



**By the Grace of God**  
**METROPOLITAN ZACHARIAH MAR NICHOLOVOS**

CK No. 29/2023

December 21, 2023

Blessings to our Very Reverend Chor Episcopoi, Reverend Fathers, Reverend Deacons, and faithful of the Northeast American Diocese.

Dearly beloved,

“He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.” These are the words our Lord teaches his disciples in the Gospel of St. Luke 16:10. As members of the Holy Church, there is a temptation for us to overcomplicate our lives in Christ. We ponder on salvation, judgment, and eternity, and we convince ourselves that the path to Jesus is something more complicated than it actually is.

However, the path to the Cross of our Lord is quite simple. Be faithful in the little things Christ entrusts us with, so that we may learn to be faithful in the great moments. The story of Christmas is filled with simple saints who responsibly and faithfully fulfilled the small tasks given to them. Sts. Zechariah and Elizabeth were a priestly family who were righteous in God’s eyes by faithfully serving the temple and its community. St. Joseph faithfully stayed alongside and protected his betrothed and her Child. St. Mary the Theotokos humbly lived and served in the Temple her entire life and unknowingly readied herself to receive the Gospel of Christ’s Incarnation.

Through all these little ‘things,’ these holy men and women were faithful, so that when they were called to give birth to the Forerunner, protect and raise the Christ as his own, and give birth to the Son of God, they continued to do what they had always done – be faithful. As we celebrate this joyous feast, let us strive to be faithful in the ‘small’ things, so that when Christ asks us to do the unfathomable, we are simply faithful.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, sustain you, strengthen you, and be ever so close to you and your loved ones on this glorious Feast Day, and throughout the new year!

Yours in our Lord,

Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos