

Who Will Pray Before The Holy Feast of Nativity Dinner?

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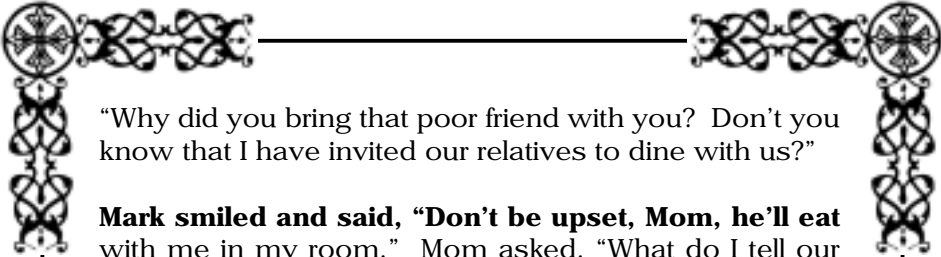
It was the eve before the Holy Feast of the Nativity! Mark was so excited about the Nativity Feast and he prepared himself to go to church. Mark attended the St Mark Church.

As soon as he arrived, he saw a very poor man wearing torn up jeans and a dirty shirt. He was talking to the man at the door and the man at the door refused to let him in. Very gently, young Mark asked the man at the door, “Why don’t you let him inside and enter into the church?”

The man at the door said, “You know that this night is a special night, the Holy Feast of the Nativity, and many dignitaries are coming to our church. What will they say and think when they see this poor man with dirty worn clothes?”

Very courageously Mark answered, “This is God’s House, how can we deprive him from praying on the Holy Feast of the Nativity Eve? I’ll take him with me and I’ll take care of him.” Finally, the man at the door of the church agreed, and Mark took the poor man inside with him. They were very happy sharing the prayers together.

After the Divine Liturgy was over, Mark invited that poor man to go to his house and have the Holy Feast dinner together. As soon as they arrived, his mother asked Mark, Mark, “Why did you bring that poor friend with you? Don’t



“Why did you bring that poor friend with you? Don’t you know that I have invited our relatives to dine with us?”

Mark smiled and said, “Don’t be upset, Mom, he’ll eat with me in my room.” Mom asked, “What do I tell our relatives when they ask about you?” Mark answered, “Just tell them that I am with a friend in my room.”

Mark took his guest to his private room, acting as if he had found a treasure. He loved the poor and wanted to give his special guest some of his clothes, but he waited until they had finished eating.

He set the table and asked the guest to pray before eating. The guest began to pray. Suddenly a very bright and shining light filled the room and overflowed to the rest of Mark’s home.

Mark’s mother and his relatives soon came running to see what was happening. They found Mark standing in a trance, looking upwards with a glow of happiness in his eyes.

They asked him, “Where is your guest?” Mark answered, “Mom, something very strange has just happened! As soon as the guest began to bless the food, the room was filled with light and he disappeared!”

Mark’s mother began to weep saying, “I wish I had entertained Him with our family.” His mother was very sad indeed, for her behavior, and at the same time very happy for her son’s kindness. She realized that through his love for the Lord and the poor, he deserved to have the Heavenly One as his special guest. She knew that her son’s heart was a manger full of purity and love that was why the Lord dwelled in it.

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels!” (Hebrews 13:2)