

# St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology

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The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

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*In The Spirit of Evangelism, We Teach Prisoners-Students Seeking the Lord*

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## NATIVITY – FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

In the Beginning was the Word - the Son of His Eternal Father and One True Man. In His Wisdom - the Wisdom of His eternal, Unbegotten Father - He became Incarnate through the ever-faithful Mary. She named Her Son - our Father – Jesus. For He the Deliver Who shall deliver as He promises. For He is the fulfillment of the promised Christ of the Pentateuch – the One God of Moses – I AM, the I AM. As the One Anointed Son of His eternal Father, He came for our salvation not only as our Father, but also High Priest of the Temple only the Son of Man could resurrect. Thus relationally, we are living stones of He Who is the Temple and we are His children.

Mary as a young virgin and handmaiden of the House of David, was, as was Isaac and Elizabeth, a child of promise, now to Joachim and Anna. As she grew and matured in her knowing of the fatherly love of the “One Who Is” the Word, it was time for the Spirit of the Prophets, to act.

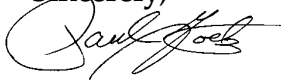
With an unwavering love and awareness of the proper meaning of the Old Testament, Mary freely chose to follow His Words and heed His Wisdom. She put Him first in her life and His Way, her first priority in all things – all thoughts, words, and deeds. In this, she was ever- virgin – always and forever not confused by man’s foolish wisdom – calling us imitate her.

Such love and faithfulness helps bring focus on the salvific dimension of her veneration. For we too, as living offerings, are called to bear and bring forth first fruits of His Gospel. How? Through acts of loving kindness to others, calling them, as witnesses, unto Jesus and His glory.

Within the profound mystery of His Incarnation - through Mary’s womb - we come to know each other, to be children of His Spirit and Light; to know who, what, and our purpose for being given life, by the breath of Jesus, our Father. In this, knowing our being clothed in His flesh of mortality, was a chastisement of His love unto Him - not punishment unto condemnation. For in Him, through faith, hope, trust and love, we can begin to see into His Wisdom. For in Him and through Mary, we share in the One blood of the Son of Man and His Water unto eternal life, by His Grace.

In His Wisdom and gift of Mary, may we discover her Son, to be our Father and High Priest from in the beginning. To know Jesus to be far more than Lord, King, or Yahweh. Our booklet speaks to Mary, as an expression of the beauty of the Temple He raised up, on the third day.

Sincerely,



Paul – SAAOT