



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

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## CHRISTMAS 2022

Beloved Members of our Lord's Eternal Church,

Once again we look forward to the humble entrance of the Eternal Word of the Father, taking upon Himself His added dimension of a perfect human being as the eternal Son of the Father, fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament, especially in the book of the Holy Great Prophet Isaiah. Each year on Christmas Day, the Divine Liturgy has a hymn which is sung at the small entrance by the celebrating clergy holding the Holy Bible to reenter through the Beautiful entrance of the Holy Altar to the Altar Table. They sing "From the womb before Lucifer, I gave birth to You, and the Lord will not change His decision; for you are a Priest forever after the Order of Melchisedek". It is significant that the hymn brings out the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only Priest forever in harmony with Melchisedek Who represents the Lord in the Book of Genesis and Who presents to Abraham, who won an historic war against pagans, the gift of Bread and Wine, the unique symbolism of the Church which our Lord established through His Supreme Sacrifice on the Holy Cross when He began His Church in 33 A.D. This is the Church in which we are faithful members and which has never changed to this day, as we attend the Divine Liturgy to receive the Divine Holy Bread and Divine Sacred Blood for our salvation.

The fact that the Divine Liturgy is always celebrated in the third person is that it is the Holy Spirit sent by the Eternal Father Who is the Celebrant of all the holy sacraments. From this we can clearly see that the Nativity of our Lord, through the holy Theotokos, the Savior of the world humbled Himself most personally through His perfect humanity, and prepared the faithful members of the Church for their permanent life in His coming eternal Kingdom.

On the basis of this Divine reality, we have no reason to have negative thoughts and feelings concerning the terrible reality of so many violent events which have come upon us, bringing death and destruction upon innocent people throughout the world. Our Lord promises to us that these events and conditions will be short-lived for the sake of those of us who love Him and accept Him as our loving God. Therefore, please do not allow yourselves to have any fear due to the horrible things which are happening in the world at this time. They will definitely end, as our Lord promises.

Please continue to express your joy to one another as we continue to be celebrating the perfect world our Lord is preparing, having willingly and lovingly suffered to the point of His lifelessness on the Holy Cross. Please bring much joy to your children and your grandchildren who should know that the temporary evil will soon end. Do whatever is necessary to stress to one another that we are celebrating the end of evil around us by increasing our love for one another and our joy and free will, for our children and for ourselves. The unending love of God is protecting us from the presence of the evil in this fallen world which will soon end. The human birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Word, as a perfect human being is the greatest blessing we should always celebrate.

May this coming celebration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ continue to allow all of you and each other to enjoy most faithfully and lovingly with your hearts, minds, and souls. And may you have a most Blessed Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

With love in our loving Savior and Redeemer,

*+ Metropolitan Isaac of Denver*

+Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver