

# УКРАЇНСЬКЕ ПРАВОСЛАВНЕ СЛОВО UKRAINIANS ORTHODOX WORD

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УКРАЇНСЬКЕ ПРАВОСЛАВНЕ СЛОВО

His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONY

His Eminence  
Archbishop DANIEL - Consistory President

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### The Twelve Days of Christmas

These 12 days that comprise the “12 days of Christmas” include other observances on various levels. The first level are events that are directly associated to **Christ's birth** - January 7 (December 25) in the flesh, including the **murder of the 14,000 baby boys** that Herod ordered when Jesus was born January 11 (December 29) and the 8-day **naming/circumcision of Jesus** January 14 (January 1).

A second level of observances during these 12 days are commemorations of people from the earliest decades of the spread of the Christian faith after the death and resurrection of Christ and Pentecost, such as **St. Stephen** (one of the first of the 7 deacons) who became the first martyr in Christianity January 9 (December 27); and the “seventy” as they are known, these being the **70 apostles** that the 12 apostles trained and sent off to travel and preach January 17 (January 4).

The third level of commemorations of these 12 days are for those who in later centuries lived and honored Christ in marvelous ways and became saints of the church, such as **St Melania the Younger**, of Rome from the 5th century January 13 (December 31), and **St Basil the Great** from the 4th century era January 14 (January 1).

In its development over many centuries, the twelve days of Christmas that we celebrate today have become a theological and historical cornucopia of both the life of Christ and the life of the Church through its Christian Witness.





ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW'S  
ВСЕЛЕНСЬКОГО ПАТРИАРХА ВАРФОЛОМІЯ

*Nativity of Christ*  
*Proclamation*  
*Різдвяне Послання*



**GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE  
FROM THE SAVIOR CHRIST BORN IN BETHLEHEM**

Most venerable brothers in Christ and beloved children,

As we journey with the All-Holy Virgin, who comes “to give birth ineffably” to the pre-eternal Word, and as we gaze upon Bethlehem, which prepares itself to receive the holy infant, behold we have once more reached Christmas filled with sentiments of gratitude to the God of love. The journey to this great feast of the nativity in the flesh of the world’s Savior was different this year with regard to the outward conditions, resulting from the current pandemic. Our church life and the participation of our faithful in the sacred services, as well as the church’s pastoral care and good witness in the world were all affected by the repercussions of the related health restrictions. However, all this does not affect the innermost relationship of the faithful with Christ or of our faith in His providence and our devotion to “the one thing that is necessary.”

In secularized societies, Christmas has lost its original identity and has been reduced to a celebration of ostentatious consumption and worldliness, without any suspicion that on this holy day we commemorate the “eternal mystery” of the divine incarnation. Today, the proper Christian celebration of Christmas is an act of resistance to the secularization of life and to the dilution or demise of the sense of mystery.

The incarnation of the Word reveals the content, direction, and purpose of human existence. The all-perfect God subsists as perfect man, so that we may be able to exist “in the manner of God.” “For God became human in order that we might become deified.” In the profound formulation of St. Gregory the Theologian, man is “commanded to become God,” “a divinized being.” Such is the supreme dignity afforded to humankind, which renders our existence an insurmountable honor. In Christ, all people are called to salvation. Before God, “there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free man, neither male nor female; for everyone is one in Christ Jesus,” according to the divinely inspired theology of the Apostle Paul. This is a decisive reversal in the field of anthropology, the hierarchy of values, and the perception of ethos. Since that time, whosoever insults humankind also defies God. “For there is nothing as sacred as man, in whose nature God participated.”

Christmas constitutes the entire divine-human life of the Church, where Christ is constantly experienced as the One who was, is and will come. The One “in His Mother’s embrace” is the One “in the bosom of the Father,” the child Jesus is the One who was crucified, resurrected and ascended in glory into the heaven, the righteous judge and the King of glory. It is this inexpressible mystery that we glorify with psalms and hymns, unto which we minister,

while at the same time having been and being ministered by Him. This is what the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon was divinely inspired to define “following the Holy Fathers.” The “doctrine of Chalcedon,” which describes the way – beyond reason and comprehension – that the Word of God assumed the flesh of the world, is “chanted” by the all-sacred Church of Haghia Sophia in the City of Cities, the pride of Orthodoxy and the glory of the oikoumene, through the architectural expression, the organization of sacred space, the impressive dome, which reflects how the divine philanthropy unites all things, the heavenly with the earthly, but also through the icons and decorations, as well as through the unique theological language of splendid lighting.

In the midst of many circumstances and sorrows, we hear today the resounding voice of the “Lord’s angel,” who “brings the good news of a great joy . . . to all people, for to us is born this day a Savior, who is Christ Jesus.” We celebrate Christmas, praying for our brothers and sisters in danger and illness. We admire the self-sacrifice of the doctors and nurses and all those who contribute to confronting the pandemic. We rejoice as we discover that the patient is approached as sacred person and is not reduced to a number, a case, an object, or an impersonal biological unit. As it has been said so eloquently, “the white gown” of the physicians is “a white cassock” that expresses surrender from what is “mine” for the sake of my brother, “seeking the interests of the other” and the complete commitment to the suffering one. For this “white cassock” – just as for the clergyman’s cassock, since both are symbols of a spirit of sacrifice and service – the inspiration and driving force is love, which is always a gift of divine grace and never exclusively our own achievement.

The perilous pandemic has shattered much of what we have taken for granted, revealing the limits of the “titanism” of the contemporary “man-god” and demonstrating the power of solidarity. Alongside the indisputable truth that our world comprises a whole, that our problems are common, and that their solution demands a joint action and agenda, what was supremely manifested was the value of the personal contribution, the love of the Good Samaritan, which surpasses every human standard. The Church actively supports – in deed and in word – our suffering brothers and sisters, while praying for them, their relatives and all those responsible for their care, and at the same time proclaiming that the healing of the sick – as a temporary victory over death – pertains to transcendence and to the ultimate abolition of death in Christ.

Unfortunately, the healthcare crisis has not allowed the development of activities foreseen for 2020, as “the year of pastoral renewal and due concern for the youth.” We hope that the coming year will render possible the realization of planned initiatives for the new generation. We know from experience that, when our young men and women are approached with understanding and love, they reveal their creative talents and enthusiastically contribute to such initiatives. In the end, youth is a particularly “religious” time in our life – filled with dreams, visions and deep existential pursuits, with a vibrant hope for a new world of fraternity. It is this “new creation” – the “new heavens and new earth . . . where righteousness dwells” that the Church of Christ proclaims as good news and reflects in its journey to the Kingdom.

Beloved brothers and blessed children,

In the Church, man is completely renewed and not just “assisted.” There, man “lives in the truth” and experiences his divine destiny. As the Holy and Great Council of Orthodoxy declared, in the Church “every person constitutes a unique entity, destined for personal communion with God.” We share the divinely-given conviction that our present life is not our entire life, that evil and negativity do not have the final word in history. Our Savior is not a deus ex machina that intervenes and annihilates troubles, while simultaneously abolishing our freedom, as if this was a “condemnation” from which we need to be delivered. For us Christians, the unparalleled Patristic words hold true: “The mystery of salvation pertains to those who are willing to be saved, not to those who are coerced.” The truth of the freedom in Christ is tested through the Cross, which is the way to the Resurrection.

In this spirit, concelebrating Christmas and the other feasts of the sacred Twelvetide in a God-pleasing manner with all of you, we pray from our sacred Center of the Phanar that the Savior, who condescended to the human race, may grant you health, love for one another, progress in every good thing, and every blessing from above, on the occasion of the new year that dawns and in all the days of your life. Let it be so!

Christmas 2020

**+Bartholomew of Constantinople**  
*Fervent supplicant for all before God*





**Всій повноті Церкви, Благодать, милість і мир Від Христа Спасителя народженого у Віфлеємі.**

Преосвященні браття у Христі та возлюблені чада,

Подорожуючи зі Пресвятою Дівою, яка приходить «невимовно народити» предвічне Слово, і, дивлячись на Віфлеєм, який готується прийняти Божественне Немовля, ось ми ще раз досягли Різдва, наповненого почуття вдячності Богові-Любові. Подорож до цього великого свята Різдва у плоті Спасителя світу цього року була іншою щодо зовнішніх умов, що були наслідком нинішньої пандемії. Наше церковне життя та участь наших вірних у священних богослужіннях, а також душпастирство Церкви та добре свідчення у всьому світі зазнали наслідки відповідних обмежень щодо здоров'я. Однак все це не впливає на найглибші стосунки вірних з Христом, а також на нашу віру в Його провидіння та нашу відданість «єдиному, що необхідно».

