

December 25, 2021/January 7, 2022



**To the beloved clergy, religious, and faithful of the Russian True Orthodox Church, Archdiocese of North America & the Diaspora--  
mercy, peace, and love be yours in ever-greater measure.**

One of the things that we find ever present during the Christmas holiday season is singing. Maybe it started in imitation of the angels singing the praises of the Lord, or maybe it's just because it feels good. But no matter where we are, or what we may be doing, chances are that we are hearing songs celebrating the season. And even more endearing is that people, for the most part, just cannot help but sing along. Whether it's joining in with a choir, singing along to the radio in the car, or singing karaoke at a Christmas party, the season gives everyone the courage to open up and belt out their favorite song. Of course, not all of these songs are religious in nature or are truly heralding the birth of Christ, but they all share one theme—Celebration.

The birth of Our Savior is indeed a time to celebrate and sing at the top of our voices the great news that the angels sang out in proclamation on the first Christmas. Today, the world is changed forever, as God enters into the world as one of us. Sometimes the incredible gift that the Nativity of Our Lord brings gets drowned out by the other noise surrounding the festivities. We, however, must never lose sight of what it is that we celebrate today, and the magnificence of the gift that we've received, that makes all others pale in comparison. Today, God comes to save what was lost. He comes to set us on a new path that leads us to unending joy. He comes as a light in the darkness so that we will never again lose our way. The King of All is born in the most humble of settings to remind us that in His eyes we are all equal.

Let us all join voices today and loudly proclaim the wonder of God With Us. Let us sing to the Lord with all our hearts in celebration. Let us live today and every day as children worthy of the gifts of new life and salvation. Let us love one another, as He has loved us in choosing to be born among us.

With the bestowal of our blessings and prayers for all of you, we remain

Sincerely in Christ,

+ALEXY

Metropolitan and First Hierarch of the Russian True Orthodox Church-MM  
Archbishop of Minneapolis and Chicago

+HARALAMPOS

Archbishop of Dallas and Texas

+NICHOLAS

Bishop of Edenborn

Vicar for the Archdiocese of North America & the Diaspora