



# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

## ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΕΤΡΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΥΛΟΥ

*As Father of mercies and Lord, God of peace, You have sent forth Your Son as a Messenger: the Angel of Great Counsel, who bestows upon us peace. And thus as we are guided to the light of divine knowledge, rising up before the dawn, we sing Your praises as the Friend of man.*

- Katavasiae of the Nativity, Ode 5

Dear Faithful,

In just a few short weeks we will be celebrating our Lord's Nativity. In Orthros we have already begun singing the Katavasiae for Christmas, letting us know that this major feast day of our Church is quickly approaching. In these hymns we proclaim our God to be a God of peace who sends the Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to grant us peace.

By Jesus Christ coming into the world and taking on flesh, God is united with humanity, healing the separation and division between God and mankind, replacing enmity with peace. We now have the opportunity to unite ourselves to Christ, and to have this peace within ourselves and peace with one another.

The world may still have conflicts, wars, and divisions, but we as Christians can enjoy peace through our life in the Church and our partaking of the Sacraments that unite us to Christ. As we find this peace in ourselves, may we pray and work towards spreading that same peace to our neighbors, our communities, and throughout the world.

I pray that during this joyous season, you experience and enjoy the peace of Jesus Christ as we celebrate His Nativity.

With Love in Christ,

Fr. John Bullock