

Odoiporikon

Orthodox Mission in the East

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PATRIARCHAL FOUNDATION
OF ORTHODOX MISSION IN THE FAR EAST
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Christmas message

My dear brothers, rejoice in the Lord.

With the grace of God we prepare ourselves physically and mentally to receive the Divine Infant, who will take human flesh and bones, like ours. He will become one of us, to give us the opportunity to appropriate him, to consider him ours and in this way to see and hear what he has to present and tell us. His teaching, His miracles, His interest, affection, and love for us, for each one of us. To help us understand the true potential and the true purpose of the existence of mankind, which is nothing else but heaven, from Paradise, from experiencing God's Grace to eternity.

This Christmas let us enable our souls to experience this coming of Christ inside of us and in our spirit. To let it open, to cleanse and welcome the love of God, to let it govern our inner world, which will be reflected and manifested by our thoughts, our words, our actions, our behavior. All this should have His love as its starting point and its ultimate goal.

And when we are called to make our gifts to the people we love, as these holy days and our customs urge us, , whether we know them or not, to give the gifts of Christ, the spiritual virtues that act as spiritual tools in order to come closer to Him.

To offer to our fellow men our apology and our thanks, our affection and interest, our care and our love. To offer them our solidarity and our self-denial, our humility and our willingness, our effort and our sacrifice. To help them, to feel



them as our brothers, as ourselves, just as our coming Lord said and did for us.

And let's not care who the other, our fellow man, is. Let us not just react to his behavior towards us. But let's take the initiative to love him. Whoever he is, whatever he is, wherever he is. Unconditioned. For experiencing God's grace takes place in our souls and is a personal matter. It emanates and determines how we perceive the world and our existence. How we interact with them. The graceful man radiates the grace of God which he received and experiences. He becomes god by grace and acts as god by grace, as a Saint.

This Christmas, my dear brothers, let us appropriate holiness, give away its gifts, and experience its sponsor, the Lord of our lives Jesus Christ.

May we experience Christmas with Christ.

With love in the Lord,

† Myron Metropolitan of New Zealand

Christmas

Christmas is a celebration flooded with mysteries ‘foreign and paradoxes’. Mysteries that can lead the small human brain and logic from boredom to surprise. The Eternal Word of God, the invisible, the incorporeal, the light of light, the source of life and immortality, the unchanging Image of God, wears flesh for the flesh, and mental soul for my dark and wounded soul. And the great God becomes a humble man, descends into the mud of the earth to lift up the man surrendered to the vicious circle of pleasure and suffering: *The existing is made, the uncreated is built, the inseparable fits... and the wealthy gets poor. He gets poor in my flesh, so that I will enrich by his deity!*

The Almighty God could by His power save man. However, He did not do so, because His actions are characterized first by righteousness and then by power. Man has forsaken His creator. The just consequence of this choice of autonomy from the Source of Life was death, spiritual as well as physical. But just as man was freely deceived by the devil, again it was only right that man should defeat the devil. This man had to be a NEW man, without the hereditary disease of disobedience and rebellion. What David expresses so graphically should not apply to Him: ***“Behold, I was born in iniquities and in sins my mother conceived me”!*** Therefore, man had to be **God-man**. So this way of salvation, which combines justice and love, was the most well-matching to human weakness and the most worthy of God!’

Christ is mysteriously created. He is not born according to the laws of nature but

of the Virgin Mary, of a woman who did not come into body contact with a man, of a woman purified by unceasing prayer and conversation with God in the Holy of Holies! **Wherever God wills, nature is defeated.** Why is Jesus Christ born by a Virgin? Saint Chrysostom replies: Just as a craftsman finds a beautiful material and makes his vase more beautiful, so Christ could only be incarnated from the immaculate body of the pure Virgin. Besides, the new man, the God-man, could only come from pure childbirth. Just as in the first creation it was not possible for man to exist before God took the clay into his hands, so the sick human body could not become new unless it became the garment of its Creator. In the first creation, Adam, without the participation of a woman, “gave birth” to Eve, so to speak. In the second creation, the woman, the Virgin Mary, without the participation of a man, gives birth to Jesus Christ, so as to restore the equality of the two sexes. Just as God did not leave Adam incomplete when He removed his side to mold his woman, the same way when He created His living temple, He did not abolish the Virgin Mary’s Virginité. If Jesus came from an ordinary marriage, they would not believe He is God. The unusual manner of His birth helps us to fully accept his divinity.

Yet, the mystery is also this: The Word of God for nine months in the womb of the Virgin was taking the human form, and for thirty-three years he walked on this Planet and socialized with us

humans. And yet He did not cease to be with His Father in Heaven. *“While fully present amid those below, the uncircumscribed Word was not absent from those above; for what happened was a divine condescension, and not a moving from one place to another”*(Acathist Hymn)

The mysteries of Christmas require an approach not with an investigative and dismissive disposition but with silence and tears, with thanksgiving and praise: There are many who smile ironically upon hearing such paradoxical facts. Saint Gregory the Theologian replies to them: This birth would not be so great if you could understand it, you who do not even know your own birth, or rather you have understood such a small part of it, that you are even ashamed to say it! You must first labor to explain your own conception, formation, birth, the connection of soul and body, mind and soul, word and mind... But when you do not know your own birth, then how will you know the birth of God? If you do not believe that the Son was born because you cannot comprehend it, then it is time to reject many beings whom you did not understand, and above all God Himself.

John Chrysostom himself trembles at the unimaginable reality of God’s birth and confesses: *Please forgive me for feeling powerless to continue the speech. I am afraid to proceed with the research of the most important matters, I do not master the way, I do not know. Where to turn the speech? What can I say? What should I talk about? I see the mother, I see the child... Natural law is defeated, the order of the world is defeated when God’s ‘will’ is heard! The One and Only, who exists before the centuries began, the one who does not fall into the human senses, the*

incorporeal, took my body which is subject to decay. Why; Because people have more confidence in their eyes than in their ears. This is why God tolerated presenting Himself with a body before our eyes to dispel the doubts we had when we heard His words.

Saint Gregory the Theologian, referring to the way of celebrating Christmas, in his famous speech, he uses a language that many would describe as fanatical and extreme: *‘Do not adorn the front of our gates, let us not feast on our eyes, let us not delight our hearing, let us not make our sense of smell feminine, let us not corrupt our taste with many tasty foods, let us not be loaded with gold, let us not use paints that make natural beauty false and destroy the image.’* Saint Simeon the Theologian adds: *‘Fortunate is he who has seen the light of the world, i.e. Christ, being formed within him, for he will become the mother of Christ, having Christ in him as an infant, as He himself has promised: **my mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.***

God becomes man in order for man to become God. Therefore, rise from the earth, from the earthly, to offer all your love to Him who is now descending to earth for you. If you have nothing else to offer Him as a gift, like the magicians and shepherds, take off you the sins and offer them to Him. Clean the cave of Bethlehem within you with the bath of the Church. **The Word of God, once born in the flesh, is forever born in the Spirit of the willing, and becomes an infant for those who are shaped by virtues.”**

Sotirios Despotis

Professor at the University of Athens

The Hierarchy!!!

I had the blessing, through his invitation, and under His instructions, to minister in the Mission of the Far East, him being at the time the Metropolitan of the Holy Metropolis of Korea.

I am not in a position, nor am I qualified to refer to his Resume and the enormous work during the 66 years of His Priesthood (1956-2022) he accomplished. However, I quote below His letter to me, which illuminates the HIERARCHY!!!



Nikolaos Iliopoulos

Pisidias Sotirios

Monastery of the Transfiguration, Kapyong - Korea

9 September 2014

To the Honourable

Mr. Nicholas Iliopoulos

President of the Patriarchal Foundation of Orthodox Mission In the Far East

Gounaropoulon 3, ZOGRAFOU

GREECE

Dear Mr. Iliopoulos,

After many thoughts, I've decided to address this letter to you in order to express to you the insurmountable difficulties I have in participating in the event you are planning, as Patriarchal Foundation of O.I.A.A. on the subject of the 40 years of my ministry in Korea.

I apologise for appearing to fall back on my initial response to your proposal, but as I'm thinking about this issue, here in the quiet of our Monastery, and I get mentally upset!

How is it possible for my conscience to endure an event that will have as its theme my person, for a sacred ministry that began and continued simply and humbly, with the constant miraculous interventions of the Head of our Faith Jesus Christ and the sacrifices of so many brothers from Greece and Korea!

At the present time of crisis, upheaval, persecution and suffering of thousands of Orthodox brothers, me sitting up front in the Hall and the speakers presenting....

I am sorry, but just thinking about it, I can't stand it! Let alone that there will be people who will be scandalized, as they know my connection with the Patriarchal Foundation: "So, Fr. Sotirios had them honor him"!!! But there will also be other kinds of reactions, which will be unconstructive.

That is why, I ask for your understanding about my personal insurmountable difficulties, not to proceed with events that have to do with my humility and that require my presence. I apologize again for upsetting your plans.

May the Lord bless the activities of the Patriarchal Foundation O.I.A.A. in the new Ecclesiastical Year and provide to the dear Board Members and your precious Collaborators in the Lord with His blessings.

With utmost honor and love,

† *Metropolitan of Pisidia Sotirios*

We admire and glorify!



Dear brothers in Christ, rejoice in the Lord.

The Comforter, who continues and vitalizes His Church, speaks and acts in our souls, in our lives, and in the life of our local Church. The Incarnated Lord claims us to see the small and great miracles that take place around us every day. To experience as reality His promises after His Resurrection and Ascension. We admire and glorify.

Our new faithful brothers in the Pacific islands and especially in Lampasa, Fiji are experiencing strongly the loss of our beloved father Varnava. As the days go by, we all realize that we had the opportunity to meet a man of God who, with humility and love, served the souls of his spiritual

children who were entrusted to him by God. Thus, the expression and action of the Divine Grace through the priesthood of Fr. Varnava during his priestly ministry in the present life, is becoming more and more evident.

The testimonies are multiplying. Muslims, Hindus, pagans, atheists have something miraculous to say about Fr. Varnava's action, and to confirm the truth of the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles in fact. The new priest Father Alexios, his spiritual child for almost 3 years, with a lot of humbleness and self-denial of himself and his family and with a lot of affection and love, having the blessing of the late father Varnava, serves the congregation of the faithful

people of God in the parish of Saints Athanasios and Nicholas.

We kindly ask you to pray to God for the rest of Father Varnava's soul but also for the strengthening and support of Father Alexios.

We also cannot fail to admire and praise the Grace of God that speaks to the hearts of the locals here in New Zealand. Young men and children who until now have not been presented with the opportunity to truly experience life in Christ, are close to the Monastery of the Holy Archangels in Levine, under the spiritual guidance of Archimandrite Meletius and slowly discover in their hearts the greatness and truth of the Orthodox faith.

Solitary and priestly callings are often manifested, and the longing and fervor for life in Christ find a way to be experienced. Joy is their common feature, and their willingness and obedience, the way of expressing it. The internal mission in the country of New Zealand is a great chapter of our local Church. Promising a lot, but with much more demands, since it does not require so much material goods but more affection, interest, demanding spiritual guidance and much, much love for our spiritually afflicted brothers.

In this ministry our local Church has found worthy supporters in the persons of our beloved brothers and sisters in Greece and Australia. We would like to express our gratitude to all Your Excellencies Metropolitans and Archbishops, Reverent Bishops, Superiors, Presidents and Heads of Missionary Fraternities and Liaisons in Greece, Crete and Australia. They first opened their hearts to us and then their Provinces and gave us the blessing to screen the film about the mission "HELLO ORTHODOX". They urged their



pious and faithful children to contribute in practice through their prayers and gifts to the work of evangelizing our brothers. Everyone's response was very moving and was an occasion for praise once again to His Most Holy Name. Without their assistance the presence of the gospel in this corner of the world would be much more difficult.

We wish from the bottom of our hearts that may the All-Giving Triune God grant them the perception of His truth, the joy of His Presence, his offering and His gifts.

Have a Merry and blessed Christmas with the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in our hearts.

† Myron Metropolitan of New Zealand
Wellington, Christmas 2022

The feast of the Synaxis of the 24 Protector Saints of the Church in Korea



The feast of the Synaxis of the 24 protector Saints of the Church in Korea was celebrated at the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Saviour in Gapyong on Monday, October 3, 2022. This year the celebration was different from previous years. This is because this year, the founder of the Monastery and initiator of the holiday, the late Metropolitan of Pisidia, Soterios (formerly of Korea), was physically absent.

