



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

December 2009

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from

The Right Reverend Suheil S. Dawani
and
The Diocese of Jerusalem



The Gift of Christ-mas
Love Incarnate
Shared with us
God's only begotten Son
The Great Gift
Revealed again
Honored and treasured
Anew

With best wishes for a joyful Christmas focused on Love for you
and your families, your dioceses and parishes.

Christmas images from the Diocese of Jerusalem



December 2009 – Christmas is a festive time all over the world, and very much so in the Diocese of Jerusalem, where Christians focus on the good around them and the hope of better times to come. Women have Christmas bazaars to raise funds for someone else. This year’s Cathedral bazaar funds went beyond the Diocese to the Peace Center for the Blind, founded and directed by one of our Jerusalem parishioners to serve the underserved Palestinian population with vision impairments.



Parish Christmas dinners are held, with parishioners coming out to sing and rejoice in large numbers. A simulcast service is held as a joint Anglican-Lutheran offering with the National Cathedral in Washington. This year, we were honored to have Presiding Bishop Katharine with us in Washington, in spite of record snowfalls during the service. On Christmas Eve, we will take three busses full of pilgrims to an Anglican service in the Greek Orthodox Chapel at the Church of the Nativity, returning for a midnight Mass at the Cathedral. Rejoice! Rejoice! And Merry Christmas!



Announcing Christmas Bulletin Inserts

December 2009 – In our ongoing effort to be a full partner with all our friends and supporters, sharing the treasures of this Diocese in the Land of the Holy One with all our Christian brothers and sisters around the world, we are pleased to announce the availability of Christmas bulletin inserts. These inserts are designed to help us keep the Christ Child, the Great Gift of Love incarnate, the Word made flesh, as the focal point of our Christmas thoughts and celebrations.

Again, St. George's College staff and supporters, bring you unique, regionally enriched meditations for your quiet worship moments. St. George's College is a diocesan institution designed to share the historical and spiritual riches of the birthplace of Christianity with Christians from around the world, enhancing one's understanding of the Scriptures while introducing pilgrims to the life and vital ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Bulletin inserts will be available on the website or by request.

FOR MORE STORIES AND INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.j-diocese.org



The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a diocese of the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over five countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Israel, within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. There are 27 parishes that minister to the needs of their communities, centered on the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr in Jerusalem. The church supports 33 institutions, which include hospitals, clinics, kindergartens and schools, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for the deaf, the disabled and the elderly, reaching out to interfaith neighbors in mutual respect and cooperation.

Editor-in-Chief: The Rt. Rev. Suheil S. Dawani

Contributors to this edition: The Revd Canon John Peterson and Deborah Edmunds.