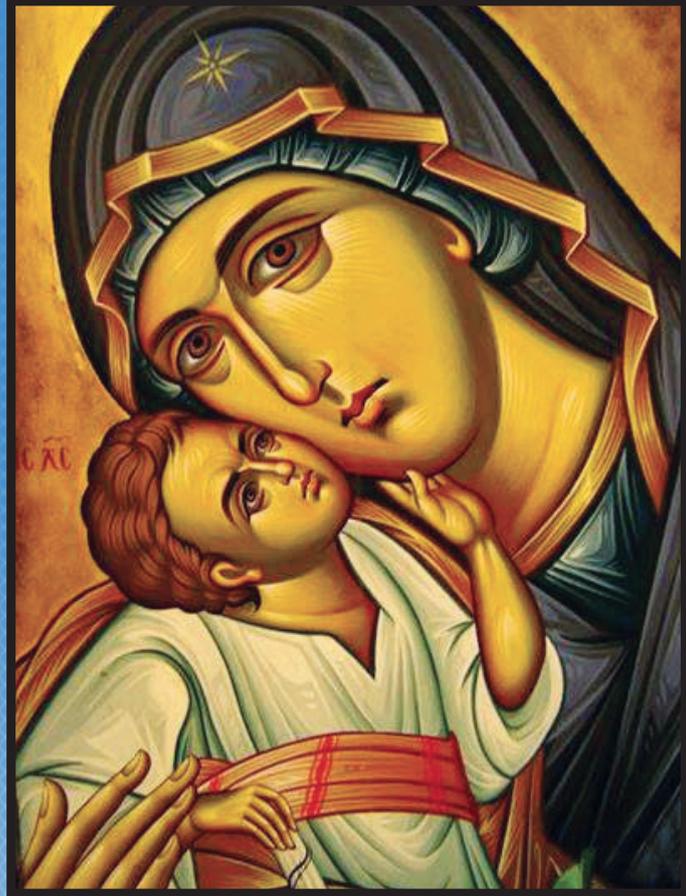




The Praises and Sundays of Kiahk Encountering the Baby of the Manger

The Fourth Sunday of Kiahk



***What kind of child
will this be?***

(Luke 1:57-80)

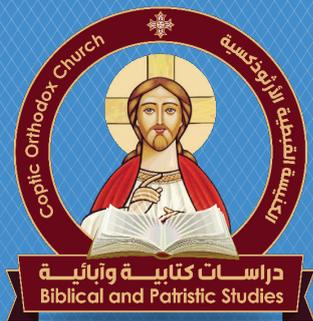
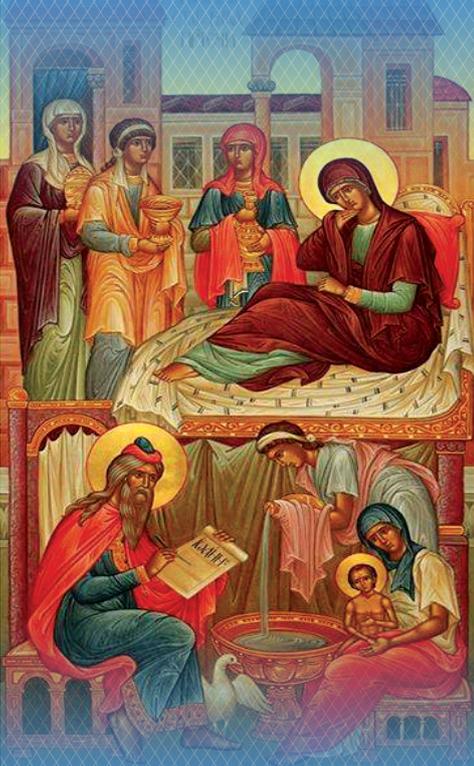
2020

Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

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What kind of child will this be?

(Luke 1:57-80)



On the previous three Sundays, we talked about Saint Mary's silence, her dialogue and evangelism. As the nativity of Christ approaches, the Church presents to us the birth of John the Baptist, and we have already talked about the feast of his martyrdom.

On his birth, Saint Luke the Evangelist tells us four things that impact our relationship with the birth of Christ and our spiritual growth:

- 1 The naming of John [Luke 1: 59-63].
 - 2 Question: What kind of child will this be? [Luke 1:66].
 - 3 Zachariah's prediction of salvation in the house of David [Luke 1:67-79].
 - 4 The boy was growing and became strong in spirit [Luke 1:80].
- 1 **The Naming of John** [59-63]



On the day of his circumcision, Elizabeth refused to name him 'Zachariah' after his father and said, "No; he shall be called John." [60]. Elizabeth did not mention that she had agreed with

her husband on a name, so the attendants were amazed when he wrote on a tablet that his name was John. What is behind this name, whom none of their relatives were called by before?

As this child came to be the crying voice in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord, the parents wanted the child, without prior agreement, not to be affiliated to their family, but rather to belong to the Lord who declares His tenderness, as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Thus, it was appropriate for a man of God not to be preoccupied with the temporal issues, but rather set his sight on completing the mission that God for the edification of His kingdom.

In a meeting with an old man and his wife, I asked them: "What is your mission in life?" The old man was astonished and said: "This question never came to my mind, and I do not know what

my mission is.” I asked him to ask God in all his prayers about the mission that God had set for him in His plan everyday.

② **What kind of child will this be?** [66]

All the neighbors felt that the hand of the Lord was with him [66], and that he had a superior mission that no one knew.

Poor is the man who is like a dead fish that has no direction as the sea waves move it in different directions. Along with his feeling of weakness, the believer trusts in the work of God within him and through him, so he says with the Apostle: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13). The man of God sets before his eyes his new status as a child of God, proud of the fatherhood of His heavenly Father and trusts in the Lord's management of all aspects of his life

③ **The Prophecy of Zachariah the Priest about the Salvation in the House of David** [67-79]

What preoccupied Zachariah was not that God took away the shame of the family, as he finally had a son that would inherit his priesthood. He was not too concerned either with what people say about him, but rather he remembered the angel's saying to him: “And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.” (Luke 1:14-16)

The infant John rejoiced in his mother's womb, and poured out joy and happiness on his family. This joy extended to their neighbors, and pleased the angels when they saw that he was great in the eyes of the Lord, for he will turn of the hearts of many to the Lord their God that they may enjoy God's love and salvation!

④ **So the child grew and became strong in spirit** [80]

Continuous growth is a sign of life. If he was filled with the Holy Spirit while he was still in his mother's womb, like the angel's saying (Luke 1:15), then this fullness was constantly being renewed during his growth as he grew stronger in spirit. This is what the Apostle was looking forward to: the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Eph 4:13).

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We are always in need for more servants to join our translation team. Even if you don't know Arabic, we still need you. If you are interested in helping out please contact Mina Medhat at minamedhat84@gmail.com

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