Following the Divine Liturgy, and during the Memorial Service for the repose of the soul of the blessed Metropolitan

Soterios, which was held with the participation of the Korean Clergy along with the Faithful, Metropolitan Ambrosios delivered a short address. He emphasized, with obvious emotion, that “we cannot but always remember with infinite gratitude our blessed spiritual Father, Metropolitan Soterios because everything we have in the Metropolis of Korea we owe it to Him. If His Eminence had not worked hard, we would have neither the Monastery nor the Holy Relics of our 24 protector Saints. Our Saint-loving Metropolitan took great pains to collect the miraculous holy relics and bring them to Korea. He then requested the approval of our Ecumenical Patriarchate to celebrate their Synaxis on October 3, which is a national holiday in Korea. After the Patriarchal approval, he then asked the hymnographer Archim. Fr. Nikodimos Aerakis to compose the Holy Service of the Saints and commissioned the iconographer Professor Sozos Giannoudis to illustrate the first icon of the Synaxis of the 24 Saints. Finally, he organized the first celebration at the Monastery, establishing it on an annual basis for the sanctification of all of us”.

After the Divine Liturgy, the Sisters of the Monastery offered a common meal of love to all the participants. Thus, through the intercessions of the 24 protector Saints of the Church in Korea, their annual festival was completed in an atmosphere of spiritual joy.



The first International Food Festival since the start of Covid-19

For the first time since the start of COVID-19, the Autumn International Food Festival was held on Sunday, October 16 in the forecourt of the St. Nicholas Cathedral in Seoul.

The participants had the opportunity to taste delicious food and sweets from Korea, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, America, Greece, Portugal, and Serbia. The young children also enjoyed the Face Painting, which the Cypriot painter-Iconographer Maria Savvas volunteered to do.

They deserve many warm thanks to all those who worked with zeal and sacrifice for many hours from the previous day to prepare the dishes, but also to serve them

to the visitors on the day of the Festival. But especially the thanks and congratulations belong to all the young men and women of the “Syndesmos” team because they tried to set up and take down the tents, to place and collect the tables and seats, to prepare the refreshments, coffees and the rest of the drinks that they lovingly offered to the public, but also to clean up the place at the end.

The smiles on the faces of volunteers and visitors, combined with the wonderful autumn weather, created an extremely happy atmosphere. The Christian unity, love, and cooperation between the volunteers did their miracle once again!



The Dream That Came True

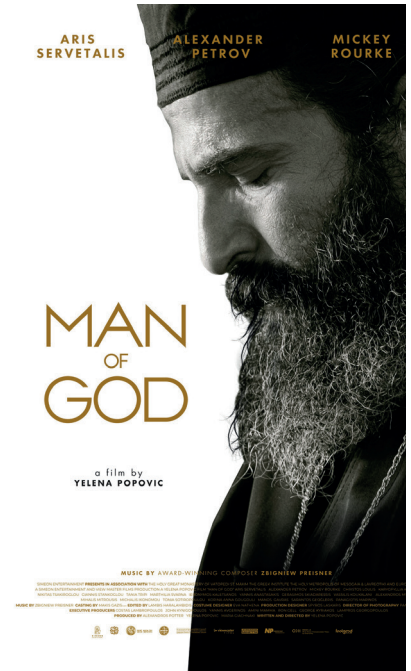
From the moment the great movie: Man of God, by Yelena Popovic, starring Aris Servetalis and co-starring Alexander Petrov and Mickey Rourke, was shown in cinemas in many countries of the world, the desire of all the members of the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea was to show it in Korea also so that more Koreans will get to know the life of St. Nektarios.

The relationship of the Orthodox Koreans with St. Nektarios started in the 90s, when a piece of his holy Relics arrived in Korea and then later, with the publication of His life in a book published by the Publication House of the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea.

Everyone who saw the movie with Korean subtitles on Sunday, October 30, 2022, at the historical Daehan Multiplex

Theater in Seoul, during the Catholic Film Festival (CAFF), was moved to tears and many of the audience confessed that they greatly benefited spiritually.

Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea wished that we should cultivate, through the intercessions of St. Nektarios, the three great virtues of the Saint, namely patience, love, and forgiveness, in order to enter, like Him, into the Kingdom of Heaven.





HE Metropolitan of Hydra, Spetses and Aegina Ephraim, for Saint Nektarios

On Friday, November 11, 2022, HE Metropolitan of Hydra, Spetses, and Aegina Ephraim was invited in the internet gathering organized by the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea.

Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea welcomed HE Ephraim and asked him to share with the participants the experiences he has had from his childhood with Saint Nektarios, because, as he said: “Your Eminence, you know more than I do about St. Nektarios because, due to age difference, you met more people in Aegina, who had met St. Nektarios”.

His Eminence Fr. Ephraim expressed his joy for his participation in the Synaxis, but also his condolences for the passing of the blessed Metropolitan late Soterios and wished us to have his blessings.

The more than one hundred participants watched with great interest and

emotion the recollections of His Eminence from his acquaintance with two of the nuns of St. Nektarios Monastery, deaconess Magdalene Moustakas and Chrysafenika Kalamaki. He also told us about the experience he had, when for the first time he visited the monastery of St. Nektarios together with his classmates and their teacher Archimandrite Ioannis Iliopoulos of the Kypseli Elementary School in Aegina, for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in the Monastery, following the removal from the tomb the Relics of Saint Nektarios (1953).

The meeting lasted for more than one hour, which passed very quickly. The precious personal testimonies of His Eminence Ephraim about the life of the first great Saint of the 20th century were deeply engraved in the souls of all those who participated in the gathering.

Prayer for the tragedy in Itaewon, Seoul

On Sunday morning, October 30, 2022, as soon as we were informed of the tragic accident that happened the previous night in the Itaewon area of Seoul, a special prayer was held at St. Nicholas Cathedral immediately after the Divine Liturgy with the participation of the entire congregation, for the rest of the souls of 156 young people who had died in this terrible accident.

The members of the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea continue to pray that God may grant healing to those who have been physically and mentally injured and also give strength and comfort to the parents and relatives of the victims of this incredible tragedy. We express our heartfelt condolences to all of them!

Events in Seoul in favor of peace in Ukraine

On Monday, November 21, Metropolitan Ambrosios with clergy and lay members of the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea participated in the annual General Assembly of the NCKK. Since the invited archbishop of Donetsk and Mariupol Sergei (Horobtsov) could not participate in person in the above-mentioned General Assembly, due to the war, Father Roman Kavchak read his speech on his behalf.

Also on Friday, November 24, Metropolitan Ambrosios together with the clergy of the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea participated in a prayer and peaceful protest against the war in Ukraine, in which again Father Roman Kavchak read a speech by Archbishop of Donetsk and Mariupol Sergei.

Memorial Service for the Victims of the Holodomor in Seoul and Tokyo

On Sunday, November 20, 2022, the Metropolitan of Korea and Exarch of Japan Ambrosios, assisted by the Ukrainian priest Fr. Roman Kavchak and the Korean deacon Yohan Park, performed a Memorial Service at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Seoul for the repose of the victims of the famine – genocide in Ukraine of what is known as the Holodomor.

His Excellency Mr. Dmytro Ponomarenko, the Ambassador of Ukraine in Seoul and several Ukrainians living in Seoul participated in the Memorial Service. Also participating was the Roman Catholic nun Sister Sicelia who, on behalf of a group of Roman Catholics, handed over the sum of 7,500.000 won to Fr. Roman, a fruit of collection in favor of the fighting Ukrainians to be sent

to Ukraine. After the end of the Memorial Service, the Metropolitan delivered a short address after which he invited everyone to a reception in the Main Hall of the Metropolis.

On Saturday, November 26, 2022, the Metropolitan of Korea and Exarch of Japan Ambrosios, accompanied by Fr. Roman Kavchak and Fr. Antonios Lim went to Tokyo Japan for the commemoration of the Holodomor victims in Ukraine. The Ambassador of Greece in Tokyo, His Excellency Mr. Demetrios Karamitsos and the Ambassador of Ukraine in Tokyo, His Excellency Mr. Sergiy Korsunsky, as well as the Ukrainian-American Rev. Fr. Paul Koroluk and many Ukrainians and Japanese participated in the Memorial Service.



Before the Memorial Service, Metropolitan Ambrosios addressed the participants with the following greeting:

My beloved Sisters and Brothers,

This year's anniversary of the great Holodomor genocide in Ukraine is very different from previous years. And this is because for nine months now, Russia's endless fratricidal war against Ukraine continues. We are already mourning hundreds of dead and injured on both sides. We share the pain of millions of refugees. We suffer for the extensive damage to public and private building infrastructure, the great ecological and environmental catastrophe as a result of the war.