У секуляризованих суспільствах Різдво втратило свою первісну ідентичність і було зведене до святкування показного споживання та мирського життя, не підозрюючи, що в цей святий день ми згадуємо «вічну таємницю» божественного втілення. Сьогодні правильне християнське святкування Різдва є актом спротиву секуляризації життя та розмиванню або занепаду почуття таємниці.

Втілення Слова розкриває зміст, спрямованість та мету людського існування. Вседосконалий Бог існує як досконала людина, щоб ми могли існувати «способом Бога». «Бо Бог став людиною, щоб ми стали обожненими». У глибокому вислові св. Григорія Богослова людині «заповідано стати Богом», «божественною істотою». Така найвища гідність надана людству робить наше існування непереборною честю. У Христі всі люди покликані до спасіння. Перед Богом «немає ні єврея, ні грека, ні раба, ні вільної людини, ні чоловіка, ні жінки; бо всі єдині у Христі Ісусі», богословствує богонатхненно апостол Павло. Це вирішальний перелом у галузі антропології, ієрархії цінностей та прийняття етосу. З того часу той, хто ображає людство, також кидає виклик Богові. «Бо немає нічого такого священного, як людина, природи якої став причасником Бог».

Різдво являється все бого-людське життя Церкви, в якому Христос постійно відчувається як Той, Хто був, є і приходить. Той, хто «в обіймах Його Матері», є Тим самим що «в лоні Отця»; дитина Ісус – це Той, Хто був розп'ятий, воскрес і вознісся у славі на небо, праведний суддя і Цар слави. Цю невиразну таємницю ми прославляємо псалмами та піснеспівами, якими ми Йому служимо, одночасно будучи обслуженіми Ним. Це те, що богонатхненно висловив четвертий Вселенський собор у Халкідоні, «наслідуючи Святих Отців». «Халкідонський догмат», який описує спосіб – поза розумом і розумінням

– яким Слово Боже сприйняло плоть світу, «оспівується» через архітектурний вираз всечесного храму Святої Софії Премудрості Божої який збудований у місті міст, який являється гордістю православ'я та славою вселеної, через організацію священного простору і через вражаючий купол, який відображає, як божественна любов до людей об'єднує все, небесне з земним, але також через ікони та прикраси, завдяки унікальній богословській мові чудового освітлення.

Серед багатьох прикрих обставин ми сьогодні чуємо дзвінкий голос «ангела Господнього», який «приносить добру новину великої радості... для всіх людей, бо для нас сьогодні народився Спаситель, який є Христос Господь». Святкуючи Різдво, ми молимося за наших братів і сестер що в небезпеці та хворобах перебувають. Ми захоплюємося самопожертвенністю лікарів та медсестер та всіх, хто сприяє протистоянню пандемії. Ми радіємо, коли виявляємо, що до пацієнта звертаються як до священної особи, що не зводиться до числа, справи, предмета чи знеособленої біологічної одиниці. Як уже було так красномовно сказано, «біла сукня» лікарів – це «біла ряса», що виражає відмову від того, що «моє» заради мого брата, «пошук інтересів іншого» і повну відданість до страждаючого. До цієї «білої рясі» відносяться так само, як і до рясі духовенства, оскільки обидві являються символами духовної жертвності та служіння, чийми натхненням і рушійною силою є любов, яка завжди є даром божественної благодаті і ніколи не являється виключно нашим власним досягненням.

Небезпечна пандемія зруйнувала більшу частину того, що ми сприйняли як належне, виявивши межі «титанізму» сучасної «людини-бога» і продемонструвала силу солідарності. Поряд з незаперечною істиною, що наш світ наповнює єдність, що наші проблеми є загальними і що їх вирішення вимагає спільних дій та порядку денного, найвищим виявилася цінність особистого внеску, любові Доброго Самарянина, яка перевершує всі людські міри. Церква активно підтримує – ділом і словом – наших страждаючих братів і сестер, молячись за них, їхніх родичів та всіх, хто відповідає за їх піклування, і одночасно проголошує, що зцілення хворих – як тимчасова перемога над смертю – стосується трансцендентності та остаточного знищення смерті у Христі.

На жаль, криза охорони здоров'я не дозволила розвивати діяльність, передбачену на 2020-ий рік, як «рік пастирського оновлення та належної турботи про молодь». Ми сподіваємось, що наступного року буде можливо реалізувати заплановані ініціативи для нового покоління. З досвіду ми знаємо, що коли до нашої молоді підходять з розумінням та любов'ю, вони виявляють свої творчі таланти та з ентузіазмом вносять вклад у такі ініціативи. Врешті-решт, молодість – це особливо «релігійний» час у нашому житті, наповнений мріями, баченнями та глибокими екзистенційними пошуками, з яскравою надією на новий світ братерства. Саме це «нове творіння», «нове небо і нова земля... де живе правда», благовіщує Церква Христова та її відображає у своїй подорожі до Царства Божого.

Возлюбленні браття та благословенні чада,

У Церкві людина повністю оновлюється, а не просто «отримує допомогу». Там людина «живе в правді» і переживає свою божественну долю. Як проголосив Святий і Великий Собор Православної Церкви, «кожна людина є унікальною істотою, призначенням якої є особисте спілкування з Богом». Ми поділяємо дане Богом переконання, що наше теперішнє життя – це не все наше життя, що зло і негатив не мають останнього слова в історії. Наш Спаситель не є «Богом з машини», який втручається і знищує проблеми, одночасно скасовуючи нашу свободу, ніби це було «засудженням», від якого ми повинні бути звільнені. Для нас, християн, справедливі неперевершені свято-отцівські слова: «Таємниця спасіння стосується тих, хто хоче спастись, а не тих, кого примушують». Істинність свободи у Христі перевіряється через Хрест, який є шляхом до Воскресіння.

У цьому дусі, святкуючи разом з усіма Вами Різдво Христове та святки в приємному Богові дусі, ми молимося від нашого священного Центру Фанару, щоб Спаситель, який знизився до людського роду, подарував вам здоров'я, любов один до одного, успіх у кожній добрій справі та всяке благословення згори, в новому році та у всі дні вашого життя. Нехай так буде!

Різдво Христове, 2020р.

† **Константинопольський Варфоломій,**  
палкий молитовник перед Богом за всіх Вас





## NATIVITY EPISTLE

of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine

To the God-beloved Pastors, Venerable Monastics, and all Faithful Children of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the Diaspora and in Ukraine

*"Today Christ is born from a Virgin in Bethlehem, today the Eternal One is born and the Word is incarnated: the powers of heaven rejoice, the earth and all mankind rejoice" (Festal Stykhyra)*

### CHRIST IS BORN!

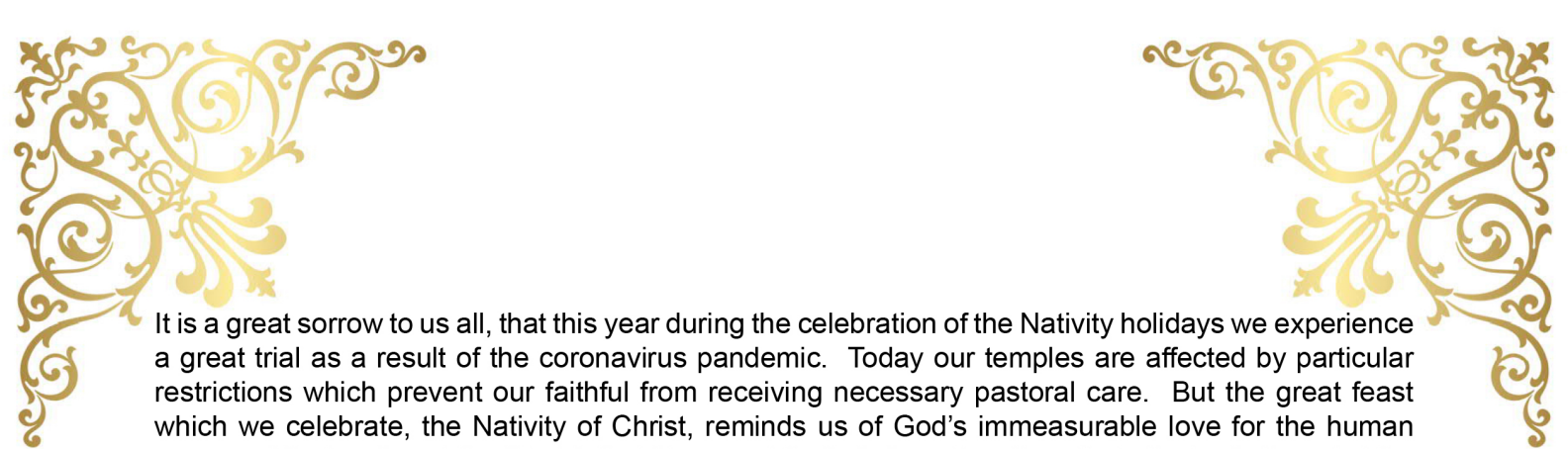
Today the Orthodox Church again celebrates the Nativity of Christ, commemorating the advent into the world of the Son of God. The entire Christian world glorifies and magnifies the New-born God-child, Christ the Lord.

St. Paul calls the Nativity of Christ "A mystery of great piety: God appeared in the flesh. (I Tiim. 3:16). The mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God is the greatest and deepest mystery of the Christian faith. The Pre-eternal God becomes man without ceasing to be God. The Holy Evangelist John the Theologian says "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:14).

In our contemporary anxious and confused world, where terror and uncertainty reign, the quiet and joyful angelic hymn rings out: "Glory to God in the highest, His peace is on earth, and His good-will among men" (Lk. 2:14).

Today the entire world is anxious, just as the residents of Jerusalem were aforetime (Mt. 2:3), and so the angelic song about peace on earth and good-will among men fills every Christian soul with peace and hope for a better future. For today the Saviour of the world lies in a manger, He who "does not break the bent reed and does not snuff out the smoldering flax" (Is. 42:3). "He is our peace, Who tore down the dividing wall" (Eph. 2:14) between heaven and earth, which had been erected by human unrighteousness.

Mankind has contemplated this Divine Infant for over two thousand years, and from Him many derive life-giving strength which transforms their life for the better. The Holy Fathers say that Christ came to the earth in order to raise us up to heaven, that he became man, that we might become sons of God, that He became poor that we might be rich, and humble so that we might be glorified.



It is a great sorrow to us all, that this year during the celebration of the Nativity holidays we experience a great trial as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Today our temples are affected by particular restrictions which prevent our faithful from receiving necessary pastoral care. But the great feast which we celebrate, the Nativity of Christ, reminds us of God's immeasurable love for the human person. "God so loved the World, that He gave His Only-begotten Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16).

Out of His great love for His creation, He made this world beautiful. But people often break their unity with God through their sinful life and bring misfortune, sickness, and evil into the world. This pandemic, which has shaken the entire world, calls us as Christians to meditate upon our own personal lives. God would not have permitted this pandemic to attain such world-wide development if it were not a reminder to all the people of the earth.

It is precisely the feast of the Nativity of Christ which witnesses to the fact that God does not leave us without His care. God not only looks after the world as a whole, but after each person individually.

And so may the One born in Bethlehem, the Lord resting in the manger, spur each of us on to consider why we live and what path we are following - the straight path of God, or the crooked path of sin. Faith in God calls all of us to battle with all manner of evil and before anything else with our own personal sin.

During these holy days of the Nativity season let us prayerfully call upon the God-child Christ - our Savior - so that He might protect all of us from this terrible sickness.

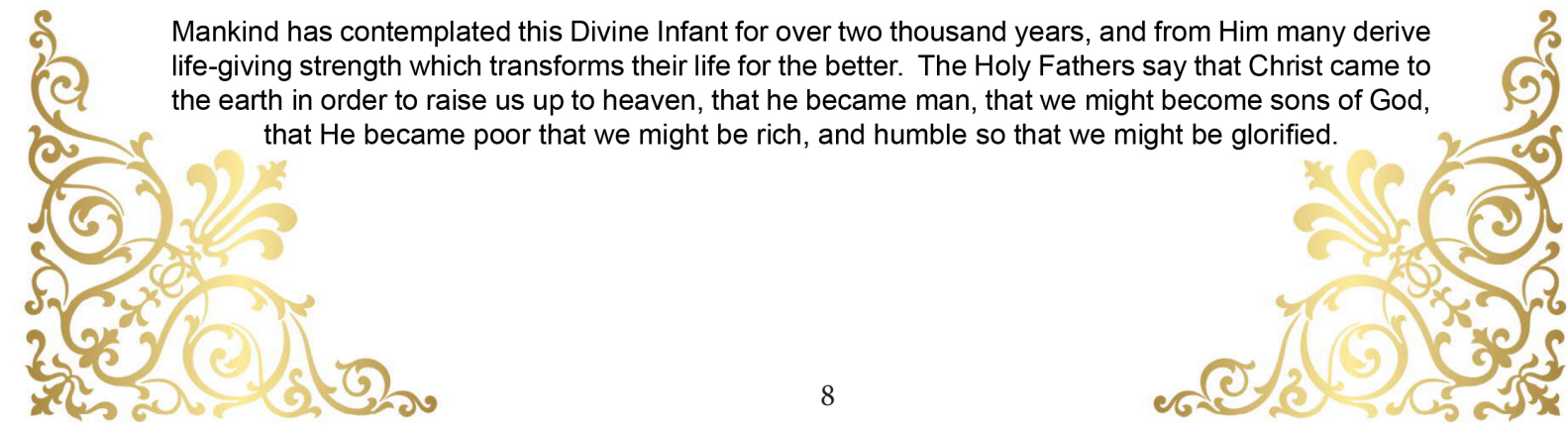
We greet all of you with a sincere heart, dear brothers and sisters, with the great and salvific feasts of the Nativity of Christ, the New Year, and the Holy Theophany. We especially greet our youth and children, and all of you God-beloved Christians in the diaspora and in Ukraine.

May the coming new year be for all of us a year of spiritual growth, peace, good health, familial good fortune, and a God-blessed year of good fortune for all people throughout the world.

### CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

With Archpastoral Blessings,

- +YURIJ**, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- +ANTONY**, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and in the Diaspora
- +JEREMIAH**, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and South America
- +DANIEL**, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA and Western Europe
- +ILARION**, Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
- +ANDRIY**, Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada





ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ!



СЛАВІМО ЙОГО!

## РІЗДВЯНЕ ПОСЛАННЯ

Постійної Конференції Українських Православних Єпископів поза межами України

Боголюбивим пастирям, чесному чернецтву, та всім вірним дітям Української Православної Церкви в Діаспорі і в Україні

### ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ! СЛАВІМО ЙОГО!

*“Днесь Христос в Вифлеємі рождається від Діви, днесь Безначальний починається і Слово втілюється, сили небесні радується і земля з людьми веселиться” (стихира Свята).*

Сьогодні знову Православна Церква святкує Різдво Христове, згадуючи пришествя в світ Сина Божого. Весь християнський світ прославляє і возвеличує Народженого Богомладенця Христа Спасителя. Святий апостол Павло називає Різдво Христове “Великою благочестя тайною: Бог явився в тілі” (1 Тим. 3, 16). Найбільше і найглибше таїнство християнської віри - це таїнство втілення Божого Сина. Предвічний Бог стає людиною і не перестає бути Богом:” І Слово стало тілом і оселилося між нами”- каже святий Євангелист Іоан Богослов(1,14).

У нинішньому тривожному і збентеженому світі, де панує страх і непевність лунає тихий і радісний ангельський спів: “Слава во вишніх Богу і на землі мир між людьми благовоління”(Лк.2,14).

