

**Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral
165 Park Drive
Boston, Massachusetts 02215**

Nativity Of Our Lord 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

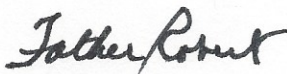
In preparing for Christmas, including our participation in the liturgical services, we can easily forget that the harsh and cruel realities surrounding the birth of Christ are those that surround us today.

Born among beasts and placed in a manger, our Lord comes to us as one who is poor and homeless. Like the countless homeless that now roam the world he seeks a place among us, he seeks to be one with us. Forced to flee Bethlehem because of Herod's mad lust for power, Mary and Joseph seek refuge for the newborn child in a foreign land. Like the many immigrants of today who are poor, frightened and desperate, Mary and Joseph seek asylum in a strange land in order to save the chosen one of God. Like all the vulnerable and homeless, our Savior seeks a home among us. But for this to happen, for Christ to come among us, for Christ to be born within us, for Christ to be shared with all seeking his solace and peace, our minds and hearts must be aware and open to those who call out to us.

By no means is this easy since it requires us to become vulnerable. It requires us to lay down all defenses that isolate us and limit our abilities to be in communion with the other. When we are vulnerable we can begin to dismantle all the psychological barriers that would otherwise rationalize our relationship with God apart from the other. Once these rationalizations begin to be removed we can then set out to enter the mystery of the Incarnation that from all eternity was intended to raise up fallen humanity made old and ugly through sin and death.

With thankful and joyous voices we confess Christ's birth as a prelude to his passion and resurrection. From the depths of our celebration the Lord's victory over sin and death is revealed, is affirmed by how we care for and how we love the other.

En agape,



Father Robert