

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Los Angeles
And The West

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Nativity in the flesh of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 25, 2024

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فمجدوه!

Love swings back and forth between hope and hurt. The Father in heaven had high hopes for His Son on earth to rescue His creation for Him, returning it to its original meaning and destiny. The Little One who lay in a manger outside the comfort and crowd of the Inn, as baby and from then on to the Cross, from cradle to Cross, would, in the deepest sense, always be alone, on His own, and never at home anywhere. This prophet was not welcome in the town He grew up in. Therefore, He wandered as a homeless person. The Father would feel the hurt of this homelessness and hear the Blessed One say He had nowhere to lay His head.

I had thought there were two dramatic moments in Christ's life when He truly could rest and lay His head down in peace; one is when He was born and His mother held Him, the other was in the quiet tomb while the crowds were gone and the noise of darkness stopped. He rose from the sleep of death, folded His cloth pillow neatly, and left resurrected and triumphant.

Christmas has me pray for and hurt for all of the little ones now, outside the comfort of warm homes, away in the wilderness of foreign places, traveling in the night to Egypt, far from the Bethlehem of their birth. The Father hurts for them who are made in the image of His son and so are made for Him.

Let us give them a home somewhere and show them there is love in every city, in the City of Peace.

Christ changed the hurt of the Cross into the help of the Father through His obedience, as a good Son always is, for the hope of us all. He saved us to become saviors, even when it hurts.

May He who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation bless you always.

+ Bishop Anthony

+Bishop ANTHONY

**Bishop of Los Angeles
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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