І коли сьогодні весь світ «стривожився», так як колись жителі Єрусалиму (Мф.2,3), втім небесна пісня про мир на землі і благовоління в людях, сповнює спокоем та надією на краще майбутнє, кожну християнську душу. Бо нині лежить у яслах Спаситель світу, який «тростини надломленої не переломить, і льону тліючого не загасить» (Іс. 42,3). «Він є мир наш, Котрий... зруйнував перегороду, яка стояла посередині» (Єф. 2:14) між небом і землею, зведену людською неправдою.

На це Божественне Немовля більше двох тисячоліть дивиться людство, і саме від Нього багато людей черпають животворчу силу, яка змінює на краще їхнє життя.

Святі отців кажуть, що Христос зійшов на землю для того, щоб нас вознести на небо, став людиною, щоби ми стали синами Божими, був убогий щоб ми збагатилися, смирився, щоб нас прославити.

На превеликий жаль цього року під час святкування Різдвяних свят ми переживаємо велике випробування, пов'язане з епідемією коронавірусу.

Сьогодні у наших храмах діють певні обмеження, які позбавляють наших вірних належної духовної опіки. Але величне свято, Різдво Христове, яке ми святкуємо нагадує нам про безмежну любов Бога до людини. “Бо так полюбив Бог світ, що віддав і Сина Свого Єдинородного, щоб усякий хто вірує в Нього не загинув, а мав життя вічне” Івана (3,16).

Бог з великої любові до свого творіння створив цей світ прекрасним. Але сама людина дуже часто своїм гріховним життям розриває зв'язок з Богом і приносить у світ нещастя, хвороби і зло. Саме ця епідемія, яка сколихнула увесь світ, заставляє нас християн задуматись над своїм особистим життям. Звичайно Господь не дозволив би цій пандемії отримати такий всесвітній розвиток, якби вона не мала Божого напоумлення для всіх людей ЗЕМЛІ.

І саме свято Різдво Христове свідчить нам про те, що Бог не залишає нас без свого догляду. Бог піклується не тільки про весь світ в цілому, але й про кожну людину зокрема.

Тому нехай Народжений у Вифлеємі і спочилий у яслях Господь, спонукає кожного із нас задуматись, для чого ми живемо і якими дорогами ходимо - прямими Божими, чи кривими гріховними. Віра в Бога закликає нас боротися зі всіляким злом і насамперед з гріхом у самому собі.

У ці святі Різдвяні дні молитовно звертаймося до Богомладенця Христа – Спасителя нашого, щоб Він оберігав кожного із нас від цієї страшної хвороби.

Від щирого серця вітаємо всіх Вас дорогі брати і сестри з великим і Спасенним святом Різдва Христове, Новим Роком і Святим Богоявленням, а особливо нашу молодь і дітей, і всіх вас Боголюбивих християн у Діаспорі і в Україні.

Нехай наступаючий Новий Рік буде для всіх нас Роком духовного зростання, спокою, міцного здоров'я, родинного щастя і Богом-благословенним Роком доброї долі для всіх людей у цілому світі.

### ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ! СЛАВІМО ЙОГО!

З архипастирським благословенням,

† **ЮРІЙ**, Митрополит Української Православної Церкви Канади  
† **АНТОНІЙ**, Митрополит Української Православної Церкви США і в Діаспорі  
† **ЄРЕМІЯ**, Архієпископ Української Православної Єпархії Бразилії та Південної Америки  
† **ДАНИІЛ**, Архієпископ Української Православної Церкви США і Західної Європи  
† **ІЛАРІОН**, Єпископ Української Православної Церкви Канади  
† **АНДРІЙ**, Єпископ Української Православної Церкви Канади





BLESSED  
NEW 2021 YEAR  
TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES  
2021  
БЛАГОСЛОВЕННОГО  
НОВОГО 2021 РОКУ  
ВАМ ТА ВАШИМ РОДИНАМ



**NEW 2021 YEAR GREETING OF METROPOLITAN ANTONY  
Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA**

Beloved in Christ:

It gives me great pleasure to reach out to all clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA via Internet and offer prayers and best wishes for a Happy and Blessed New 2021 Year of our Lord!

The celebration of the New Year is a joyous opportunity for all of us in our communities to gather with loved ones and to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, while prayerfully looking forward into the New Year of blessings and opportunities.

During this Sacred Season of the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, let us cast our eyes upon Christ our light – the God of glory and light, the God who constantly lightens our way. As we celebrate the great light of Christ among us, let us also give thanks for the other lights that have touched, lit up, and enlightened our own lives. We are blessed to be illumined by the light of other people: those who give us joy, challenge us, and sometimes call us to conversion. Each person who has touched our heart is a point of light for which we are grateful.

Among all the lights, the light of Christ remains the light of the world. It is because of his light that all the other smaller lights can glow and give us hope.

I pray that God will shower abundant blessings on you and your loved ones at this special time as well as throughout the coming year.

With cordial greetings and the assurance of my prayers, I remain.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**+Antony,**

*By the Grace of God, Metropolitan of the UOC of the USA*

**ПРИВІТАННЯ МИТРОПОЛИТА АНТОНІЯ  
Предстоятеля Української Православної Церкви США з нагоди Нового 2021 року**

Улюблені в Христі:

Мені приємно звернутися до всього духовенства та вірних Української Православної Церкви США через засоби електронного спілкування та запевнити Вас усіх в молитвах та найкращих побажаннях з нагоди Нового 2021 року Господнього!

Святкування Нового року - це радісна можливість для всіх нас у наших громадах зібратися з близькими людьми, котрі відзначають звершення минулого року, молитовно очікуючи благословень та можливостей у Новому Році.

Під час цього святого сезону святкування Різдва нашого Господа, спогляньмо духовними очима на Христа - наше Світло - Бога слави, який постійно освітлює наш шлях. Коли ми святкуємо велике Христове Світло між нами, складімо подяку і за інші життєві вогники, які торкнулися, запалили і просвітили наше власне життя. Ми благословленні у житті можливістю бути освітленими світлом інших людей: тих, хто дарує нам радість, кидає виклик нам, а іноді і закликає нас до навернення. Кожна людина, яка торкається нашого серця, - це відображення Господнього світла, за яке ми повинні бути щиро вдячними.

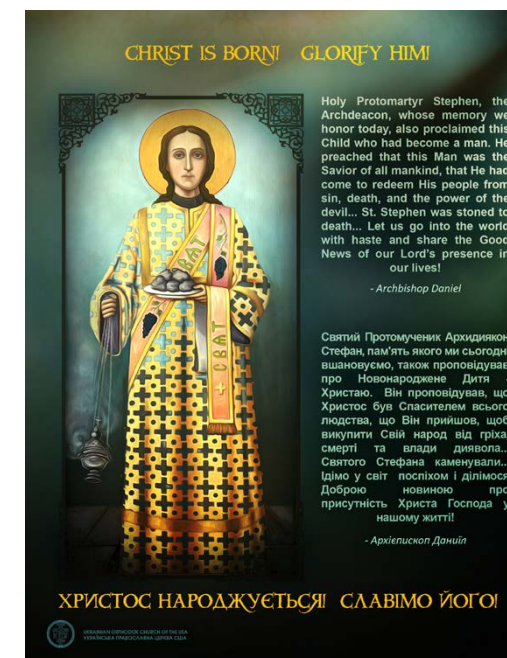
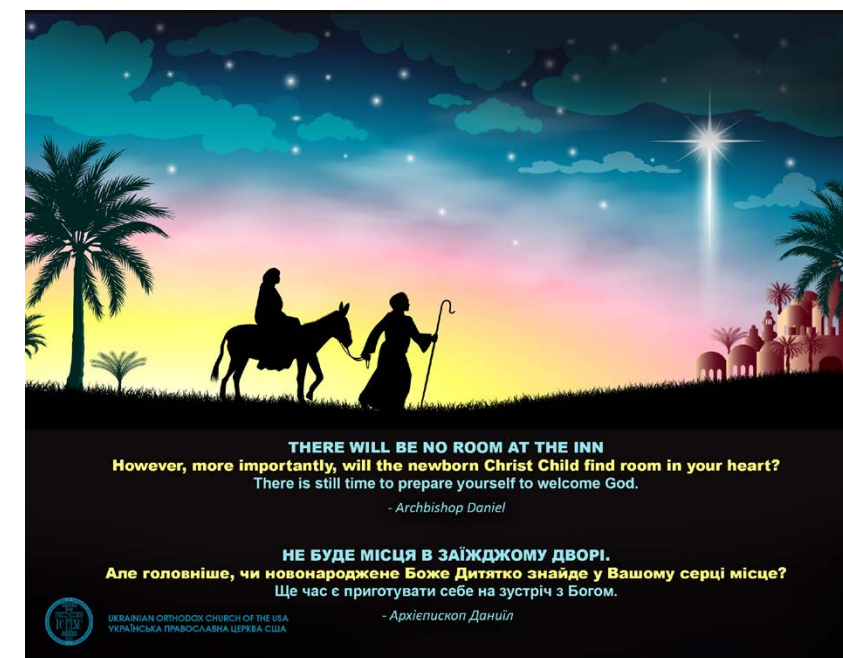
Серед усіх вогників, Світло Христове залишається Світлом світу. Саме завдяки Його Світлу всі інші, менші вогники, можуть світитися і дарувати нам надію.

Я молюсь, щоб Бог в цей особливий час, а також протягом усього наступного року, наділив Вас та Ваших рідних Своїми рясними благословеннями.

З сердечним привітанням та запевненням у своїх молитвах, я залишаюся щиро Ваш у Христі,

**+ Антоній,**

*Милістю Божою, митрополит УПЦ США*







**HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW 2021 YEAR OF OUR LORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONSISTORY**

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! ІЗ НОВИМ РОКОМ!

We stand at the gateway to a brand New 2021 Year of our Lord. It's time to look back, look forward, and mostly to live in the present moment.

I hope that you are all filled with optimism for the future, while being content with the present. If you renew your faith in the guiding hand of the Lord's Divine Providence, and trust Him, then you will find that all your concerns will fade away and angelic peace will take its place.

On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Members of the Council of Metropolia and Consistory, I wish you health, love, and happiness in this New Year and beyond. God bless you always!

**+Daniel, by the Grace of God Archbishop and brother in the Lord**

+ + + + +

Мої дорогі друзі в Христі,

Ми стоїмо на порозі нового 2021 року Божого. Настав час озирнутися назад, заглянути вперед, а в основному, достойно перебувати в сьогодні.

Я сподіваюся, що всі Ви наповнені оптимізмом на майбутнє, задовольняючись сьогоднішнім. Якщо Ви відновите свою віру в Боже Провидіння, і довіритесь Господеві котрий завжди піклується Вами, тоді Ви зумієте усвідомити, що вся тривога даремна і ангельський мир займе місце переживань.

Від імені Високопреосвященного Митрополита Антонія, Членів Ради Митрополії та Консисторії бажаю Вам здоров'я, любові і щастя в цей Новий рік. Нехай Бог благословить Вас завжди!

**+Даниїл, Ласкою Божою Архієпископ та брат у Христі**



Celebrating the  
**NATIVITY OF CHRIST**  
in the Chicago Deanery

Святкування  
**РІЗДВА ХРИСТОВОГО**  
в Чиказькому деканаті

**NATIVITY OF CHRIST ARCHPASTORAL VISITS TO THE PARISHES OF THE WESTERN EPARCHY OF THE CHURCH**

As the wise magi had once packed their camels and traveled a long distance to greet the newly born King, so, on Monday, January 4th, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, also packed up his supplies, and joined by seven seminarians of the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, set out on a thousand-mile journey to greet the Christ Child.

The journey would take them through six states as they made their way with anticipation across the Midwest, traversing mountains, descending into valleys, crossing rivers, driving along toll roads, avenues, and byways, spreading joy everywhere they went. Squeezed into the white seminary van were seminarians Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan, Subdeacon Pavlo Vysotskyi, Reader Andrii Vatrach,

Mykola Stefanyk, Andriy Akulenko, Bohdan Motychak and Matvii Blyzniuk. For some this was their first time traveling across the United States and they eagerly gazed out the windows enjoying the beautiful vistas, cities, and complexes they passed.

Nearing the western end of Pennsylvania, His Eminence turned right at the Emlenton exit, and after driving a few miles along a twisting picturesque road, he stopped the van at the gates to All Saints Camp. The camp has always been the hub of young Orthodoxy, as generations of faithful attended various summer camps, training sessions, and long holiday weekends at the campsite. However, this year, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the camp had been idled over the summer. Getting out of the van to stretch their legs, Archbishop Daniel led the seminarians to the wooden church of St Thomas. To many

of the young men, the church's structure reminded them of many of the churches they had seen in Ukraine. They paused for a moment before the locked doors, bowing their heads in prayer of gratitude and for a safe journey, before continuing along the path to take in the beauty of the grounds. Below them, through the now bare trees, they could see the Allegheny River, cold and gray in the cool winter mist. Walking the path through the woods, everyone stopped before the various icons that have been posted along the way, to pause in prayer. The three new seminarians listened intently as the others told them stories of spending their summers volunteering at the camp.

With their cheeks red from the cold breeze, everyone was happy to climb back into the waiting van, and continue on their journey westward, leaving mountainous Pennsylvania, and entering the farm country of

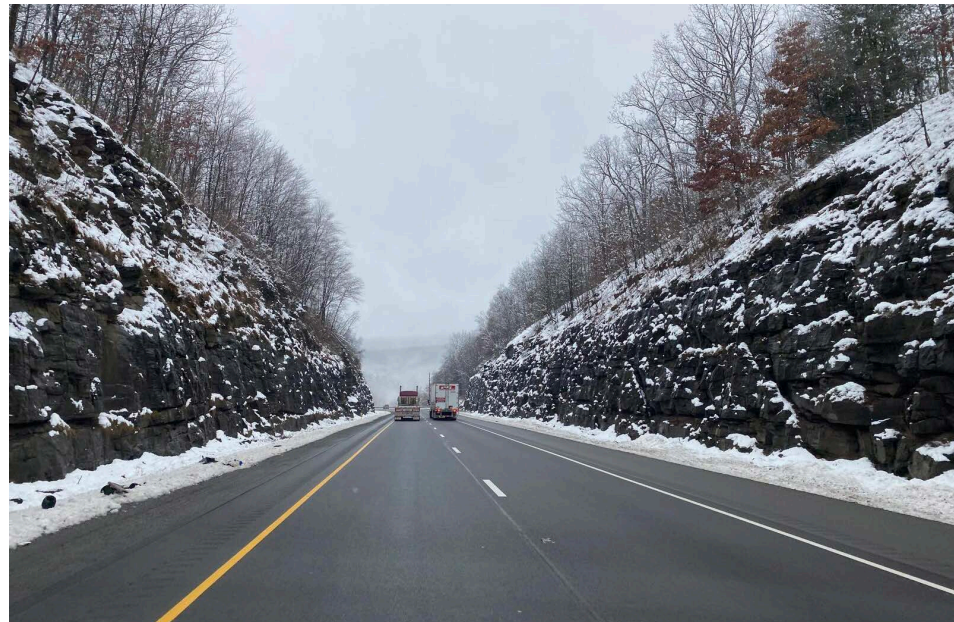


Ohio. Driving past wide expanses of barren fields, awaiting to burst forth with new crops in a few short months, they might as well have been driving across the vast expanse of Ukrainian farmland.

As darkness overtook daylight, the van once again turned off of Interstate 80, and made its way through the brightly lit city of Parma, Ohio, pulling up at the Cathedral of St. Volodymyr. Eagerly awaiting their arrival was Very Rev. Fr. Michael Hontaruk – assistant pastor of the cathedral. Before entering the church, the seminarians paused outside to admire the mosaic of the “Baptism of Ukraine” above the entry doors. As Archbishop Daniel went inside the Altar to pray, the seminarians walked around and admired the iconography and architectural details of the cathedral. To Vladyka Daniel the cathedral holds many memories, as it was at this Altar Table where he was consecrated a bishop on May 10, 2008.

Joining the seminarians, he took a few moments to share his memories of that day with them, recalling how after Vespers, as the faithful who had traveled from across the nation to share in the event, had left for the evening, he spent the night locked inside the church, deep in prayer and contemplation.

Early Tuesday morning, January 5th, before continuing their journey, His Eminence met with Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay, President of the St. Andrew Society. During the meeting they discussed the various charitable projects the Church would undertake in 2021. With the



new agenda solidified, Archbishop Daniel and the seminarians bid farewell to Parma, Ohio, and continued westward.

January 6th, the Eve of the Nativity, found the intrepid travelers pulling into Bensenville, Illinois, at the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Entering the church, Archbishop Daniel was warmly greeted by parish pastor Very Rev. Fr. Bohdan Kalynyuk, and assistant pastor, Very Rev. Fr. Andrii Shelvakh.

Great Compline began with Fr. Bohdan standing before the Royal Gates, in the darkened name, as the “Six Psalms” were read. “I lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.” (Psalm 4) These six Psalms are grouped together and are significant, for Tradition teaches us that these will be the Psalms that will be sung by the angels during the Last Judgment. As the words of the Psalms echoed off the cavernous walls, the faithful stood silently and listened keenly to the words, contemplating their own mortality and eternal salvation.

With the completion of the Six Psalms, the choir sang, “God is with us! Understand, all ye nations, and submit yourselves, For God is with us.” With this the Royal Gates opened and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, along with the clergy, seminarians, and servers, proceeded to the narthex. From the back of the church, His Eminence prayed not only for those present within the church, but, for the entire world.

As the solemn service came to an end, the clergy made their way to the front of the nave, where the

Troparian of the feast was sung, and bread, wheat, wine, and oil were blessed, signifying the blessing of all the world’s goods: “Lord Jesus Christ our God, you blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and fed the five thousand. Likewise bless these loaves, wheat, wine, and oil, and multiply them in this city and through your whole world. Sanctify your faithful who will partake of them, for you yourself bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and onto ages of ages. Amen.”

At the conclusion of the service, His Eminence came down to stand in the middle of the nave, to address the faithful. Whether they wore masks, or were maskless, His Eminence stated that it is important that these masks work to keep the wearer safe from viral infection, and yet we must be watchful of spiritual infection that might be caused by the pandemic, as well. People are losing their humanity, becoming more focused on themselves, and oblivious of others around them. We need conquer our fear, and with joy greet each other, reach out to others, and spread the Good News of Christ’s birth.

Having completed his sermon, His Eminence stepped back to the ambo, from where he greeted each individual who came up, anointing them with holy oil. With smiles and happy hearts, the faithful hurried to their homes, so they could enjoy the Christmas Eve Lenten meal (Svyata Vecherya).

They had one more stop to make before resting that evening. Climbing back into the van, the

group traveled to Palos Park, Illinois, where they arrived at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, just as their Christmas Eve service was concluding. His Eminence entered the beautifully decorated church and spent some time with the faithful there.

Hosting His Eminence and the seminarians for the Holy Christmas Supper in their home was Fr. Vasyl Sendeha and Dobrodijka Olenka along with their children Antony, David and Amilia. Following Ukrainian tradition, the guests enjoyed 12 lenten dishes lovingly prepared by the family, starting with Kutia, and ending with Uzvar. The evening concluded with everyone joyously singing kolyadky (Christmas Carols) before retiring for a good night’s sleep.

Christmas morning found the sun shining brightly despite the chill breeze. Walking down the sidewalk of Chicago on their way to the St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel was serenaded by birds who oblivious to the cold chirped happily in the trees. Ascending the steps to the church, Archbishop Daniel was warmly greeted at the door by parish pastor, Very Rev. Fr. Ivan Lymar, and assistant pastor Very Rev. Fr. Mykola Lymar, along with Protodeacon Andrii Fronchak.

His Vestments shining brightly in the sun’s rays that poured through the stained-glass windows, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel stepped to the center of the Nave voice resonating through the cavernous cathedral, “Blessed



is our God, now and always, and onto the ages of ages!" The Divine Liturgy ebbed and flowed, as the choir sang, and the faithful prayed. The interior of the cathedral sparkled and glowed, the lights twinkling merrily upon the decorated Christmas trees. As the service continued, the church filled as people flocked to celebrate the incarnation of the Lord.

Having read the Gospel, His Eminence descended the steps of the solea and stood once again in the midst of the faithful. Archbishop Daniel explained that the Magi had traveled to greet the newborn King, and gave Him three gifts – Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. The Gold represents eternity, for Christ is the Eternal King. The Myrrh represents the suffering and sacrifice, and eventual death Christ will endure. The Frankincense represented Christ's priestly status.

While we are not the wisemen, we nonetheless also have three gifts to give the Child. We are to offer Him our own suffering/sacrifice, prayers and our desire to touch each other's hearts during this pandemic. For when we help someone in need, we gift them Christ, and we gift our kindness to Christ.

Vladyka Daniel commented that the angels told the shepherds of the new joy that has occurred. We need to stay faithful to this Joy. The word itself, JOY, tells us what is required of us. J – instructs us to put "Jesus" first, followed by O – putting "Others" next, ending with Y – putting ourselves (you) last.

Archbishop Daniel asked that even though we are living in unprecedented times of a



pandemic, that we not forget who we are, and that as we celebrate the Nativity, that we put others ahead of ourselves. Many people are lonelier than ever these days, shut away in their homes, with little to no social interaction. Therefore, it is crucial that we reach out to them. We need to call, write, livestream, facetime, text, use whatever means necessary to touch the lives of others, letting them know they are not forgotten.

Today, the Christ Child, who is celebrating His Birthday, does not ask for a gift of electronics, or toys, or gadgets... but, for the gift of our hearts. Today, the Child embraces us all from the manger, and asks that we embrace each other.

Before concluding his sermon, Archbishop Daniel took a moment to greet all those who had joined the Divine Liturgy via the LIVESTREAM, including people throughout the U.S.A, Ukraine, South America, Australia, etc. Assuring everyone of his continued prayers, that the Lord keep everyone safe for all harm, he expressed his gratitude to all who were joining in these prayers, and wished them all happiness and joy, asking once again that they proudly and loudly proclaim to all the world that Christ is Born!

The Liturgy continued, as the faithful approached to partake of the Holy Eucharist. First in line where the squirming and giggling children, who with wide smiles opened wide to happily receive the Body and Blood of Christ, followed by the adults.

As the service concluded, the choir sang Christmas Carols, as the faithful lines up to get anointed by His Eminence.

Having partaken of the Eucharist, after fasting throughout the St. Philip Fast, it was now time to break the fast. Everyone filed into the parish hall to enjoy a tasty lunch. During the luncheon the guests were entertained by a Vertep and short program put on the parish children. Soon everyone was laughing and singing, as tears of joy flowed down their cheeks.

All too soon the festivities concluded. However, the faithful were re-energized. Ready to go back out into the cold world, and warmly proclaim the Birth of Christ, the Birth of Salvation.

January 8th is the celebration of the Most Holy Mother-of-God, the Synaxis of the Virgin Mary. The Synaxis encompasses all the celebrations dedicated to her. Wearing blue vestments in honor of the Theotokos, His Eminence along with the Seminarians were greeted by Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, of Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, where they would celebrate this day together. Seeing her beloved bishop, the youngest of the Sendeha family, little Amilia, came running to His Eminence and gave him a warm hug, squealing happily as he tickled her. That is the joy the world needs. The innocent joy of a child.

During his sermon this day, Vladyka explained the significance the Virgin Mary plays in our salvation story. Had she lost courage and said "no", we would not be standing here today. But, the young woman that she was at the time, had enough faith in God, to speak a resounding "yes" to Archangel

Gabriel, accepting the responsibility the Lord was offering her.

Our spiritual history is rife with heroism that we hardly give a second thought to. The young Mary agreed to be impregnated of the Holy Spirit, which could have been disastrous for a single woman in those times. The elderly widowed Joseph realizing this young woman was pregnant, may have ignored the vision the angel gave him in his dreams, and put her aside, exposing her to societal judgment, but, he did not. He had faith. So many people had faith, and acted upon it, so that we could be here today, with the hope of salvation.

His Eminence, holding an iPad referenced the modern Christmas Carol, "Mary Did You Know", by Pentatonix. This song, in its lyrics, explains the touching reality of the young Mary's acceptance of the Will of God.

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy - Would one day walk on water?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy - Would save our sons and daughters?*

*Did you know that your baby boy - Has come to make you new?*

*This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy - Would give sight to a blind man?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy - Would calm the storm with his hand?*



*Did you know that your baby boy -  
Has walked where angels trod?*

*When you kiss your little baby -  
You kiss the face of God*

*Mary, did you know? The blind will  
see, the deaf will hear, The dead  
will live again*

*The lame will leap, the dumb will  
speak, The praises of the Lamb*

*Mary, did you know that your baby  
boy - Is Lord of all creation?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby  
boy - Would one day rule the  
nations?*

*Did you know that your baby boy -  
Is heaven's perfect Lamb?*

*That sleeping child you're -  
Holding  
is the great, I AM*

Archbishop asked that we all have such faith. It was not "easy" for her, and life, especially in a pandemic, is not easy for us. However, with faith in God, we must move forward, and live our lives, and with our lives proclaim the love of Christ.

As the Divine Liturgy continued, the sounds of children's soft voices could be heard, as they cooed and giggled, tumbling over to the colorful Christmas trees that decorated the Nave. The church verily shown with joy, as the candlelight bounced off all the baubles and decorations. The wreaths decorating the doors and windows, hung heavy with red ornaments that glowed in the morning sunshine. The entire interior appeared otherworldly, as the faithful contemplated His Eminence's words, realizing the



strong faith and sacrifice the Virgin Mary had made.

At the conclusion of the service, His Eminence once again took a moment to speak to the faithful, assuring them that today, as we celebrate the Holy Mother-of-God, we give ourselves over to her protection, her intervention, her preoccupation with our well-being and salvation. With final words, His Eminence blessed the crowd, and prayed that the Holy Theotokos keep everyone safe beneath her Holy Veil.

Saturday morning, January 9th, found the occupants of the white seminary van back on the road, this time heading east, as the Magi who had found and worshipped the Christ Child, had embarked on their long journey home. Just as the wisemen had taken a different route home, so did the van. Even though they were tired, they were still singing Christmas Carols as they crossed the border out of Illinois and turned northward, into the State of Michigan, heading to the Cathedral of the Protection of the Mother-of-God, in Southfield which last year celebrated their 70th jubilee.

Taking advantage of the earlier pandemic lockdown, and the restrictions placed on occupancy, the parish board decided this was the perfect opportunity to work on some long overdue renovations. The Cathedral, which had been suffering a leaky roof for several years, was getting a facelift. In addition to fixing the ceiling, the walls were newly painted, new floors were laid, and now was the time to add some iconography to the





baren walls. This required the input of an expert, and the parish pastor, Very Rev. Paul Bodnarchuk, along with parish board president, Iryna Smyk-Bickerstaff, eagerly awaited the arrival of Archbishop Daniel, so that they could make plans for the second part of the parish renewal.

Being warmly greeted at the door, His Eminence walked into the cavernous interior of the cathedral, admiring the marble flooring and heavenly blue walls. His Eminence met with Fr. Paul and discussed various ideas with the parish board members. With everyone on the same page, and eager to begin the iconography of the cathedral, Archbishop Daniel and the seminarians stopped by the parish hall to do that which they do best – inspire through example.

No stranger to the poverty in Detroit, His Eminence had seen first-hand during a previous visit to the parish how the homeless shelter beneath a local bridge, over the famous 8 Mile Road. Wishing to once again visit and assist these people, Archbishop Daniel, along with the seminarians, packed a dozen backpacks, filling them with essentials – warm socks, caps, mittens, sanitizer, lip balm, flashlights, protein bars, hand-warmers, etc. All these items, which seem so inconsequential, are important to those who have nothing.

Bidding farewell to the faithful in of the Southfield Cathedral, His Eminence along with the seminarians loaded their van with the care packages and headed out. With final waves

goodbye, the van jauntily traveled along Woodward Avenue heading south, stopping once again under the bridge to spend a few moments with the homeless.

William, seeing the white van, broke out in a wide smile, remembering His Eminence from his last visit during Palm Sunday a few years back. He happily approached and graciously accepted the package. Soon, Kevin and Dale joined him, shivering in the cold. They were grateful for the gifts of kindness and love... and mostly for the fact that the Archbishop, being in the area, stopped to help them once again. His Eminence gave them worth and let them know that they are not invisible to this world, as cars fly by, and people turn away, but, that they are visible, they are important, and they are loved.

With final hugs, His Eminence bid them farewell, assuring them of his continued prayers. As they all got back into the van, some of the homeless were already opening their packages, while others were wrapping themselves in warm



blankets, and William stood and waved goodbye. With a cheery honk of the horn, and a wave, His Eminence drove off once again, heading south through Michigan before turning East and heading back home to the New Jersey.

Although tired from their weeklong journey, the occupants of the van had made a difference everywhere they had traveled, bringing with them joy, hope, and peace. The cities, towns, churches, and people they had visited, all sparkled brightly with renewed hope in these dark times. The van, like a shooting star, left a bright trail of light behind it. All the faithful who had partaken of the celebrations, were all spiritually reborn, strengthened, and comforted... and all the cities continued to resonate with **“Christ is Born! Glorify Him!”**

*Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan, Olena Lymar, and Elizabeth Symonenko*

*Text by Elizabeth Symonenko*



## CHRISTMAS AT THE SEMINARY

As night fell on the chilly winter day, as the world celebrated St. Nicholas Day, fluffy white snowflakes danced on a cool breeze as the first stars of the evening began to twinkle in the heavens. The darkening landscape of the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA was a beacon of light in the growing darkness, as the deep blues of the evening were illuminated by a warm and welcoming glow of lights from the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary building. Among the softly glowing colored Christmas lights that cheerfully decorated the outside of the building, the windows glowed with a warm and welcoming brightness, as sounds of joy and laughter could be heard emanating from inside.

Standing tall in their cassocks were six of the resident seminarians: Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan, Subdeacon Myroslav Mykytyuk,

Maksym Zhuravchik, Mykola Stefanyk, Matvii Blyzniuk and Andriy Akulenko, as they sang “Rejoice, O Earth, for Christ is Born!”.

Concluding the Christmas Carol they all looked about realizing that they were missing two of their class-fellows. Suddenly, there was a commotion behind them, as the window opened and climbing in through from the outside were Subdeacon Pavlo Vysotskyi and Andrii Vatrach who had been helping Saint Nicholas, and were delayed in joining their seminary brothers.

Making their grand entrance, Pavlo and Andrii, dressed in their embroidered Ukrainian shirts looked around and gestured for the young men to remove their cassocks and relax as they sang more casual Christmas tunes. Heeding their advice, the young men removed their formal black cassocks, and stood resplendent in their colorful

vyshyvanky, representing not only their Faith, but pride in their heritage, as they loudly belted out a traditional Ukrainian tune – “Dobrij Vechir Tobi, Pane Hospodaru” (Good Evening to you, Lord of the house). This carol is customarily the first one sung upon entering someone’s home at Christmastime, as the lyrics greet the homeowner with the Nativity of Christ and foretell the preparation for the upcoming seasonal festivities and celebrations – Feast Day of St. Basil and Theophany.

“Dear brothers and sisters, as the brightest and most joyous holiday approaches, the birth of Christ, a holiday when the world overflows with love, we know that the Star of Bethlehem’s light will illuminate our souls, renew our hope, strengthen our faith, igniting the rays of love within our hearts. On this glorious occasion,” continued Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan, “ we



wish everyone to fill their lives with positive thoughts and the realization that Christ is born!"

As he wished everyone good health, the choir broke out in a joyous rendition of "Oy, Khto, Khto, Mykolaya Lyubit" (Oh, Who, Who, Likes Saint Nicholas).

Andriy Akulenko proclaimed that the star in the heavens glowed brightly, greeting everyone with the birth of Christ. He stated that faith and hope were renewed in everyone's hearts, and that as the shepherds prayed that night, the Christ Child this evening visits every household, granting gifts to enlighten and fill everyone's souls with joy everlasting.

With smiles, the deep voices of the young men resonated through the building as they sang "Dnec Poyushche" (Sing Today).

