

Pastoral Reflection for December 2025: At his Nativity, the incarnate Son of God was made visible to the world in the flesh. Although the Incarnation itself took place at the Annunciation of the Theotokos, the manifestation of Christ's Incarnation to the world takes place at his Nativity when he is "born in the flesh." In his Incarnation and Nativity, the Son of God, who fashions the entire cosmos, humbles himself to take on human flesh and to experience and live in our human condition. In becoming one with us, he becomes a brother to all of us and lives and suffers with us to heal us. The revelation of God's compassion towards Moses on Mount Sinai confirmed to Moses that God himself, and not merely an angel, would accompany the Israelites, and that he would not forsake them. This confirmation, this promise, is realized for the whole of humanity and creation in the Incarnation and Nativity of Christ that manifests Christ as Emmanuel – "God with us."

Christ's nativity is a fundamental expression of compassion towards others: that in being moved by compassion towards others we are with them, suffering with them (that is, at least undergoing their struggles with them), in a solidarity or fellowship with them. The following hymn for the Nativity of Christ reveal this fundamental aspect of His compassion:

Before your birth, O Lord, the angelic hosts looked with trembling on this mystery and were struck with wonder: for you who have adorned the vault of heaven with stars have been well pleased to be born as a babe; and you who hold all the ends of the earth in the hollow of your hand are laid in a manger of dumb beasts. For by such a dispensation has your compassion been made known, O Christ, and your great mercy: Glory to You!
(Nativity of Christ, Matins, Second Canon, Ode 3, Troparion)

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