



THE MONASTERY OF SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK

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Beloved of the Lord,

When the Great God and Creator of the ages comes to His creation, He does not frighten us with phantoms or fiery forms at His coming but rather encounters us in a way few of us can refuse or resist: a defenseless little child. Our Lord, the inaccessible Creator of all, takes flesh at His Nativity and becomes not only accessible but even vulnerable, offering Himself as a Gift to each of us. He desires only a communion in love which gives our life its supreme content and fulfillment.

As we pause to take time to examine our life while we once again approach the great mystery of the Nativity of God in the flesh, we must ask ourselves: Am I willing to receive the God Who offers Himself to me? How can I use the gift of the present time to make my life an offering back to God? How does the Church offer me the means through the sacramental-liturgical life to once again encounter the Lord in a real and transformative way?

The time of our life is short. Christ has come in the flesh and will certainly come again in the flesh; the first time with meekness, the second time in irresistible strength at His Second Coming. Therefore, we must always be preparing to meet our Lord. The time before the feast of the Nativity gives us another opportunity to ready ourselves through confession, prayer, fasting and almsgiving to give what we can to God in return for the Gift He gives to us: our heart, our life and our love.

Be assured of our continued prayers, love and appreciation for all your continued support and on behalf of the entire Monastery Brotherhood and community we wish you all a blessed and holy Nativity Season.

In the new born Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sergius' with a stylized initial.

Archimandrite Sergius
Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery