



SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

Christ is The Word LOGOS

*The mission of Saint Andrew the Apostle Orthodox Church
is to glorify our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ through our words and actions according to the Holy Traditions and Sacred Teachings of our
Holy Orthodox Christian Faith*

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

December 2023

Wisdom

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.

Philippians 2:14-16

December is Order of St. Ignatius Month

Christ is in our Midst!

Many of you have heard us talk about The Order of St. Ignatius over the years. Last month we were blessed to have five new members of our congregation join this important, life-changing ministry. December is considered to be Order of St. Ignatius month, since it is during this advent period that we are called to consider our deeds, thoughts and giving of our ourselves through selfless acts and gifts.

Please see the letter on page 4, which highlights some of the many ways that The Order helps areas in need throughout our archdiocese and beyond. While joining The Order is typically done during an induction ceremony when His Grace, Bishop Thomas, makes his annual visit to our parish, we want you to know that induction can take place at any time. If you are contemplating joining The Order for the first time, or perhaps upgrading your level of contribution, these events can be done by Father Herman at any time.

For more information, level upgrade, or arrangement of induction into The Order, please feel free to call upon me.

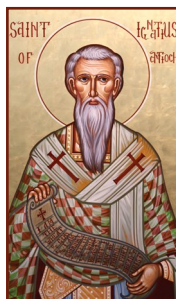
Wishing you all a most Blessed Advent Season!

Pamela Smith

Ambassador for The Order of St. Ignatius
to St. Andrew's

St. Ignatius of Antioch is commemorated
on **December 20**.

Join us for **Divine Liturgy at 10 am.**



Charitable Works

Feeding the homeless during the winter months

We will again be participating with Lighthouse for Broken Wings this winter (mid-December through the end of March) in **providing meals for the homeless**. The organization will be providing food for 15 adults at the Community Center every Wednesday and food for 50 adults and 30 children at the Red Mill Inn every Sunday. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, please pick up an information sheet in the narthex. See Lisa Wolak with questions.

Essential items for the homeless

We are continuing our collection of essential items for the homeless, to be distributed through the Shepherd's Office in Georgetown. **Any** new or gently-used clothing or shoes are welcome. **Always needed and welcome are personal hygiene items, new socks and undergarments, and gently used tents, tarps, and camping goods.**



Lunchbox Tuesday

Thanks to all who joined us to make 257 sandwiches on Tuesday, November 28! **Please join us next time, on Wednesday, December 27, at noon** (special day & time), when we do it again. Please see Lisa Wolak for details and to inquire about donations needed.

Ongoing collection of non-perishable foods

We continue to collect non-perishable food items and paper goods for the food pantry at the Christian Storehouse in Millsboro. Please do not donate anything beyond its expiration date.

"AND THE DISCIPLES WERE FIRST CALLED CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH" (Acts 11:26)

CHRISTMAS LITURGY

Two Liturgies on December 24? Christmas falls on a Monday this year, so our Nativity Liturgy on Christmas Eve will take place on Sunday. This raises the question of apparently having two liturgies on the same day. Remember, however, that the liturgical day is evening and morning. The day begins at sunset. Liturgically, our 6 pm Nativity liturgy will be taking place on a different day than our Sunday morning liturgy. There is no conflict and no obstacle to partaking of the Eucharist at both liturgies if you are properly prepared. In regard to fasting, please refrain from eating following lunch (fasting menu) if you intend to take communion in the evening.

Time to think Stewardship!

As we think about our stewardship in the Church - how we "give back" to God for all His blessings - we ask that you consider making a commitment of financial support to St. Andrew's. **Your pledge**, communicated to us via the pledge form, **helps us to plan** and budget the church's finances for the coming year. If you give regularly but don't pledge, thank you! But it would be helpful for us if we know in advance what your planned giving will be. A pledge is not binding; no one will send you a bill. If your circumstances change, you are free to change your giving plan.



Stewardship packets are now available for pickup in the church foyer (please **save us a stamp!**). The remainder will be mailed later. Information will also be posted on St. Andrew's website at orthodoxdelmar.org/stewardship.

We ask that you also fill out the Ministries panel and the Contact Information panel of the Stewardship brochure, even if nothing has changed, for our records.

Angel Tree

St. Andrew's will sponsor an Angel Tree again this year for needy residents of Harbor Healthcare Nursing Home who have no family to provide them with a gift for Christmas. Please reach into your heart and share your love this year with someone who would otherwise be overlooked. Angels are now available on the Christmas tree in the foyer, and instructions are posted nearby. Choose one item, or as many as you would like to give. Please package your gifts in a gift bag with tissue, and return to the church by December 17. Thank you all for your continued love, support, and enthusiasm for this most worthy project!



Financial Update

St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church Statement of Operating Revenue & Expense October 2023

	October 2023	YTD 2023
<u>Offerings/Operating Revenue</u>		
Pledges	7,055	85,980
Offerings & Candles	3,792	40,770
Interest Earned	1,208	1,853
Total Offerings/Operating Revenue	\$ 12,055	\$ 128,604
<u>General & Administrative Expenses</u>		
Compensation & Benefits	8,369	92,725
Archdiocese Expenses	2,786	18,434
Liturgical Expenses	-	1,609
Advertising	50	832
Insurance	418	1,672
Fees-Dues-Subscriptions	1	1,604
Furniture & Equipmt-Copier Maintenance	18	1,556
Bldg & Property Repairs & Maintenance	245	9,534
Office Supplies-Printing-Postage	28	741
Kitchen & Misc Supplies	207	1,660
Conferences & Retreats	-	5,902
Sunday School	-	25
* Church Events	-	1,246
St Andrew Fellowships & Teams	270	2,727
Utilities	766	8,354
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 13,158	\$ 148,621
Net Operating Revenue (Shortfall)	\$ (1,103)	\$ (20,017)

* Church Event include Annual Picnic, Retreats, etc.

In looking toward 2024, we must note that in **2023 our monthly income has consistently fallen short of our expenses**, and we are hoping that with God's help and your generosity we will be able to meet our monthly needs going forward. **Your pledge has never been more important than it will be this year.** Please use the pledge form to help us to plan and budget the church's finances for the coming year.

Operating expenses are those that are necessary for the functioning of the church, such as utilities and maintenance. Stewardship and undesignated offerings are routed to the General Fund for Operating Expenses. These do not include purchases/projects covered by donations to special funds, such as Charitable Ministries, Iconography, Camp, etc. Offerings given specifically for Designated Funds are kept for those uses only.

Details can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway. You may contact the church treasurer (StAndrewTreasurer@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

No Christmas Tree in Bethlehem Over Genocide: Local Clergy to Keep Vigil in the Sobriety of Prayer

by Fr. Marc Boulos

Pastor, St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church, St. Paul, MN

Published in The Voice of the Shepherd: A Digital Journal of Saint Elizabeth Church

BETHLEHEM: There will be no Christmas tree in Bethlehem this year. The town that commemorates the biblical text of the birth Jesus Christ now keeps fellowship with the Apostle Paul—bound in chains—“without fanfare,” as homes and businesses are locked up and shut down in the bloody shadow of the Gaza genocide.

Bethlehem, which neighbors Jerusalem in the West Bank, continues to be battered by the violence of the occupation. But many townspeople have been especially gripped by the current nightmare in the Gaza Strip, just 50 km away. The violence in Gaza has seen much of the open air concentration camp devastated with no end in sight.

Every December, church leaders of all denominations convene in Bethlehem to inaugurate the Christmas season. Local Palestinian Christians (not those who visit from European countries and the US) are notably non-sectarian.

A People Without a Country

People with no homeland tend to rally around God as their only hope, placing their trust in him as their leader. This makes much more sense than European or American nationalism. As a stateless people, they have no defense and no money to buy bombs (thanks be to God) and too much decency to celebrate when so many people are suffering or dead.

The only decision left to the clergy of Bethlehem is whether or not to light up a Christmas tree or to turn it off and read from the Psalter.

“We have never seen Bethlehem like this, not even during COVID. The town is empty, sad,” Abouna Ibrahim Faltas told Reuters in front of the Church of the Nativity. “Today was meant to be a joyous day.”

For self-involved, delusional people living in comfort, it will be joyous, indeed.

A November 10 statement by church heads in the Holy Land voiced sympathy for people wracked by “the uncertain fate of those dear to them.”

In response, Reuters made a cynical (if not explicitly evil) comment that this was “a possible reference” to the hostages of October 7, implying that the faithful and God-fearing clergy of the Holy Land are terrorist sympathizers.

This response “is not a fear of terrorism,” explained Edward Said, “but a fear of a culture that is not Western.”

In a recent article in the Guardian, an American woman expressed her curiosity about “a culture that is not Western”: “I wanted,” she said, “to talk about the faith of Palestinian people, how it’s so strong, and they still find room to make it a priority to thank God, even when they have everything taken away from them.”

In solidarity with the clergy and faithful of Bethlehem, there will be no Christmas tree or decorations at St. Elizabeth Church [St. Paul, MN] this year.

“We will celebrate in sobriety,” said Father Francesco Patton, “Without the fanfare and too many lights, in the most spiritual way—more among the families than in [Manger] Square.”

To subscribe to St. Elizabeth’s weekly journal, visit www.seocc.org



Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

From Amos chapter 5: ¹Hear this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel: ... ⁴For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: "Seek me and live; ..." ⁶Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it ... ⁷O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth! ... ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins- you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate. ... ¹⁴Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. ... ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

December 2023

Every Saturday: 5:15 pm Confession 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
6 pm Vespers

TROPARION OF ST. ANDREW - Tone 4 – As the first-called Apostle and brother of their leader, O Andrew, intercede with the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy.

Sunday, December 3 **26th Sunday after Pentecost**
Holy Prophet Zephaniah (7th cent. BC)

Tone 1 Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19
Eothinon 4 (St. Luke 24:1-12) Liturgy Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 1 - While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding thy most pure Body, thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto thee, O Giver of life: Glory to thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to thy kingdom! Glory to thy providence, O thou who alone art the Lover of mankind!

Sunday, December 10 **27th Sunday after Pentecost**
Venerable Leontios of Achaia (13th-14th cent.)

Tone 2 Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17
Eothinon 5 (St. Luke 24:12-35) Liturgy Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 2 - When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Sunday, December 17 **Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ**
Venerable Dionysius of Aegina (1624)

Tone 3 Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11
Eothinon 6 (St. Luke 24:36-53) Liturgy Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hades, granting the world the Great Mercy!

Sunday, December 24 **Sunday before the Nativity (Genealogy)**
Venerable Nicholas the Monk of Bulgaria (9th cent.)

Tone 4 Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40
Eothinon 7 (St. John 20:1-10) Liturgy Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 4 - Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples saying, Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

Sunday, December 31 **Sunday before Theophany**
Venerable Melania the Younger of Rome (439)

Tone 5 Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8
Eothinon 8 (St. John 20:11-18) Liturgy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 5 - Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

Regular Schedule

Saturday 5:15 pm Confession
6 pm Vespers
Sunday 9 am Orthros
10 am Divine Liturgy

Check our online calendar at
www.orthodoxdelmar.org/calendar
for the most up-to-date schedule.

Other December Services:

St. Nicholas (Dec. 6)
Tuesday, December 5
Vespers 6 pm
Followed by youth activity & games

St. Herman of Alaska
Wednesday, December 13
Divine Liturgy 10 am

St. Ignatius of Antioch
Wednesday, December 20
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Christmas Liturgy
Sunday, December 24
6 pm

Protomartyr Stephen
St. Fabiola
Wednesday, December 27
Divine Liturgy 10 am

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for the most up-to-date schedule.

The sacred writings ... are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

Make note of our regular service times:

Saturday Confessions 5:15 pm Sunday Orthros/Matins 9:00 am
Saturday Vespers 6:00 pm Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Please contact Father Herman for information about becoming a member of St. Andrew Orthodox Church

Rev. Father Herman Acker, Pastor
33384 Mackenzie Way, Lewes, DE 19958
302-645-5791

frherman1@gmail.com
orthodoxdelmar.org



The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch

December 17, 2023

Christ is in our Midst!

During this Advent period of our Orthodox Faith, we are called to focus on our words, deeds, and thoughts. We prepare, in joyful anticipation and gratitude, for the Greatest Gift of all ... the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, we thank you for your selfless support of the Order's ministry. Your unconditional gift affects the lives of countless people within our Orthodox Faith, our Antiochian Orthodox community and beyond. Your gift creates a life-changing ripple effect that is immeasurable in its impact on individuals and families you will never come to know personally. Thank you.

