



Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church

1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

215.389.2000 | 215.334.1884 | office@saintmaron.org



WEEKLY BULLETIN - 12/24/2023

Season of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY – FRIDAY 10:30AM – 4:00PM

Pastor

Fr. Andrawos (Fadi) El Tabchi

pastor@saintmaron.org | 978.241.2977

Advisor / Consultant

Fr. David Fisher

Administrative Assistant

Claudine ElHajal

Parish Council

Costa J. Mansour, Michael Marrone, Anne Tayoun, Manal ElHajal, Rosemarie Marrone, Barbara Dahdah, Tony Frangie, Khalil Raie, Nahi Rai, Roger Jebara

Finance Committee

Philip Rai, Deebeanne Tavani, Terri Koway, Fred Haddad, Paul Kouyoumdji, Denise Eddis, Jimmy Jebara, Jano Frangie

Festival Chairmen

Billy Tayoun, Tony Frangie

Saint Jude

Denise Eddis, Theresa Barry

CCD

Director: Janah Szewczyk

Advisor: Rosemarie Marrone

Teachers: Rania Sukkarieh, Maha Labbad, Samar Dawlabani, Reine Ghazaly, Janah Szewczyk, Sanaa Rizk, Samer Hourani.

MYO

Director: Zeina Topalian

Advisors: Anne Tayoun, Jocelyne Habib, Fadia Salloum, Maha Labbad

MYA

Coordinators: Nahi Rai, Roger Jebara, Frankie Piacentini

Men's Club

President: Amin Al Soueidy

Vice-President: Samer Hourani

C'est Noël

<i>Believe</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>Mary</i>
<i>Trust</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>Joseph</i>
<i>Hope</i>	<i>like the</i>	<i>Shepherds</i>
<i>Seek</i>	<i>like the</i>	<i>Wisemen</i>
<i>Praise</i>	<i>like the</i>	<i>Angels</i>
<i>Love</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>Jesus</i>
<i>Dance</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>Frosty</i>
<i>Shine</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>Rudolph</i>
<i>Give</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>Santa</i>



Christmas Weekend Liturgies

Sunday, December 24, 2023

11:00am Sunday Liturgy
4:00pm Christmas Vigil

Monday, December 25, 2023

11:00am Christmas Day

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading

Romans 1:1-12

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:1-17

Sanctuary Candle

IMO Peter Koway

DIVINE LITURGIES

For your intentions please
call the office at 215.389.2000

Friday, December 22, @ 6:00PM,
Christmas Novena we pray for the safety and well-being of our Children.

Saturday, December 23, @ 4:00PM,
Christmas Novena liturgy is offered for the soul of Peter Koway requested by Terri Koway. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, December 24, @ 11:00AM
Ordinary Sunday liturgy is offered for the soul of Simon Joseph Simon requested by family. May his soul rest in peace.

Christmas Liturgies

Sunday, December 24, @ 4:00PM
Christmas Eve liturgy is offered for the safety and well-being of our parishioners.

Monday, December 25, @ 11:00AM
Christmas Day liturgy is offered for the safety and well-being of our parishioners.

New Year Liturgies

The Circumcision of the Lord

Saturday, December 30, @ 4:00PM,
liturgy is offered for a special intention.

Sunday, December 31, @ 11:00AM
liturgy is offered for a special intention.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 16-17, 2023

Collection	\$ 1,525.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 410.00
Fuel	\$ 100.00
PayPal	\$ 500.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 38.00
Total	\$ 2,573.00
MYO Hot Cocoa	\$ 190.00

ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL 2023

The contributions are divided as follows:

- 40% education of seminarians
- 20% outreach ministries
- 10% retired priests
- 10% Christians in Lebanon and the Middle East
- 10% Eparchy's Endowment Fund

Yearly Amount Due	\$ 3,500.00
Total Collected	\$ 3,500.00
Balance	\$ 0.00

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

If you are sick and homebound and wish to receive communion at home, please contact: the Church Office at 215-389-2000 or Fr. Andrawos at 978-241-2977.

SOUMAYA BAKERY ORDERS

**No orders will be placed for
Christmas and New Year
Weekends.**

MY OFFERING ENVELOPES 2024

You can find your envelopes at the entrance of the church hall.

