



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΗΣ

### CHRISTMAS 2023

Χριστὸς γεννᾶται· δοξάσατε. Χριστὸς ἐξ οὐρανῶν· ἀπαντήσατε», ψάλλει ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας κατ' αὐτὴ τὴν ὠραία ἐκκλησιαστικὴ περίοδο, καλώντας καὶ προτρέποντας ὅλους μας νὰ βιώσουμε ὡς προσωπικὸ γεγονός καὶ ἐμπειρία ἐσωτερικὴ, καρδιακὴ, τὸ μυστήριον τῆς παρουσίας τοῦ Θεανθρώπου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ στὴ ζωὴ μας.

«Θεὸς ἐφανερώθη ἐν σαρκί» διὰ τοῦτο δὲν πρέπει πλέον νὰ ζοῦμε μέσα στὸ πηχτὸ σκοτάδι τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ στὸν παγετῶνα τῶν παθῶν πού μᾶς ἀπομακρύνουν ἀπὸ τὴν φάτνη τῆς Γεννήσεως τοῦ Σωτῆρος Χριστοῦ. «Θεὸς ἐφανερώθη ἐν σαρκί» διὰ τοῦτο πρέπει νὰ προσέλθουμε μετὰ δῶρων ὅπως οἱ Μάγοι ἐνώπιον τοῦ Θεανθρώπου προσκομίζοντες ἀντὶ γὰρ χρυσό, λίβανο καὶ σμύρνα τὴν μετάνοια, τὰ δάκρυα καὶ καθαρὰ καρδιά. «Θεὸς ἐφανερώθη ἐν σαρκί» διὰ τοῦτο ἅς προσευχηθοῦμε ἐκ βάθους καρδίας ἢ εἰρήνη τοῦ Χριστοῦ νὰ βασιλεύσει στὶς καρδιές τῶν ἀνθρώπων γὰρ νὰ εἰρηνεύσει ὁ ταραγμένος κόσμος ἀπὸ τὰ πάθη, τοὺς πολέμους καὶ τὶς αἱματοχυσίες.

### Καλὰ Χριστούγεννα καὶ εὐλογημένο τὸ νέον ἔτος 2024

“Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ has come from the Heavens, come meet Him!” Chanting these words throughout this beautiful ecclesiastical season, the Church calls and urges all of us to experience personally and within our hearts the mystery of the God-Man Jesus Christ coming into our lives.

“God has appeared in the flesh,” therefore, we no longer have to dwell in the thick darkness of sin and the frost of the passions that distance us from the manger of Christ the Savior’s Birth. “God has appeared in the flesh,” therefore we, like the Wise Men of old, must come before the God-man bearing our gifts — not gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but repentance, tears, and a pure heart. “God has appeared in the flesh,” therefore let us pray from the depths of our heart that the peace of Christ may reign in the hearts of men so that our world, rocked by suffering, wars, and the shedding of blood, may at last find peace.

### Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2024!

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

*Metropolitan Apostolos*  
† APOSTOLOS  
Metropolitan of New Jersey