For almost 50 years, you, and those before you made a conscious decision to put the needs of others before your own. Your gift is not simply a donation deposited and forgotten. It is so much more than a check written or a charge on your credit card. It is an act of Faith in support of a life-changing ministry that ...

- Through funding of the **Retired Clergy Fund**, provides reassurance to our clergy during their golden years and expresses gratitude toward our beloved clergy for their years as our guide and comforter during our times of sorrow and uncertainty as well as our welcomed friend in our times of joy.
- Helps plant seeds of Orthodoxy, the True Faith, throughout North America with the Order's support of the **Department of Missions and Evangelism**.
- Supports youth programs that strengthen the faith and prepare the future leaders of our parishes and Archdiocese through **Youth Ministry, Summer Camp Scholarships, SOYO Leadership & Youth Worker Training, Christian Education and College Conference**.
- Provides summer camp scholarships for children that would not otherwise be able to attend camp due to financial reasons. It also provides knowledge, relationships and memories created in God-filled environments that are the essential tools to help our children remain steadfast in their Orthodox faith as they confront the challenges that will test their Orthodox Christian beliefs.

Through the generosity of our many Governing Council volunteers who give of their time, talents, and treasure, we are thankful to share that only 7.7% and 7.2% of total revenue went to administrative expense in FY 2021 and the previous 5 fiscal years respectively. Together, we were able to support the many ministries of the Archdiocese over the past 7 ½ years in a meaningful way.

Clergy	\$2,266,260
Retired Clergy Allowance	\$2,070,000
Married Seminarian Assistance	\$95,795
Clergy Symposium & Convention Assistance*	\$100,465
Archdiocese Youth	\$2,604,446
Summer Camp Scholarships	\$1,153,184
Youth Ministry	\$910,000
SOYO Special Olympics	\$26,000
SOYO Leadership & Youth Worker Training	\$123,334
Christian Education	\$303,303
College Conference	\$88,625

Archdiocese Development & Growth	\$2,085,265
Missions & Evangelism	\$985,803
Parish Development / Mission Grants	\$189,553
Internet Ministry	\$758,303
Antiochian House of Studies	\$151,606
Other Grants	\$437,440
Project Mexico	\$60,000
IOCC	\$90,000
Syrian Relief	\$140,000
Other Archdiocese Projects & Needs	\$147,440

Time Period: Jan 1, 2016 - August 30, 2023

So, as you contemplate your support of the Order over the years or consider becoming a part of The Order's ministry for the first time, we leave you with what we believe should be in your heart. These words are what guide our work as a Governing Council and come from the teachings of St. Ignatius himself ...

"Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor."

In His service,

Roger J. David

North American Chairperson, The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch



**SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE
ORTHODOX CHURCH**
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

December 2023

Revised 12/6/23

Rev. Father Herman Acker, Pastor
33384 Mackenzie Way, Lewes, DE 19958
302-645-5791
frherman1@gmail.com
orthodoxdelmar.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Advent Fast Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am SS & Coffee Hour 11:30 am	27 Advent Fast	28 Advent Fast 4:00 pm Lunchbox Tuesday 6:00 pm Inquirers class	29 Advent Fast	30 Advent Fast Feast of St. Andrew 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Potluck Luncheon (Fasting Menu) 3:30 pm Ladies' Tea @ Victoria's 6:00 pm Bible Study	1 Advent Fast	2 Advent Fast Men's Fellowship @ Crystal, Reh Bch 5:15 pm Confessions 6:00 pm Vespers
3 Advent Fast Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am SS & Coffee Hour 11:30 am	4 Advent Fast	5 Advent Fast 6:00 pm St. Nicholas Vespers 7:00 pm Youth game night	6 Advent Fast St Nicholas	7 Advent Fast	8 Advent Fast	9 Advent Fast 5:15 pm Confessions 6:00 pm Vespers
10 Advent Fast Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am SS & Coffee Hour 11:30 am Parish Council 12:30 pm	11 Advent Fast	12 Advent Fast 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy for St. Herman	13 Advent Fast St. Herman of Alaska	14 Advent Fast	15 Advent Fast	16 Advent Fast 2:30 pm Baptisms / Christmations 5:15 pm Confessions 6:00 pm Vespers
17 Advent Fast Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am SS Christmas program 11:30 am Coffee Hour 12:00 pm	18 Advent Fast	19 Advent Fast	20 Advent Fast St. Ignatius of Antioch 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	21 Advent Fast	22 Advent Fast	23 Advent Fast 5:15 pm Confessions 6:00 pm Vespers
24 Advent Fast Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am 6:00 pm Christmas Liturgy	25 Christ is Born! Glorify Him!	26	27 Protomartyr Stephen 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm Lunchbox Tuesday	28	29	30 5:15 pm Confessions 6:00 pm Vespers
31 Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am SS & Coffee Hour 11:30 am	1 Circumcision of Christ St Basil the Great 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	2	3	4	5 Strict Fast Day	6 Holy Theophany 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Blessing of Water 5:15 pm Confessions 6:00 pm Vespers

