



# BULGARIAN DIOCESE — OF TOLEDO — Orthodox Church in America

519 Brynhaven Drive, Oregon, OH 43616

**ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER**  
Diocesan Prelate

Office: 419-693-9540  
Fax: 419-693-9541  
Mobile: 419-690-9979  
Email: alexander@bdoca.org

## NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2021

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4-5, Epistle reading for the Nativity)

Our Heavenly Father knew when the conditions would be right for the advent of His only-begotten Son. In both Judaism and the Roman world there was a readiness to encounter the Word of God. Indeed, not everyone received our Lord and his Good News. Many in the Jewish world, especially in its leadership, opposed the Lord Jesus. Eventually Rome, through Pontius Pilate, would put him to death.

Even the opponents of Christ played a part in the divine economy of our salvation. The Gospel persevered, and through death new life shone forth. From those days, in a relatively short span of time Christianity flourished, growing from a small Jewish sect in a backwater of the Roman Empire to the official Imperial religion, thus changing the course of history forever.

The holy Apostle John assures us that, "as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." (John 1:12) Beloved in the Lord, now is the "fullness of time" for each of us. Now is the time to receive Christ's Gospel, that it may flourish in our hearts, becoming the exclusive measure by which we conduct our lives.

May the newborn Christ illumine your lives with his light and life, on this Great Feast of our Lord's Nativity, throughout the New Year, and forevermore.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

With love in the newborn King,

*Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese – Orthodox Church in America*