



Office of the Metropolitan
312 Garfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15906

Protocol No. 45/2020

CHRISTMAS ARCHPASTORAL LETTER

December 25, 2020 / January 7, 2021

CHRIST IS BORN!

GLORIFY HIM!

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas is a time of great joy, hope and love. Two thousand years ago, quietly, almost secretly, without a great deal of fanfare, Jesus Christ, the “King of Kings” was born in a cave in the town of Bethlehem. No earthly creature in their wildest imaginings could have foreseen the impact of this humble event: a God-Man, born of a woman, who would change the course of history forever. This God- Man spoke and touched the hearts and minds of everyone who had ears to hear Him. This God- Man’s words and actions have comforted, given hope and transformed the lives of millions throughout time. This is the God-Man that we worship. This is the God-Man that we praise.

The miraculous mystery of our Lord’s birth should remain first and foremost in all our hearts and minds during this brilliant season. We should never forget that Christmas is about Christ and His birth.

Cherish this event, the event which has brought with it our salvation. We should never forget the priceless gift of salvation which has been given to us freely by our God.

The greatest gift that we can give is to give ourselves to Christ, just as He gave Himself to us. This is what the season is truly about. Let us never forget. Remember to thank God for all with which He has blessed us.

Today may all of us, Priests, Panis, Deacons, Subdeacons, Readers, Parish Officers, Parishioners (young and old), Friends, and Supporters of our God-protected American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese experience the joy and wonders of the Shepherds and the awe and respect of the Three Wise Men at the arrival of the Messiah, our new born King. Christ is Born!

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Greetings from Johnstown with much love,

+ Metropolitan Gregory

+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

To be read as the sermon and distributed in all the churches of the Diocese at the Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ!

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE