



The Ladder and its Rungs

January 1, 2018 (Old Style)



The **Holy Nativity** of our **Savior**
and our personal **rebirth** in **Christ**
lead us directly before a sacred **Ladder**
with three radiant **Rungs**:

- “**Deny yourself**”: an exodus from our own selves
- “**Take up your Cross**”: a struggle against ourselves;
- “**Follow Me**”: a journey without ourselves.

The ascent up the **Ladder** is “straight and narrow.”
It begins with the **Cross** and ends with the **Resurrection**.

“We venerate Thy **Nativity**, O **Christ**!
Show us also Thy Divine **Theophany**!
We venerate Thy **Passion**, O **Christ**!
Show us also Thy glorious **Resurrection**!”

We wish you a peaceful and fruitful **2018** and a
Good journey under the **Protection** of the **Theotokos**!

† Circumcision of our Savior; St. Basil the Great
The Least Minister of Christ’s Sheep, Girt with the Towel of Servitude,
† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle