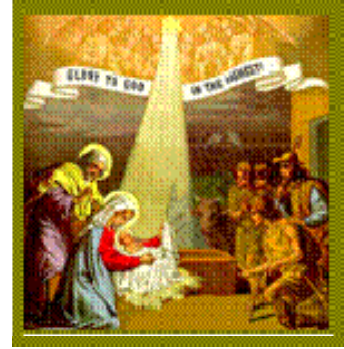


# The Divine Mercy

“Rejoice and be happy, O human race, for God so revealed, His love to the world. That He gave, His beloved Son, for those who believe in Him, so that they may live forever. For He was overcome, by His mercy, and sent unto us, His Almighty Arm. He shone in the flesh, taken from the Virgin, without the seed of man, in order to save us.”

## (Monday Theotokiya- Fifth Passage)



Dear beloved,

### The blessed congregation of Chicago

+ Greetings of the Nativity feast of our merciful God who visited us with his abundant love. He was incarnated and was born among us to shine upon us, who were sitting in darkness, with his joyful light to change our bitterness to sweetness, our enslavement to freedom, and our lowliness to happiness and glory.

+ In fact, our God whom we worship is characterized with a very loving and affectionate heart and would not accept for us, the work of his hand, humiliation and death. When He saw that there is no mediator or savior for mankind, He was overcome by His mercy and His compassion prevailed, so he stretched out his hand to save us.

+ **“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me, to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”** (Luke 4:18-19)+ Hence, we believe that the Incarnation is, primarily, an act of divine compassion from God to us and it is the result of the tender mercy of our God (Luke 1:78). It greatly reveals one of God’s great mysteries, which is the mystery of his rich and endless mercy.

+ No one can enjoy the mercy of God except he who accepts this divine mercy in his life, to flow in him and turn to a permanent behavior and a way of life. Thus, he becomes, himself, a spring of mercy, compassionate to the poor, affectionate to the needy, and tolerant with the difficult.

This is the approach of the children of God who know the value of what He did with them and drink from the spirit of love and great compassion.

+ Thus, we understand the secret of spiritual lukewarmness and the rigid feelings that leak to the hearts of some people. Their inability to recognize the mercy of God, which engulfs us, heals our wounds, and lifts us from the dumps to the ranks of the honorable, is the reason for the lack of acts of mercy in their lives. Therefore, they don’t benefit from God’s mercy which pours on mankind at all times; because there is no mercy for those who don’t perform acts of mercy!

Lord Jesus...

Open the eyes of our hearts to recognize the richness of your mercy and how much you suffered for our salvation. Grant us O Lord a tender mercy and compassion towards everyone around us and those who we encounter. We praise your abundant mercy forever... Amen. Best wishes for many years to come with peace and goodness.

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