



COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

**DIOCESE OF OHIO,
MICHIGAN, AND INDIANA**



Joyful Hearts are prepared to receive The Baby of the Manager

The witness says: "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen, come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

Blessed beloved children,

The whole world these days celebrates the glorious birth of our good Savior Jesus Christ, but does everyone celebrate what befits God's creation? St. Paul the Apostle says,

+ For we are his work, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has already prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. *Ephesians 2:10*

+ As God's good creation, what decides the way of celebration is the state of the heart and his longing for the kingdom of heaven,

+ A person who loves God with all his heart is not divided against himself and serves two masters or worships two gods. And we live with hope and confidence in God's promises even if the heart is hardened and the soul becomes obsolete, rejoicing in the false vain joy of the world.

I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you, and I will remove the heart of the stone from your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. *Ezekiel 36:26*

St. Kebrianos affirms that: through our baptism the old man dies, and the new one is born according to the image of his Creator.



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+ We pray for ourselves and all your creation, O Lord, the heart does not know or can celebrate a true celebration without you. You promised as A loving God and said, "I, the Lord, Have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I am the Lord, I have spoken, and I will do" *Ezekiel 36:36*

Please Work, O Lord, with your Almighty Hands in our inner Jerusalem and fill it with the multiplying fruit, so that we always be closer to approach you and never be as strangers far from you.

+ We give to you, O Lord, willingly in this glorious feast, the whole heart is in your faithful hand, so that our eyes may notice the ways of your salvation, *Proverbs 23:26*. And Jesus Our Savior, is manifested in our lives

+ As the Virgin St. Mary, Joseph the Carpenter and the Elizabeth rejoiced, and John the Baptist rejoiced in her womb, and the mouth of Zacharias opened , and You enlightened the eyes of the shepherds by seeing You , and the angels and heavenly orders praised you, Grant us O Lord with them as a gift from You on this feast to rejoice, be glad and praise You saying,

"Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace , goodwill toward men. *Luke 2:14*.

Amen, please, come now, Lord Jesus, and do not slow down, our hearts and the whole world need you to know how to celebrate the true celebration that befits your glory.



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+ We love you with pure, holy hearts as you loved us and appeared in flesh for our salvation.

+ We worship and bow down in this feast with humble hearts, offering ourselves and our free will as gifts with the Magi, the wise men, whatever befits You, O King of Kings.

+ We ask you, our good Savior, the lover of mankind , on this Feast and the new year, to preserve the world in peace , through Your safety and wisdom, O King of Peace, and keep in peace All the Churches ,and the shepherd of the Shepherds, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, the Metropolitans , the Bishops, the Priests, the Deacons, and all the servants and Your children.

My beloved children, fathers the priests, servants and the congregation of the Diocese of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, USA, congratulations on the glorious Coptic Christmas. Be fruitful in every good deed, and happy returns to you at this holy feast, and all of you are well, in good health, joy and peace.

My Love and prayers to you, and all of you are always in my heart.

By the grace of God,

Saraphim,

Servant of the Diocese of Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana