



**COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE OF ALEXANDRIA
DIOCESE OF OHIO, MICHIGAN & INDIANA**

*And it shall come to pass, That just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing.
Do not fear, Let your hands be strong. Zechariah 8:13*

The Lord promised a blessing.

This is a great thing, we can not imagine our life without it. Therefore after the disconnection of our father Adam from God, he began to understand the meaning of fear, nakedness and curse; **the blessing disappeared.**

St. Paul the Apostle, the philosopher and wise man, says about the Incarnation of the Logos, "But when He again brings the firstborn into the world (Hebrews 1:6). As St. Cyril of Alexandria comments... 'so how did he enter the world? He is separate from the world, not in terms of space or location, but by nature. He differs from the inhabitants of the earth by nature, but He entered into the world by becoming man, thus he became part of the world by the Incarnation. Although He is the only begotten Son as relates to His Divinity, He became a brother to us, and has the name of the firstborn, so he can be the first fruits for the adoption of humanity. He can make us also sons of God.'

Through the Incarnation we have hope for the return of the blessing, and the messages from Heaven have returned, carrying with them the Good News of joy and comfort. "But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard" (Luke 1:13) and also "Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." (Luke 1:30). As Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, "May God Almighty bless you, and make you fruitful and multiply you..." (Genesis 28:3).

Through His Incarnation, He is capable to give blessings to all who believe in Him. And to live as St. Mary lived, the life of submission and trust in His promises and his love of God. "For with God nothing will be impossible." (Luke 1:37).

My beloved, Reverend Fathers, deacons, servants and faithful people, with and for whom, I live, on the occasion of the Feast of the Nativity, I pray and ask our God, the source of all grace and blessings, to bless you that you may grow and prosper in every good deed. With my love and prayers,

+SARAPHIM

Servant of the Diocese of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana
The Feast of the Nativity - January 7, 2020