



## **St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church**

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### **Nativity Message from Fr. George, December 26, 2025**

## **“The Power of Small Things: Bearing Christ’s Light in Our Daily Lives”**



### **Introduction:**

Beloved in Christ, as we gather these days to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we rejoice that the eternal God chose to enter the world in humility—a small child in a manger. This feast reminds us that God’s greatest gift came in what seemed small and insignificant. Today’s reflection draws from a surprising source—Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. In this passage, Ebenezer Scrooge realizes that Fezziwig’s kindness, though

costing little, brought immense joy. It teaches us something profoundly Christian: **small acts of love can bear great light.**

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### Scriptural Foundation:

Listen to the words of the Gospel:

- **John 1:9:** *"The true Light which gives light to every man was coming into the world."*
- **Matthew 5:16:** *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Christ is the Light of the world, and He calls us to reflect His light in our lives. But how do we do this? Through grand gestures? Through costly sacrifices? Not always. Often, it is through **small, humble acts of love and mercy.**

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### The Nativity: God's Greatness in Humility

Think about the Nativity itself. The Creator of the universe did not come in royal splendor but in a humble cave, laid in a manger. The first to hear the good news were not kings or nobles, but shepherds—ordinary workers keeping watch over their flocks. A star guided wise men who brought simple gifts. Every detail of this feast reminds us that **God's grace is revealed in humility and simplicity.**

This is the mystery of Christmas: God's infinite love expressed in what seems small. A baby's cry in Bethlehem changed the course of history. If God works through such humble beginnings, then surely He can work through our small acts of kindness.

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## A Lesson from Dickens

In Dickens' story, Fezziwig's generosity was not measured in money but in kindness. He created joy through simple gestures—words, smiles, hospitality. Scrooge admits, "The happiness he gives is quite as great as if it cost a fortune." Likewise, in our lives, the power to bring light and joy often lies in **small, intentional acts of love**.

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## A Story from the Saints

Consider **St. Nicholas**, whose memory we recently celebrated. He did not seek fame or recognition. Instead, he quietly left coins for the poor, rescued young women from slavery, and defended the truth of Christ at the Council of Nicaea. His acts were often hidden, yet they changed lives and inspired generations. St. Nicholas teaches us that holiness is not found in grand displays but in humble, loving deeds done for God's glory.

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## Application for Our Lives

So, how do we bear Christ's light in our everyday life—at work, at school, in our homes, parishes, and community gatherings? Here are some simple ways:

- **A kind word** to someone burdened with stress.
- **A smile** that lifts a weary heart.
- **A prayer** for someone who feels forgotten.
- **A gesture of mercy** toward a neighbor in need.

These may seem small, but in God's eyes, they are radiant. St. Seraphim of Sarov said, *"Acquire the Spirit of peace, and thousands around you will be saved."* When we live with Christ's peace and love, we become lamps shining in the darkness.

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## The Connection to Christmas

### Reflection on St. Gregory's "Christ is Born"

The Nativity proclaims that God's love transforms the world through humility. If Christ entered the world in such simplicity, then our small acts—done with love—can also transform hearts. This is the meaning of Christmas: **God with us, and God working through us.**

St. Gregory the Theologian captures this mystery in his famous Oration on the Nativity:

*"Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him! Christ on earth, be exalted! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, because He who is heavenly has now come upon earth. He who is invisible is seen. He who is without beginning now has a beginning. The Son of God becomes the Son of Man, so that we, who were dead, may live. He takes what is ours to give us what is His." (St. Gregory the Theologian, Oration 38)*

St. Gregory reminds us that the Incarnation is not only a cosmic event—it is deeply personal. God takes what is ours—our humanity, our weakness, our poverty—and gives us what is His: life, light, and

salvation. This exchange calls us to imitate His humility in our own lives.

### **A Story to Illustrate This Truth**

There is a story from the life of **St. Spyridon of Trimythous**, a humble shepherd who became a bishop. During a famine, a wealthy merchant came to him asking for food, but Spyridon had nothing to give except his prayers. Later, he found a small loaf of bread and gave it to the man with kindness. That simple act—so small in the eyes of the world—saved the man's life and led him to faith in Christ.

St. Spyridon's life teaches us that holiness often appears in ordinary gestures: a loaf of bread, a word of encouragement, a prayer offered in secret. These acts, done with love, become radiant with God's grace—just as the manger held the Infinite God.

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### **Takeaway for Us**

When we offer a kind word, a prayer, a gesture of mercy, we participate in this divine exchange. These acts may seem small, but they carry the power of Christ's love. Just as the manger held the Infinite God, so our simple deeds can hold His grace.

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### **Closing Exhortation**

Beloved, let us *not* leave this holy feast *without re-committing* to let our Christian light shine. In every conversation, every decision, every encounter, let us reflect the mercy and love of Christ. For in these "small things," the greatness of God is revealed.



# Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

## Closing Prayer:

*O Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the world, born in humility for our salvation, grant us the grace to reflect Your light in all we do. Teach us to love in small ways that bring great joy, to speak words that heal, and to act with mercy that transforms hearts. May Your peace dwell in our homes, our work, and our communities, so that all may glorify You, together with Your eternal Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*



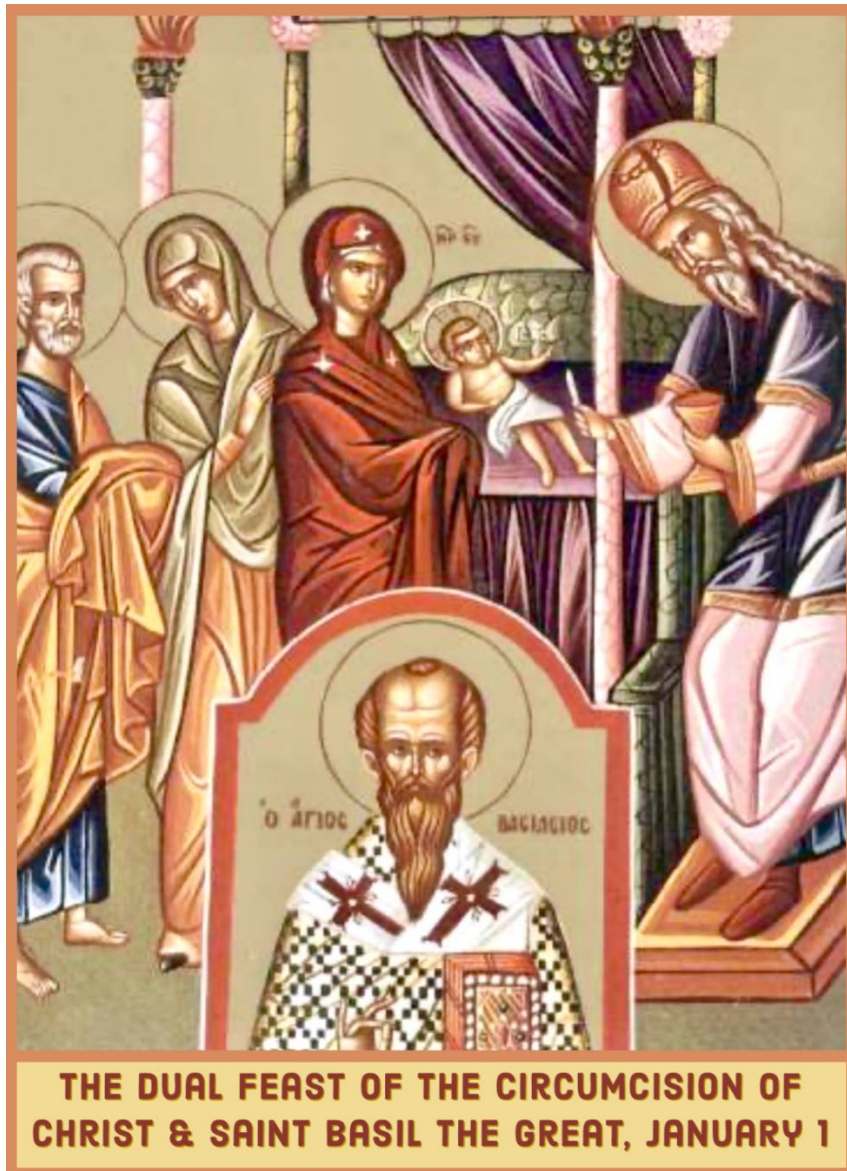
[Prayers and greetings from our Vigil Service, December 24<sup>th</sup>]



**Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**

**Χριστός Γεννάται! Δοξάσατε!**





*Join us New Year's Eve, on Wednesday afternoon for Divine Liturgy, 4:00 p.m.*



*Fr. George will offer the Blessing of the Vasilopita after the Divine Liturgy.*

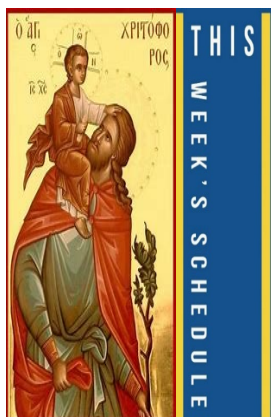


## **Have You Invited Your Friends & Family for Our Special Sunday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>?**



**Service of the Blessing of the Foundation of our New Church:** His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos will visit our parish on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> for church services, community lunch, and the Blessing of our New Church Construction on Ebenezer Road. [The previous date of February 15<sup>th</sup> was not possible.] We encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us on February 22<sup>nd</sup> as we pray for God to bless His new church as it is being built.

## Join Us Often with Your Family



### **Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Stephen the First Martyr**

8:30 Sacrament of Baptism and Divine Liturgy

### **Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday After Holy Nativity**

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

11:30 Let's EAT! (at Broadway Diner)

### **Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Eve & Eve of Circumcision of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ & Feast of St. Basil the Great)**

4:00 Divine Liturgy & Blessing & Cutting of Vasilopita

### **Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

11:30 Sacrament of Holy Baptism

### **Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Before Holy Theophany**

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Memorial for Nick Christodouloupoulos

10:30 Blessing of Five Loaves & January Commemorations  
(We thank Presbytera Marinda and Fr. George for offering the five loaves)

**We thank you for your Stewardship and Building Fund Donations Pledged and Offered in 2025. We encourage you to continue your faithful efforts in 2026 and commend you.**