



COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

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## DIocese of OHIO, MICHIGAN, AND INDIANA



### Have you seen the light with them!

“The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart” proverbs 20:27. What is the difference between the light of the Lord & the lamp of the Lord? The lamp without the Lord by itself is darkness but if it is a loyal being in the Lord’s hand will enlighten the inner depths of the heart even if the world didn’t recognize, and they are enjoying keeping their hearts in God hands and finding the purpose of life in His ways. All the heroes around the event of the birth of Christ are great examples that they have seen the true light and followed it.

- 1- Archangel Gabriel (“Who made His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire” Psalm 104:4) facing God’s light day and night & enjoying life of purity and holiness as a flame of fire & reflecting God’s light as messengers.
- 2- Zachariah and Elizabeth, they lived their life keeping their hearts in God hands so He enlightened their inner depths, “they were both righteous before God walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless” Luke 1:6
- 3- John the Baptist. “What kind of child will this be? And the hand of the Lord was with him” Luke 1:66. What a privilege to have your hand from day one holding the main source of light (the almighty hand of the Lord) God’s image built in, when he saw Jesus our Lord coming, he said “Behold! This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29. His eyes have seen the Light coming.
- 4- St. Mary. The mother of light. Have found favor with God. Luke 1:30. All generations will call her blessed Luke 1:48. Even the archangel greeted her saying, “the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women” Luke 1:28. And she became above the heavenly orders and all the saints, her virginal womb became a second heaven.
- 5- The shepherds. Pure simple hearts waiting in God’s own good time to meet the true Lamb of God. They came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby laying in a manger. Luke 2:16. Then they returned, glorifying and praising God. Luke 1:20.
- 6- The wise men from the East. “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His Star in the East and have come to worship Him.” Matthew 2:2.



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Yes Lord, all these examples through Your love and light., You searched their inner depths of their hearts and allowed them to discover Your light and to have a great vision and seated above the top of the world, enjoyed your plan of salvation for their life.

God please we beseech you, many of Your creation still sitting in darkness, and celebrating Christmas, but without Christ!!! We know that You have the solution as a Savior (Jesus) and this is Your name and love.

Allow Your lamp to search all the depths of their hearts through Your light. As Isaiah prophesied, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" Isaiah 9:2. "To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison" Isaiah 42:7. Oh the Baby of the manger, Create a pure heavenly heart in us to be able to welcome You. As a Savior, Father, and Lover of mankind.

Dear fathers, sons and daughters of our Diocese of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, Wishing you all a peaceful happy feast of Nativity (Merry Christmas).

Always in my prayers and heart,  
With respect and love,

Bishop Saraphim