The Envelopes serve a dual purpose:

1. A reminder of our commitment and obligation toward our church.
2. Accurately record your contributions so we can provide you with a "Donation Letter" for your taxes.

BIBLE STUDY

with Abouna David

Every Thursday at 10AM

Via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87347439104?pwd=eUJRRVpFUyt5NVpTVXR5bCtBdGpGdz09>

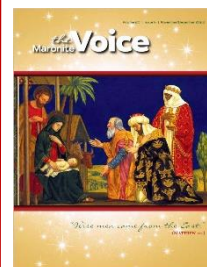
IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers

Larry Cook, Mary Louise Scotti, Janet Labar, Krystal Valianti, Anne Mgrdichian, Carol Bevelhymmer, Mary V. (Nelson) Scotti, Mike Devinney, Debbie Freedenberg, Allan Emilio Domingez, Rev. Subdeacon Dr. Mallard T. George, Landon Reid, Tamara Lewis, Michael Thomas, Barbara Impriano, Mary McKinney, Jessica McKinney, Angela McKinney, Skyla Simon, Peter Labaki, Nancy Murphy, Marentha Young-Heart, Allison Tretina, Stephanie Devinney, Angela Scorza Anderson, Robert Nigro, Thomas Jones, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Linda Yeckes, Frankie Olivieri, Marie Eddis, Mia Andrilla, Natalie Ciancaglini, Ashley Iaconelli, Stephen Bressi, Elissar Ayoub, Joanne Simon-Turing, Suzanne Haney, Linda DiBernardo, Joan Speck, David Joseph Cook, Dennis Strelchuk, Gladys Dalcourt, Denise Furey, Mirta Ruiz, Rita Impo, Jade Kellam, Marion Thomas Branca, Francesca Impo, Lucy DiLuce, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Lisa Alestra, John Nader, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokey, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al-Sawa, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Noel Andjuhar, and Angel Salerno.

The Maronite Voice

www.maronitevoice.org



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Annual Christmas Potluck



Thank
you



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Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



December 23-24, 2023

GENEALOGY SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading Romans 1:1-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Your blessing father...

Brothers and Sisters:

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة

يا إِخْوَتِي، مِنْ بُولُسَ عَبْدِ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ، الَّذِي دُعِيَ لِيَكُونَ رَسُولًا، وَفُرِزَ لِإِنْجِيلِ اللَّهِ، هَذَا الْإِنْجِيلِ الَّذِي وَعَدَ بِهِ اللَّهُ مِنْ قَبْلُ، بِأَنْبِيَاءِهِ فِي الْكُتُبِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ، فِي شَأْنِ ابْنِهِ الَّذِي وُلِدَ بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ مِنْ نَسْلِ دَاوُدَ، وَجُعِلَ بِحَسَبِ رُوحِ الْقَدَّاسَةِ ابْنًا لِلَّهِ بِقُوَّةِ أَيْ بِالْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَهُوَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ رَبُّنَا؛ بِهِ نَلْنَا النِّعْمَةَ وَالرِّسَالَةَ لِكَي نَهْدِيَ إِلَى طَاعَةِ الْإِيمَانِ جَمِيعَ الْأُمَّمِ، لِمَجْدِ اسْمِهِ؛ وَمِنْ بَيْنِهِمْ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا مَدْعُوعُونَ لِتَكُونُوا لِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ؛ إِلَى جَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ فِي رُومًا، إِلَى أَحِبَّاءِ اللَّهِ، الْمَدْعُوعِينَ لِيَكُونُوا قَدِيسِينَ: أَلْتَنْعَمُ لَكُمْ وَالسَّلَامُ مِنَ اللَّهِ أَبِيْنَا وَالرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ! قَبْلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، أَشْكُرُ إِلَهِي بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ جَمِيعًا، لِأَنَّ إِيْمَانَكُمْ يُنَادِي بِهِ فِي الْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ. يَشْهَدُ عَلَيَّ اللَّهُ، الَّذِي أَعْبُدُهُ بِرُوحِي، بِحَسَبِ إِنْجِيلِ ابْنِهِ، أَنِّي أَذْكُرْكُمْ بِغَيْرِ انْقِطَاعٍ، صَارِعًا فِي صَلَوَاتِي عَلَى الدَّوَامِ أَنْ يَتَيَسَّرَ لِي يَوْمًا، بِمَشِيئَةِ اللَّهِ، أَنْ آتِيَ إِلَيْكُمْ. فَإِنِّي أَتَشَوَّقُ أَنْ أَرَاكُمْ، لِأَشْرِكْكُمْ فِي مَوْهَبَةِ رُوحِيَّةٍ وَأَشْدِّدْكُمْ، أَيْ لِأَتَعَزَّى مَعَكُمْ وَبَيْنَكُمْ بِإِيْمَانِي وَإِيْمَانِكُمْ الْمُشْتَرَكِ.

والتسبيح لله دائماً.

Gospel Reading

Saint Matthew 1:1-17

The Apostle Writes:

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى

كِتَابِ مِيلَادِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، ابْنِ دَاوُدَ، ابْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ: إِبْرَاهِيمُ وَوَلَدُ إِسْحَقَ، إِسْحَقُ وَوَلَدُ يَعْقُوبَ، يَعْقُوبُ وَوَلَدُ يَهُوذَا وَإِخْوَتَهُ، يَهُوذَا وَوَلَدُ قَارِصَ وَزَارَحَ مِنْ تَامَارَ، قَارِصُ وَوَلَدُ حَضْرُونَ، حَضْرُونَ وَوَلَدُ آرَامَ، آرَامُ وَوَلَدُ عَمِينَادَابَ، عَمِينَادَابُ وَوَلَدُ نَحْشُونَ، نَحْشُونَ وَوَلَدُ سَلْمُونَ، سَلْمُونَ وَوَلَدُ بُوعَزَ مِنْ رَاخَابَ، بُوعَزُ وَوَلَدُ عُوْبِيدَ مِنْ رَاعُوتَ، عُوْبِيدُ وَوَلَدُ يَسَى، يَسَى وَوَلَدُ دَاوُدَ الْمَلِكِ. دَاوُدُ وَوَلَدُ سُلَيْمَانَ مِنْ أَمْرَأَةَ أُورِيَّا، سُلَيْمَانُ وَوَلَدُ رَحْبَعَامَ، رَحْبَعَامُ وَوَلَدُ أَبِيَّا، أَبِيَّا وَوَلَدُ آسَا، آسَا وَوَلَدُ يُوْسَافَاطَ، يُوْسَافَاطُ وَوَلَدُ يُوْرَامَ، يُوْرَامُ وَوَلَدُ عُوْرِيَّا، عُوْرِيَّا وَوَلَدُ يُوْتَامَ، يُوْتَامُ وَوَلَدُ آحَازَ، آحَازُ وَوَلَدُ حَزَقِيَّا، حَزَقِيَّا وَوَلَدُ مَنَسَى، مَنَسَى وَوَلَدُ أَمُونَ، أَمُونَ وَوَلَدُ يُوْشِيَّا، يُوْشِيَّا وَوَلَدُ يُوْكَنِيَّا وَإِخْوَتَهُ، وَكَانَ السَّبْيُ إِلَى بَابِلَ. بَعْدَ السَّبْيِ إِلَى بَابِلَ، يُوْكَنِيَّا وَوَلَدُ شَالْتَيْئِيلَ، شَالْتَيْئِيلُ وَوَلَدُ زُرْبَابِلَ، زُرْبَابِلُ وَوَلَدُ أَبِيهُودَ، أَبِيهُودُ وَوَلَدُ الْيَاقِيمَ، الْيَاقِيمُ وَوَلَدُ عَازُورَ، عَازُورُ وَوَلَدُ صَادُوقَ، صَادُوقُ وَوَلَدُ آخِيمَ، آخِيمُ وَوَلَدُ إِلِيهُودَ، إِلِيهُودُ وَوَلَدُ إِلِيْعَازَرَ، إِلِيْعَازَرُ وَوَلَدُ مَتَّانَ، مَتَّانُ وَوَلَدُ يَعْقُوبَ، يَعْقُوبُ وَوَلَدُ يُوْسُفَ رَجُلَ مَرْيَمَ، الَّتِي مِنْهَا وُلِدَ يَسُوعَ، وَهُوَ الَّذِي يُدْعَى الْمَسِيحَ. فَجَمِيعُ الْأَجْيَالِ مِنْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِلَى دَاوُدَ أَرْبَعَةَ عَشَرَ جِيلًا، وَمِنْ دَاوُدَ إِلَى سَبْيِ بَابِلَ أَرْبَعَةَ عَشَرَ جِيلًا، وَمِنْ سَبْيِ بَابِلَ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ أَرْبَعَةَ عَشَرَ جِيلًا.
حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لَجَمِيعِكُمْ.



Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



December 24-25, 2023

CHRISTMAS READINGS

First Reading

Hebrews 1:1-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Your blessing father...

Brothers and Sisters:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepters of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس إلى العبرانيين

يا إخواني، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَلَّمَ الآبَاءَ قَدِيمًا فِي الأنبياءِ، مَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَبأنواعٍ شَتَّى، وَفِي آخِرِ هَذِهِ الأَيَّامِ، كَلَّمَنَا فِي الابْنِ، الَّذِي جَعَلَهُ وَارِثًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ. وَبِهِ أَنشَأَ العَالَمِينَ. وَهُوَ شِعَاعُ مَجْدِهِ وَصُورَةُ جَوْهَرِهِ، وَضَابِطُ الكُلِّ بِكَلِمَةِ قُدْرَتِهِ. فَبَعْدَمَا أْتَمَّ تَطْهِيرَ الحَطَايَا، جَلَسَ عَنِ يَمِينِ الجَلَالَةِ فِي الأَعَالِي، فَصَارَ أعْظَمَ مِنَ المَلَائِكَةِ، بِمَقْدَارِ مَا الأَسْمُ الَّذِي وَرِثَهُ أَفْضَلُ مِنَ أَسْمَائِهِمْ. فَلَمَنْ مِنَ المَلَائِكَةِ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَوْمًا: «أَنْتَ ابْنِي، أَنَا اليَوْمَ وَلَدْتُكَ؟» وَقَالَ أَيضًا: «أَنَا أَكُونُ لَهُ أَبًا، وَهُوَ يَكُونُ لِي ابْنًا؟» أَمَا عِنْدَمَا يُدْخِلُ ابْنَهُ البِكْرَ إِلَى العَالَمِ فيَقُولُ: «فَلتَسْجُدْ لَهُ جَمِيعُ مَلَائِكَةِ اللَّهِ». وَعَنِ المَلَائِكَةِ يَقُولُ: «الصَّانِعُ مَلَائِكَتَهُ أرواحًا، وَخُدَامَهُ لَهيبِ نارٍ». أَمَا عَنِ الابْنِ فيَقُولُ: «عَرَشُكَ يَا اللَّهُ، لِدهْرِ الدهرِ، وَصَوْلَجَانِ الأَسْتِقَامَةِ صَوْلَجَانِ مُلْكِكَ. أَحْبَبْتَ البِرَّ وَأَبْغَضْتَ الإِثْمَ. لِذَلِكَ مَسَحَكَ إِلهُكَ، يَا اللَّهُ، بِدُهْنِ البَهْجَةِ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ شُرَكَائِكَ. وَيَقُولُ أَيضًا: «أَنْتَ، يَا رَبِّ، فِي البَدْءِ أَسَسْتَ الأَرْضَ، وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ صُنْعُ يَدَيْكَ. هِيَ تَزُولُ وَأَنْتَ تَبْقَى، وَكُلُّهَا كَالثَّوْبِ تَبْلَى، وَتَطْوِيهَا كَالرِّدَاءِ، وَكَالثَّوْبِ تَتَبَدَّلُ، وَأَنْتَ أَنْتَ وَسُنُوكَ لَنْ تَقْنَى».

والتسبيح لله دائمًا.

Gospel Reading

Saint Luke 2:1-20

From the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them.

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ مِنْ أَوْسَطُسَ قَيْصَرَ بِإِخْصَاءِ كُلِّ الْمَعْمُورَةِ. جَرَى هَذَا الْإِخْصَاءُ الْأَوَّلُ، عِنْدَمَا كَانَ كِيرِينْيُوسُ وَالِيًا عَلَى سُورِيَا. وَكَانَ الْجَمِيعُ يَذْهَبُونَ، كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ، لِيَكْتَتِبُوا فِيهَا. وَصَعِدَ يُوسُفُ أَيْضًا مِنَ الْجَلِيلِ، مِنْ مَدِينَةِ النَّاصِرَةِ، إِلَى الْيَهُودِيَّةِ، إِلَى مَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ الَّتِي تُدْعَى بَيْتَ لَحْمَ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ مِنْ بَيْتِ دَاوُدَ وَعَشِيرَتِهِ، لِيَكْتَتِبَ مَعَ مَرْيَمَ خَطِيبَتِهِ، وَهِيَ حَامِلٌ. وَفِيمَا كَانَا هُنَاكَ، تَمَّتْ أَيَّامُهَا لِتَلِدَ، فَوَلَدَتْ أَبْنَاهَا الْبِكْرَ، وَقَمَطَتْهُ، وَأَضْجَعَتْهُ فِي مَدُودَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُمَا مَوْضِعٌ فِي قَاعَةِ الضُّيُوفِ. وَكَانَ فِي تِلْكَ النَّاحِيَةِ رِعَاةٌ يَقِيمُونَ فِي الْحُقُولِ، وَيَسْهَرُونَ فِي هَجَعَاتِ اللَّيْلِ عَلَى قُطْعَانِهِمْ. فَإِذَا بِمَلَائِكَةِ الرَّبِّ قَدْ وَقَفَ بِهِمْ، وَمَجْدُ الرَّبِّ أَشْرَقَ حَوْلَهُمْ، فَخَافُوا خَوْفًا عَظِيمًا فَقَالَ لَهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ: «لَا تَخَافُوا! فَهِيَ أَنَا أُبَشِّرُكُمْ بِفَرَحٍ عَظِيمٍ يَكُونُ لِلشَّعْبِ كُلِّهِ، لِأَنَّهُ وُلِدَ لَكُمْ الْيَوْمَ مُخْلِصٌ، هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ الرَّبُّ، فِي مَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ وَهَذِهِ عَلَامَةٌ لَكُمْ: تَجِدُونَ طِفْلًا مَقْمَطًا، مُضْجَعًا فِي مَدُودَ!» وَأَنْصَمَّ فَجَاءَهُ إِلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ جُمُوعٌ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ السَّمَاوِيِّ يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّهَ وَيَقُولُونَ: الْمَجْدُ لِلَّهِ فِي الْعُلَى، وَعَلَى الْأَرْضِ السَّلَامِ، وَالرَّجَاءِ الصَّالِحِ لِبَنِي الْبَشَرِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْصَرَفَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ عَنْهُمْ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، قَالَ الرَّعَاةُ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ: «هِيَ بِنَا، إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمَ، لِنَرَى هَذَا الْأَمْرَ الَّذِي حَدَّثْتَ، وَقَدْ عَلَّمَنَا بِهِ الرَّبُّ». وَجَآؤُوا مُسْرِعِينَ، فَوَجَدُوا مَرْيَمَ وَيُوسُفَ، وَالطِّفْلَ مُضْجَعًا فِي الْمَدُودِ. وَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ أَخْبَرُوا بِالْكَلامِ الَّذِي قِيلَ لَهُمْ فِي شَأْنِ هَذَا الصَّبِيِّ وَجَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ سَمِعُوا، تَعَجَّبُوا مِمَّا قَالَهُ لَهُمُ الرَّعَاةُ. أَمَّا مَرْيَمُ فَكَانَتْ تَحْفَظُ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورَ كُلَّهَا، وَتَتَأَمَّلُهَا فِي قَلْبِهَا. ثُمَّ عَادَ الرَّعَاةُ وَهُمْ يَمَجِّدُونَ اللَّهَ وَيُسَبِّحُونَهُ عَلَى كُلِّ مَا سَمِعُوا وَرَأَوْا، حَسَبًا قِيلَ لَهُمْ.

حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لْجَمِيعِكُمْ.