That is why this year, I think, we should not only talk about what happened 90 years ago, but firstly, what is happening right now in Ukraine; secondly, what have each of us done so far for Ukraine, and thirdly, what we shall do from now on to end the war in Ukraine.

Moreover, since this is no time for words and theories, please let me briefly describe to you what the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea did, with the help of Fr. Roman Kavchak and the Ukrainian believers who belong to Her, but also with the cooperation of various Religious Forums in Korea.

Firstly, from the first moment of the start of the war, following the example of His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, we publicly condemned the war in protest in front of the Russian Embassy in Seoul and participated in prayer events and protest rallies with speeches in support of Ukraine and circulating information about

the problem of the war in Ukraine.

Secondly, with the cooperation of the Korea Love Sharing Community (KOLOS), we sent a container with humanitarian aid, such as medicines and basic necessities, via Romania to Ukraine, worth more than 500,000 US dollars.

Thirdly, with the cooperation of other Christian churches and religious groups, we collected financial aid of about 200,000 US dollars, which we have already sent through the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea to the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine, specifically to the charity organization ELEOS, for the distribution of food, water, medicine and clothes to the civilian population, especially to children.

My Brothers and Sisters, everything we have done and everything we shall continue to do has no political expediency. Our criterion is only the defense of Peace, Truth and Justice. In other words, as Orthodox Christians, we are opposed to the war, because war is opposed to the Gospel which we believe in. We are against war because "there is no greater sin than war", according to the great Russian-born Orthodox theologian and modern Saint of the Orthodox Church, St. Sophrony of Essex. The war in Ukraine is not "a holy war, but an unholy and satanic war", as very wisely has been declared by His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, from Whom I have the special blessing and honor to convey to all of you His paternal wishes and blessings.

God bless the people of Ukraine!



Vigil at St. Andrew's Monastery in Palang-ri

With the participation of several believers, as well as the Seoul Clergy, such as Fr. Roman Kavchak, Fr. Antonios Lim, and deacon Yohan Park, the Feast day of the Apostle Andrew the First-Called was celebrated with a vigil at the Monastery of Saint Andrew in Palang-ri.

The Vigil lasted from 9 in the evening until 2 in the morning. The Vigil began with the Great Vespers of the feast, the Breaking of the Bread (Artoklasia), and Litany (Procession) outside the church, at the end of which there was a sermon by Metropolitan Ambrosios on the theme: "Be on Guard, Stay constantly and Pray" (Mk. 13:33). Then, instead of a Midnight Service, there was an hour of prayer with the Jesus Prayer, and then followed the Orthros of the Feast and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

After the end of the Vigil, monastic hospitality was offered to all the participants. The next day at 10 a.m. the Service of the First Hour was read, at the end of which there was a sermon by Metropolitan on the theme: "The Great Power of Prayer". After the common meal of love, every one helped to remove the snow from the churchyard, because of the heavy snowfall that fell in the early morning hours. A little later, all the faithful departed joyfully and spiritually elevated.

Several participants expressed the desire to have Vigils more often, as an opportunity for more prayer and spiritual communication among the faithful.

The Celebration of the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas in Seoul

With lots of joy and spiritual cheerfulness, the feast of Saint Nicholas was celebrated again this year in His homonymous Church in Seoul.

On Sunday, December 4, before the Dismissal of the Divine Liturgy, the beginning of the festive events took place with the transfer of St. Nicholas's Icon and His holy Relics by Metropolitan Ambrosios, Fr. Roman Kavchak, Fr. Antonios Lim, and Deacon Yohan Park and were placed in the middle of the Cathedral. Every year, following the relevant prayer, the children were offered various gifts on behalf of Saint Nicholas.

After the common meal of love, the youth of the Cathedral as well as adults helped with the cleaning of the holy church and the courtyard. Some others took care of the Christmas decorations on the trees and the Halls of the building complex.

On Monday evening, December 5, the Great Vespers of the Feast Day was chanted with the Breaking of the Bread (Artoklasia) and a sermon delivered by the Metropolitan on the theme: "The Saints: The Greatest Benefactors of Humanity". This was followed by the Litany (Procession) of the Icon and the Relics of St. Nicholas outside the church. After the Litany, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy followed, and then a celebratory dinner was offered to all participants.

On Tuesday, December 6, in the morning, the Service of Orthros (Matins) of the feast day followed by the Divine Liturgy was held. The celebration ended with the offering of a celebratory meal of love to all present.



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