For the most up-to-date calendar, visit www.orthodoxdelmar.org/calendar.

THE CHRISTMAS FAST - AN OUTLINE

November 15 - December 24

DAYS	THE HOLY CANONS SPECIFY THE FOLLOWING:	
Sunday Monday Tuesday Thursday Saturday	<u>Abstinence of:</u> Meat & Meat products Dairy products	<u>No Abstinence of:</u> Fish Shellfish Olive Oil Vegetables & vegetable products Fruit Wine
Wednesday Friday	(As on all Wednesdays, Fridays, and other days of Fast) <u>Abstinence of:</u> Meat & Meat products Dairy products Fish, Wine, & Oil	

Note: From Dec. 13 to Dec. 24 inclusive, the Fast becomes stricter, and olive oil and wine are permitted only on Saturdays and Sundays. Also, fish is not permitted on any day during this period.

Wine and oil are permitted on the following commemorations, even when they fall on a Wednesday or Friday:

- November 16 - Holy Apostle Matthew the Evangelist
- November 21 - Entry of the Theotokos - fish is also permitted on this day.
- November 25 - St. Catherine the Great Martyr
- November 30 - Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called
- December 4 - St. Barbara the Great Martyr and St. John of Damascus
- December 5 - St. Sabbas the Sanctified
- December 6 - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Bishop of Myra in Lycia
- December 9 - Conception by St. Anna of the Holy Theotokos
- December 12 - St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
- December 13 - St. Eustratius and Companions, and St. Lucia
- December 15 - St. Eleutherius the Bishop-Martyr
- December 17 - Holy Prophet Daniel & the Three Youths, and St. Dyonysius of Zante
- December 20 - St. Ignatius the God-bearer

Note: December 24 is a day of strict fast.
 There is no fasting from December 25 through January 4.
 January 5 is a day of strict fast (day before Theophany).

(OVER)

**FASTING PRIOR TO RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION
(Throughout the year)**

Sunday Morning Divine Liturgy	Complete fast from all food and drink from bedtime or midnight on Saturday evening. Saturday evening should be a quiet time of prayer and preparation for communion.
Evening Liturgies	Complete fast from all food and drink after lunch. Any (very light) breakfast or lunch meal taken should include only fasting foods.

Note: It is assumed that those who desire to receive Holy Communion regularly and frequently will also keep the Wednesday and Friday discipline.

A Note from Bishop Thomas:

Please remember that the Fast of the Holy Nativity or the Advent Fast will commence on November 15 and continue until the Feast (December 25). This fasting period is ordained by the Holy Church in order to prepare for the Holy Nativity of Our Lord. The particulars of the fast are as follows: During the first 28 days of the Fast, from November 15 to December 13 all meat products and dairy products are forbidden. On Wednesdays and Fridays, of course, olive oil, wine, all alcoholic beverages and fish are also forbidden as on most Wednesdays and Fridays during the year. This means that one can eat fish, shellfish, vegetables, and fruit during this time. On Wednesdays and Fridays, only shellfish, vegetables and fruit. During the last twelve days, December 13-24, fish, olive oil, wine, and all alcoholic beverages are not used at all, except oil and wine can be used on Saturdays and Sundays. Therefore, in the last twelve days, we may eat shellfish, vegetables and fruit. Please remember to increase your prayer life, read more scripture and spiritual books, especially the lives of the saints. A little less television, no anger, no gossip, no laziness, and let's try to avoid the pre-Christmas parties. If we prepare in this way, God will bless us, and we will find the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord to be far more spiritually rewarding than ever before. May God help us to struggle courageously.

Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

+Bishop THOMAS