

*Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2025*

**Statement on the Observance of Orthodox Christmas**

*January 7, 2025*

As Orthodox Christians around the world celebrate Christmas, Jill and I send our warmest greetings for a day of joy and reflection. We join Orthodox Christians in giving thanks for the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ and the hope and love He brought to our world.

Today we pray for Orthodox Christians who are suffering around the world due to war, conflict, deprivation, and oppression. They, like all human beings, are created in the image of God and deserve safety and security, dignity and respect. We will continue to advocate for these core principles, including religious freedom, and on this day, we keep these communities close to our hearts.

Scripture reminds us: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Orthodox Christians help bring hope and healing to countless communities here at home and around the world. We are deeply grateful for their contributions and join our fellow Christians in prayers for peace and justice for all God's children in the year ahead.

*Categories:* Statements by the President : Orthodox Christmas, observance.

*Names:* Biden, Jill T.

*Subjects:* Orthodox Christmas.

*DCPD Number:* DCPD202500032.