



THE MONASTERY OF SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK

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Beloved of God,

Christ is in our midst! We greet you with the blessing of the Nativity Fast as we await the ineffable, unthinkable, self-abasing condescension of God the Word: Christ takes flesh, taking the sin of the world upon Himself in order to raise us who have fallen to the height of His very throne! Through the incarnation from the inside out, God fills humanity with the fullness of the Godhead and reveals the pre-eternal image of man: the God-man Jesus Christ who is the archetypal proto-man. It is only through this revelation of the Incarnation that we understand that we were created to be filled to the fullest measure with the life of God Himself.

Great is this Mystery of Godliness! It is the center of the Christian message and the means by which we overcome the world: God was manifest in the flesh to endure the humiliation of the Cross, to descend to Hades and to make a path for all flesh to the Resurrection of Life! Our Lord has done everything and now we are given the opportunity to make the Gifts He has given our own through our life of prayer, repentance, confession, almsgiving, fasting, and attendance at the Divine, Life-Giving Services. Let us make ready to receive the King of all in our hearts so that Christ might be born anew in our life. It is never too late to begin again and to put Christ first in our life, in our family and in our heart and mind. Let us all pray that God renew His Holy Life-giving Spirit in us so that with one heart and mind we may confess the saving Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. Through this confession, may we overcome our passions and the world so that nothing will separate us from the love of God which is Christ Jesus our Lord!

Be assured of our love and ceaseless prayers for you all and may God bless and be with us all during this wondrous and marvelous Nativity Season.

With love in the newborn Christ,

Fr. Igumen Sergius
Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery