



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

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## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ

### Christmas Homily 2021

**This Christmas, we celebrate that blessed day that changed the course of human history. It was the day “the Logos became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Christmas is that day when “God so loved the world that He gave His only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16) to quote Saint John the Evangelist. It was the day “when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared” (Titus 3:4) as Saint Paul teaches.**

**On Christmas, humanity encountered the Almighty as a newborn baby lying in a humble manger. The Incarnate Logos was born in a manger to impress upon us that to understand who God is, we must look at the humility of the birth of Jesus. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords came not as a powerful ruler, but as an innocent child. He came in simplicity and humility. He was born not in a palatial environment, but in the humble surroundings of a stable. The Savior of the world was born in humility. He would live His life on earth in humility. He would humble Himself even unto death for the salvation of the world as we read in Saint Paul’s letter to the Philippians. “Though**

**he was in the form of God (he)...emptied himself taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:6-7). God lowered Himself to the point of being born in the poverty of a stable. He became the poorest of the poor and the neediest of the needy to teach us that our journey in life must follow the road of humility and simplicity. It was He who (again quoting Saint Paul) “though he was rich, yet for your (our) sake became poor, so that by his poverty you (we) might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).**

**Christmas has always disturbed the conscience of the material world. A world characterized by narcissism and arrogance. A world in which man is so preoccupied with himself and his urgent need to satisfy his every insatiable desire, that he has no time for God or for his fellow human beings. Just as there was no space in the inn to welcome the newborn Savior, in the same way it seems that there is no space in our lives for the Incarnate Logos or His church. We have removed God and placed ourselves on our altar of worship. We feel we are self-sufficient masters of our own destiny. Living in an age of unbridled consumerism, we have become spiritually bankrupt, bereft of hope, misled by prophets of instant pleasure and happiness, trapped in a tunnel of loneliness and despair, enslaved in the dungeons of our overinflated**

**egos. It is to this world that the innocent child of Bethlehem comes again this Christmas.**

**Christmas comes once again to attest to the fact that God and He alone has the power to transform sadness into joy, despair into exaltation, pain into prayer, darkness into light, poverty into abundance, sin into the beginning of a new life.**

**Christmas is about the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is about love - eternal, unselfish and self-sacrificing. It is about sharing and caring. It is about forgiving and reconciling. It is about respect for other people's human rights and dignity. It is about all those who live around us whom we have forgotten, the homeless and the hungry, the rejected, the battered and the abused.**

**Christmas comes again to invite us to grasp its message and to accept its invitation to meet God, to break the chains that bind us with our secular and material pre-occupations, to reach for the redeeming truth and for one another in a reborn spirit of brotherly love.**

**As we celebrate Christmas this year, let us reflect how—and if at all—the birth of the newborn Savior has affected our lives. Have we learned to emulate His example and live in simplicity and humility? As we listen to the beautiful hymns and carols of the season, will we hear the lamentations of our suffering brothers and sisters both here in America and throughout the world who suffer in homelessness, hunger and despair? As we celebrate this joyous feast of Christianity, do we have room in the inn of our lives for anyone but ourselves?**

**May the Incarnate Logos of God choose our hearts as His manger this Christmas. May each day of the new year 2022 be blessed with opportunities for us to recognize our Savior in the persons of those whom He identified as “the least of my (His) brethren” (Mt. 25:40). In simplicity and humility, let us experience the joy of Christmas and feel the presence of the newborn Savior in our hearts.**

**Merry Christmas,**

*Metropolitan Methodios*

**M E T H O D I O S**

**Metropolitan of Boston**