



THE MONASTERY OF SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK

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*Christ is born, give ye glory!
Christ cometh from the heavens, meet ye Him!
Christ is on earth, be ye exalted! Hymn the Lord, all the earth,
and chant to Him with gladness, ye people, for He is glorified!*

Beloved of the Lord,

As we once again enter into the Nativity Fast, we again are faced with that great and awesome question: Why did God become man? According to the teachings of the Church, man was created so that God might become Man, and through His Incarnation (I Peter 1:20,) man might attain to union with God (theosis) (I Peter 1:4.) The world in which we live, according to St. Maximus, is a creation that was literally *made* for the Incarnation. It was God Who created the world so that He might become man in this world in order to grant the creation participation in His divine and eternal life. In truth, this is salvation.

The reason and meaning of life is found in the mystery of the Incarnation of Christ which St. Maximus tells us is so deep it will remain a mystery for eternity. Our salvation is found in uncovering and entering into this mystery and making it our own. In order to participate in this divine and eternal life, we must diligently keep the commandments of Christ and cleave to Him as to our breath and life, in joy and in sorrow, giving thanks for all things for "this is the will of God concerning us in Christ Jesus" (I Thess. 5:18.)

Through our actions, let us show God that we are serious about loving Him and living for Him, always seeking to bless those who wrong us, to give to those in need, and to ceaselessly turn the eyes of our hearts to our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. By keeping His word, praying steadfastly at all times, and thereby humbly offering our two mites like the poor widow, we will humbly prepare the manger of our hearts so that Christ might come to be born in us and live in us forever.

As we begin the journey of the Nativity Fast, we look forward to your prayer requests for all those that you hold dear and for all of your special intentions, which will be remembered at the Divine Liturgy at the Monastery during this hallowed season. Be assured of our love, our prayers and of our willingness to labor to diligently build up our American Orthodox Church. Invoking God's blessing upon you always, I remain,

In Christ,

Igumen Sergius
Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery

P.S. To show our appreciation for your many years of kindness through supporting us with your contributions and prayers, we again offer to you our St. Tikhon's Monastery Christmas seals. This year, those who donate \$250.00 or more will receive a free mounted Icon of the Nativity of Christ or a comparable gift as a special 'thank you.'

Matching Gifts Program

Below is a short list of some sample companies that offer matching gift programs. If you see your company on the list, you may inquire if there are additional requirements (some don't give to all non-profit organizations, but only those will a specific emphasis). If you don't see your company on the list, it is by no means exhaustive; you can inquire if they offer one. Thank you for your continued support of St. Tikhon's monastery.

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Bakar, Gerson Fdtn
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Bank of America Fdtn
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IBJ Foundation, Inc.
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Foundation Illinois Tool Works
Foundation
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Washington Mutual Foundation
Washington Post
Logistix Prudential Foundation
West Group
Lotus Development Corporation
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Electric Corporation
Macworld Communications, Inc.
Mal Warwick & Associates, Inc.
SAFECO Insurance Companies
Working Assets Funding Service
Marin Community Foundation
Sallie Mae
Xilinx Corporation
Massachusetts Financial SBC
Foundation
Schwab Corporate Foundation
Yahoo!
MasterCard International, Inc.
Scudder Kemper Investments
McGraw-Hill Companies
Sentry Insurance Foundation
Shaklee Corporation
Mellon Bank Corporation

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Merck Company Foundation Inc.
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Smart Modular Technologies
Millipore Foundation
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Mobil Foundation, Inc.
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Sprint Foundation
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Morton International, Inc
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