs are archived on their website.

LIFE OF SAINT NICHOLAS, THE WONDERWORKER

Whose feast-day is December 6th



Saint Nicholas, the Wonder-worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, is famed as a great saint pleasing to God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonder-worker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. St. Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From the time of his childhood, Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord, the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith, he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom St. Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. St. Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, St. Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to St. Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. St. Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, St. Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, St. Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and, yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive

at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, St. Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the time of persecution of Christians under the Emperor Diocletian (284-305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of St. Constantine (May 21) as emperor, St. Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, St. Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325 St. Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene 'Symbol of Faith,' and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Sts. Sylvester the Bishop of Rome (January 2), Alexander of Alexandria (May 29), Spyridon of Trimythontos (December 12) and other Fathers of the Council.

St. Nicholas, fired with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words, and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God, and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and also providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life, the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by St. Nicholas for his wrong doing, repented and begged for forgiveness.

Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the Emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of St. Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the Emperor, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to St. Constantine in a dream, St. Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

He worked many other miracles, and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea, and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, St. Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now (commemorated on May 9).

The name of the great saint of God, the hierarch and wonder-worker Nicholas, a speedy helper and suppliant for all hastening to him, is famed in every corner of the earth, in many lands and among many peoples. In Russia there are a multitude of cathedrals, monasteries and churches consecrated in his name. There is, perhaps, not a single city without a church dedicated to him. Many village churches in Russia were dedicated to the wonder-worker Nicholas, venerated by peasants as a merciful intercessor before the Lord for all the people in their work. And in the Russian land St. Nicholas did not cease his intercession.

Many wonderworking icons of St. Nicholas appeared in Russia and came also from other lands. It is impossible to list all the grace-filled icons of St. Nicholas, or to enumerate all his miracles. St. Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, poverty, or any misfortunes.



THE NATIVITY FAST

By Fr. Rostislav Sheniloff

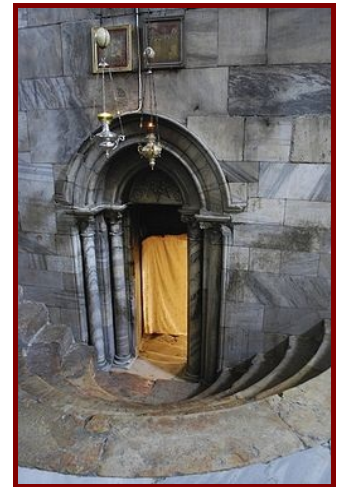
We have now gone through three weeks of the **Nativity Lent/Fast**, my dear friends. This fast, beginning on November 15th/28th, lasts for six weeks — almost as long as the Great Lent. However, the Nativity Lent has a different and entirely unique character. Lent in our minds is usually associated with penitence, sorrow, weeping over one's sins, cleansing the soul in preparation for the forthcoming great event or sacrament. In Christmas Lent, all concepts concerning lent — except for the last one, that is, purification of the soul — are eclipsed by two dominant characteristics. These are — humbleness and internal joy.



Why does the Church urge us to use this lenten period to bring our souls into a state of complete humility? Because the coming holiday, although so joyous and so great, is completely enveloped in the spirit of humility. The Apostle Paul explains to us that in this holiday “God on high descended upon earth, in order to elevate us into heaven.” But in order to achieve this, the Lord “diminished Himself, taking on the image of a servant, and was likened to man.” We are all servants of God, that is, we have all been created, and in order to become like man, the Lord had to diminish, lessen, exhaust, in other words — humble His Divinity. And all of this the Lord did for us, in order to save us from death and the power of the devil, so that man — the crown of God's creation — would not perish. In like manner we, too, should honor and thank our

Creator and Savior. We should diminish our pride, lessen our self-exaltment, exhaust our selfishness, and only then — through total humility — will we find that ascending road into heaven, into the Heavenly Realm, which the Lord has opened for us in His descent to earth.

In the Holy Land, in the town of Bethlehem, where the Lord was born in a humble manger 2,000 years ago, a majestic church now stands over the site of His birth. This church is distinguished by its entrance doors, which were made so low, that an average adult has to stoop in order to go in. This was done deliberately, to constantly remind us of the need for spiritual humility before the greatness of the event that took place here.



Entrance to the Grotto at the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

At the same time, Christmas Lent is also a time for joy. During Great Lent, for example, the Church so gives itself over to penitence, that with the exception of two major feasts — the Annunciation of the Holy Virgin and the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem — which are both directly linked to paschal events, there is hardly any commemoration of the feasts of major saints, since a holiday spirit would interfere with the purpose of this lent. The entire Christmas Lent, on the other hand, is studded with the feasts of major saints like glittering jewels: holy great-martyr Catherine, Saint Apostle Andrew, holy great-martyr Barbara, the great Saint Nicholas, Saint Herman of Alaska, and many others, as though indicating to us that the presence of all these saints and all this rejoicing has become possible only because the Lord has come down to earth and has opened the way to heaven. Thus throughout this entire period the Church strongly urges us to prepare for the coming joy with the words of the Christmas canon: “Christ is born — glorify Him! Christ comes from heaven — meet Him! Christ is on earth — be exalted!” Amen.

12/19/2010

THE WORK OF THE IOCC:

Celebrating 25 Years of Life-Giving Aid

Since our inception in 1992, IOCC has provided more than \$600 million in humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in more than 60 countries.

Throughout our history, because of support like yours, IOCC has been able to:

- respond to **refugee crises** in southern Ethiopia and Iraq
- provide **support and medical supplies** to refugee families with disabled children in Jordan
- support **job placement** by offering courses in English and computers to refugees in Lebanon
- stand ready to provide **emergency relief** after natural and man-made disasters including tornadoes and floods
- support **long-term economic development** projects around the world
- provide **essential food and school supplies** to 5,000 struggling Greek families
- assist more than 1.5 million people through **refugee return and assistance, agriculture and food production, community development, education and business development programs** by providing micro-credit programs in Bosnia-Herzegovina



THE IOCC HELPS FAMILIES SURVIVE IN THE GAZA STRIP



“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” ~ James 3:17-18

As we continue thinking about what we're thankful for this year, we're reminded that your support has helped people in need achieve a sustainable livelihood.

Feda, 32, lives in the southern Gaza Strip, where she applied to participate in an IOCC agricultural program. Since starting the program, Feda has drastically improved her home garden, allowing her to grow traditional aromatic and medicinal herbs

“Before getting help [through] IOCC, I was dreaming of an opportunity to help me get started. I had no hope and no income for a long time, and my kids were really suffering,” she recalled.

The program supplied Feda with a full package of agricultural necessities: an irrigation system, seeds, seedlings, organic fertilizers, and the manpower to help her rehab her garden. Your gifts also helped train Feda in organic planting, pest control, and water irrigation management so she could grow high-quality herbs without using chemicals and fertilizers. *“During the last year, I worked very hard looking after my rehabilitated garden to maximize its yield of herbs. I did it! I was able to replant and harvest several rounds.”*

Once Feda's garden was flourishing, the next step was using it for income. Through donor support, this IOCC program provided her with a solar dryer unit to preserve the extra herbs, which she can now sell at market.

“After one year of hard and dedicated work, I am now able to generate sustainable income to support my kids and [provide more] nutritious meals, medical care, and clothes. Finally, my dream came true.”