



# The Holy See of Antioch Apostolic Liberal Catholic Church



His Holiness Simon Peter  
XXV PATRIARCH

## Christmas Celebration and Service December 2025

### 1. Welcome and Introduction:

**His Holiness Dr. Simon Peter, The Bishop of Antioch**

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ. may I extend a warm welcome to you all at this time when we celebrate the birth of Christ as the coming of the Saviour, and embrace the Gospel.

This annual observance provides the opportunity to be grounded once again at the very core of our social wellbeing, to understand that the purpose of all humanity is to live in the knowledge of the love of God and thus to live peaceably with all.

### 2. A Prayer and Blessing on our service.

O God of Infinite Goodness we beseech you to look down upon us, with an eye of tender compassion, and incline our hearts to Thy Holy Will in all our actions , Through Jesus Christ our " Great Emmanuel" .  
Amen.

### 3. Opening Christmas Message

Where there is faith, there is love.  
Where there is love, there is peace.  
Where there is peace, there is God.  
And where there is God; there is no need.

My Brothers and Sisters , once you find God, you have found everything.

We find Jesus Christ at the poor stable.  
He is very vulnerable and powerless for us.  
He does this so that we can become open to His love.



"The Mercy of God is revealed in the face of Our Lord Jesus Christ,"  
"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonderful-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:5)

It is a child in a manger that comes to us to proclaim the Good News of the Love and Mercy of God! To proclaim our salvation!

As we gather together as families to celebrate the Birth of Our Saviour, "the Great Emmanuel".



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I wish EVERYONE that the little baby Jesus that was born in Bethlehem be always with you and bring you peace.

In this quite unprecedented year, I wish also that you may experience his love and forgiveness.

May his light shine brightly in your lives.

I wish a joyful time with your family and friends.

### 4. A Spiritual Celebration of the 12 Days of Christmas

Brothers and Sisters the "12 days of Christmas" Prayers and Readings are a simple way of welcoming Jesus Christ "Our Great Emmanuel" into your hearts anew this Christmas season

#### Day 1: December 25 - Come let us Adore Him

*A partridge in a pear tree: Represents Jesus Christ "Our Great Emmanuel"*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, you have given us the gift of all gifts in the birth of your precious son Jesus. As we begin the 12 days of Christmas, let us adore you and keep you in the centre of our lives today and every day.

**Reading** Isaiah 9: 5, 6

For a son has been born for us, a son has been given to us, and dominion has been laid on his shoulders; and this is the name he has been given, 'Wonderful -Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace'

To extend his dominion in boundless peace, over the throne of David and over his kingdom to make it secure and sustain it in fair judgement and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of Yahweh Sabaoth will do this.



#### Day 2: December 26 - Feast of St. Stephen

*Two turtle doves: Represent The Old and New Testaments*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for the example of St. Stephen and his courage to stand up for his faith, even when it wasn't popular. Help us to be bold enough to share our faith with friends, family and everyone we meet.

**Reading** Acts 6:8, & 7:55,56

Stephen was filled with grace and power and began to work miracles and great signs among the people.



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7: 55 But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand.

7: 56 'Look! I can see heaven thrown open,' he said, 'and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.'

### Day 3: December 27 - Feast of the Holy Family

*Three French hens: Symbolise Faith, hope, and love*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for the example of family that you have given us through Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. We pray for extraordinary faith and devotion to God and to each other, as we saw in the lives of the Holy Family.

**Reading :** 1Corinthians 13: 4-7 the Love chapter written by the Apostle Paul.

<sup>4</sup> Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited,

<sup>5</sup> it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances.

<sup>6</sup> Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth.

<sup>7</sup> It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes.



### Day 4: December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents

*Four calling birds: Represent The Four Gospels*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we know Jesus loves the little children when he said to the Apostles; "Let them come unto me."

We pray today for all the children who have joined you in heaven, and for their mothers, fathers, and all those who feel and mourn their loss.

We pray for them to be comforted and surrounded in your love.

**Reading** Mt 19:13-14

<sup>13</sup> Then people brought little children to him, for him to lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples scolded them,

<sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, 'Let the little children alone, and do not stop them from coming to me; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of Heaven belongs.'



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### Day 5: December 29 - Five Golden Rings

*Five gold rings: Represent the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your word given to us in the Old Testament. Through these books you have shown us your power, mercy, and love throughout history. May we keep your word alive throughout our daily lives.

Genesis / Exodus / Leviticus / Numbers / Deuteronomy

### Day 6: December 30 - Six Geese-A-Laying

*Six geese a-laying: Represent The six days of Creation*

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the beautiful world you have created, and everything in it.

Lord let us be good stewards of all that you have given us. And in all the beauty you have made, may we see your face, and give you the glory.

**Reading:** Genesis 1: 1 In the beginning God created heaven and earth.

The first day - light was created

Second day - the sky was created

Third day - dry land, seas, plants and trees were created

Fourth day - the Sun, Moon and stars were created

Fifth day - creatures that live in the sea and creatures that fly were created

Sixth day - animals that live on the land and finally

<sup>27</sup> God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

### Day 7: December 31 - New Beginnings

*Seven swans a-swimming: Represent Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as we come to the end of this year and begin a new one, help us to be thankful for all that you have done for us.

In both trials and celebrations, we know that you were with us every step of the way. We look forward to a New Year, may we be renewed in our faith and in our relationship with you so we can cultivate the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are:

*Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and awe of the Lord.*



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### Day 8: January 1 - Solemnity of Mary

*Eight maids a-milking: Represent Eight Beatitudes of Jesus*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we thank you today for Mary, the mother of Jesus. We are grateful for her "Yes" to you to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour.

Help us to use her example of faithfulness to say "Yes" to whatever you would ask us to do, no matter how scary or difficult.

**Reading:** Matthew 5: 3-10

<sup>3</sup> How blessed are the poor in spirit: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are the gentle: they shall have the earth as inheritance.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness: they shall have their fill.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognised as children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

### Day 9: January 2 - Nine Ladies Dancing

*Nine ladies dancing: Represent the Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit*

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, as the parties are over and the presents have been opened, let us not forget that we are still in the celebration of Christmas.

Today we thank you for the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit. Let us use them to remind us how to interact with those around us in our daily lives.

**Reading:** Galatians 5:22-25

<sup>22</sup> On the other hand the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness,

<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control; no law can touch such things as these.

<sup>24</sup> All who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified self with all its passions and its desires.

<sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let our behaviour be guided by the Spirit

### Day 10: January 3 - Ten Lords-a-Leaping :

*Ten Lords-a-Leaping: Represent The Ten Commandments*



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**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of the Ten Commandments. Help us to stay focused and give us your strength so we may obey all that you have instructed us to do based on Exodus 20: 1-17.

The 10 Commandments are:

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet.

**Day 11: January 4 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

*Eleven pipers piping: Represent The eleven faithful apostles*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for your son Jesus and we praise His Holy Name.

We know the power of the name of Jesus, but also the hope, peace, mercy and grace that it brings. We pray that through us others may come to know Him.

The eleven faithful apostles:

1. Simon Peter,
2. Andrew,
3. James,
4. John,
5. Philip,
6. Bartholomew,
7. Matthew,
8. Thomas,
9. Judas the son of James
10. James the son of Alphaeus,
11. Simon the Zealot,

**Day 12: January 5 - The Epiphany**

*Twelve drummers drumming: Represent the Twelve points of the Apostles Creed*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, today we thank you for the gift of the three wise men. We pray that today and for the rest of this year, we look for and recognize signs that point us to you. We pray for wisdom, strength and perseverance to follow the paths that You set before us.





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1. I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
2. And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:
3. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary:
4. Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell:
5. The third day he rose again from the dead:
6. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty:
7. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:
8. I believe in the Holy Ghost:
9. I believe in the Holy Catholic Church: the communion of saints:
10. The forgiveness of sins:
11. The resurrection of the body:
12. And the life everlasting. Amen.

### 5. A Christmas Message:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we live in unprecedented times

First may I say thank you for keeping faith, it's been a very sad year as all meetings stopped in the middle of March and it looks like no return until the New Year.

For all those faithful servants of the Church who have passed this year we give thanks for their lives and friendship.

May I thank all those in office for all their hard work, and we must try to keep communicating to all our members so no one is forgotten.

It has been a hard year for all of us but we must keep the faith, to do that, I would encourage you all to continue to develop and practice those wonderful qualities of the "fruits of the spirit"

**Wisdom** is both the knowledge of and judgment about "divine things" and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth

**Understanding** is penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially those higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation, in effect, the ability to "see" God

**Counsel** allows a man to be directed by God in matters necessary for his salvation

**Fortitude** denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles, even deadly ones, by virtue of the assurance of everlasting life

**Knowledge** is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as to never wander from the straight path of justice



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**Piety** is, principally, revering God with filial affection, paying worship and duty to God, paying due duty to all men on account of their relationship to God, and honouring the saints and not contradicting Scripture.

**Fear of God** is, in this context, fear of displeasing his majesty like a child does not want to displease his father

Therefore, In the days that lie ahead my beloved brothers and sisters, be courageous and strong , steadfast, immovable, always having plenty to do in the work of our Lord, knowing that your labour in not in vain in connection with the Lord, "Our Great Emmanuel." (I Corinthians 15:58)

### 6. Conclusion

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Do not be anxious over anything,  
but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving,  
let your petitions be made known to God  
and the peace of God that excels all thought and understanding  
will guard your heart and your mental powers  
by means of Christ Jesus, "Our Great Emmanuel"  
Phil 4: 4-7



May this Christmas be a time of sharing, peace and joy in our families and among our friends.

My wish for you all, is that our "Our Great Emmanuel" will give each one of us the grace and strength we need to continue in "His Service" and within our communities around the world.

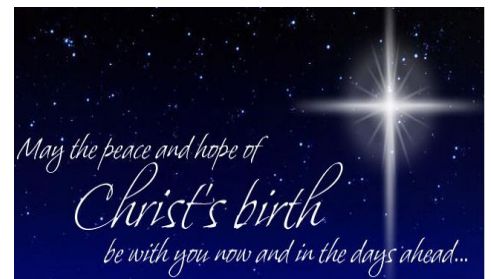
I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2021

I look forward to seeing you all in the new year. Deo Volente.

May God's peace be with you all:

In the Name of the Father + the Son + and the Holy Ghost + Forever and ever.

Omnes "Amen"



Simon Peter, XXV Patriarch  
Bishop of Antioch