*Today we sing here boldly performing,  
The King that has been born, let us all  
do praise Him.  
Singing out, Glorifying  
"Glory in the highest" - all singing out.*

Andrii Vetrych expressed his wishes, that everyone's homes be filled with the joy of Christ's Birth, as the seminarians sang a heartfelt "Nova Radist Stala" (A New Joy Has Come).

*A new joy has been revealed,  
That never has been before,  
Above the manger there's a bright star,  
Shining through out the whole world.*

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox

Church of the USA, and the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Seminary, joined the seminarians, thanking Fr. Taras Naumenko of St. Vladimir's Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA, who instructs them in "Sacred Music" for doing such a fine job.

His Eminence expressed gratitude to everyone for finding the time to join the Seminary Concert, especially the over 100 individuals who were currently watching over the Facebook LIVESTREAM. He also expressed his gratitude for the Lewytzkyj Scholarship Fund, named for Very Rev. Volodymyr and Dobr. Halyna Lewytzkyj, administered by Luba Lewytzkyj. This fund offers scholarships and permits many of the young men to follow their calling to become clergy in Christ's Holy Church.

Vladyka continued by again expressing his heartfelt welcome to everyone who was joining the evening of Christmas Carols, on this Saint Nicholas Day, and took the opportunity to introduce the seminarians, who all come from



various areas of Ukraine. He stated that we pray with them every day – morning and evening prayers, and now we have the chance to meet them.

With the conclusion of the introductions, Mykola Stefanyk, recited a Christmas poem, expressing good tidings of the Birth of Christ, which was followed by a moving carol – "U Vifyemi Novyna" (There is news in Bethlehem).

Subdeacon Myroslaw Mykytyuk recited a Christmas poem:

*Bright Christmas star shines on high  
Golden stars in the winter sky  
Christmas candles, In windows bright  
Send warm greetings into the night...*

The seminarians then sang, "Starij Reek Mynaye" (The Old Year Passes) as Pavlo Vysotskyi expressed his greetings for good health and a prosperous new year.

As the hymn "Heaven and Earth"

was sung, reminding us that both the angels and all creation rejoice as the Lord incarnates for the salvation of man, voices were heard throughout the land, as all those watching the livestream joined in... from their homes, their cars, their offices... from every corner the sounds of joy echoed, reaching the very heavens.

Matvii Blyzniuk read a heartfelt poem on doing good deeds in the coming year, as the seminarians finished the evening with the words "and with these words, remain healthy, Oh Rejoice! Rejoice Oh Earth, for the Son of God is born!"

Before concluding the program, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel gestured to the numerous packages and boxes that were stacked in the seminary, thanking all the donors who had sent gifts of love and supplies for the Seminary.

- John the Baptist Parish (Portland, Oregon)
- Peter & Paul Parish (Wilmington, Delaware)
- Holy Ghost Parish (Coatsville, Pennsylvania)
- Assumption of the Virgin Mary Parish, Senior UOL Chapter (Northampton, Pennsylvania)
- Myroslav Schirta and family
- Vasyl and Dobrodijka Olena Shak, and family
- Yurii Bobko and family
- John Shandruk
- Iryna Bernhardt
- Vera Debuchananne
- Dejneka Family
- Bruce Macgioan

- Anita Anderson
- Michael Ratai and family
- Feodora Sedlock
- Svetlana Osadtsia (Zabava Banquet Hall)
- Pasakas family
- Rev. Volodymyr and Panimatka Halyna Lewytzkyi Scholarship Fund and Luba Lewytzkyi
- As well as all those who donated items that are in transit, and those who will donate in the future.

His Eminence explained that the Seminary currently has 30 students, the 8 resident students from Ukraine that everyone just met, plus another 22 Distance Learning students from various parts of the U.S.

Archbishop Daniel held up the newly produced Seminary Christmas Carol CD, explaining that all the songs heard this night, plus many more, are available for purchase via the website. While all the American Christmas Carols are nice, there is something special to sing the ages old, traditional Ukrainian melodies, sung by our ancestors.

As the camera panned out, the



seminarians voices softly sang "Nova Radist Stala" (A New Joy). Softly their voices faded, as the camera focused on the twinkling star shining brightly above the Christmas Tree.

As the program concluded, the songs remained in the air... being sung by all the listeners for the rest of that evening, and playing again in their heads as they drifted peacefully off to sleep, dreaming of peace on earth, and good will towards men.

*CD may be purchased online: [www.uocofusa.org/stsophia](http://www.uocofusa.org/stsophia)*

*Watch the taped performance on YouTube*







# Time to Trim the Tree

Archbishop Daniel, assisted by the children of the Metropolia Center Decorated Nativity/Christmas Tree of the Consistory with the ornaments sent to the Spiritual Center of the Church by the children of parish communities of the UOC of the USA.



On Saint Nicholas Day, feeling uplifted after the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel entered the atrium of the Consistory Office building and was met by a stately green Christmas tree standing in the center of the room. While beautiful in its majesty, decked in colored lights, the tree was lacking color and sparkle.

The situation was soon remedied, as His Eminence reached over and began rifling through the box of ornaments that had been lovingly created and sent to him over the previous many weeks. Next to the box of ornaments from previous years, this year's creations submitted by Mrs. Irene Mizuk from Port Orange, Florida, as well as the Pavlykivskiy, and Pasakas families, twinkled and glimmered, as gems, jewels and glitter reflected the light from the tree.

As Archbishop Daniel pulled out one, and then another, ornament and stood admiring the handiwork,

the hushed silence was soon broken by the giggles, squeals, and laughter of little children as they came tumbling through the door.

Invited to help decorate the tree were the families of the Metropolia Center:

- *Vasyl, Dobrodijka Oksana, Jacob, Emilia and Taissa Pasakas*
- *Vasyl, Dobrodijka Olena, Roman, and Victoria Shak*

- *Sviatoslav, Dobrodijka Victoria, Arsenii Hot*

In no time at all the tree looked resplendent, dazzling, dripping with colorful and bright ornaments. As the baubles and decorations were hung, the atrium echoed with song, as everyone joyously sang Christmas Carols. With smiles and laughter, everyone took a step back to admire the beauty before them. His Eminence called to the children





to get their attention, and asked them if they knew the song sung for Saint Nicholas “Ой хто, хто, Миколая Любить!” “Oh who, who, loves Nicholas!”. All the kids began jumping up and down waving their hands and screaming “I do! I do! I know it!”.

With a grin, Archbishop Daniel quieted them down, and asked them together to sing the song. As the sweet high-pitched voices began to sing the verses, the littlest ones just stood with eyes shining... when suddenly the door opened, and to everyone’s surprise Saint Nicholas himself entered the building.

He proclaimed loudly “Glory to Jesus Christ!” and then turning quickly to the children, asked them if they had been nice this year. Had they listened to their parents? Did they clean their rooms? What about vegetables, had they eaten their vegetables? Most importantly, had they said their prayers each day?

As the children squirmed under his gaze, St. Nick burst out in loud laughter as he motioned for the kids to come forward for a big hug.

With the kids crowding around him, Svyatij Mykolaj reached deep into the bag he had brought with him, and slowly pulled out gifts for each child present. Soon the tidy atrium was littered with wrapping paper and boxes, and Christmas Carols were replaced with laughter and the happy sound of children playing.

Before leaving them, Saint Nicholas gave them advice for the future year – to be good boys and girls, to pray daily, and to obey their

parents, and then he asked them to join him at a table which was set up in the adjoining room, where they could enjoy a warm pizza with their parents.

As the sun set that evening, and the atrium darkened, the tree stood proudly, twinkling brightly, as if the heavens themselves had descended upon the building. As the children’s voices waned in the distance, and echoes of the carols continued to swirl in the air, the decorated tree was ready and waiting to celebrate the upcoming Nativity of the Lord, and to hear the proclamation that “Christ is Born!”

*Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan*



## UOC of the USA Charitable Projects Discussed and Planned for 2021 Благодійні проекти УПЦ США Сплановано на 2021 рік



## UOC OF THE USA CHARITABLE PROJECTS DISCUSSED AND PLANNED FOR 2021 Благодійні проекти УПЦ США Сплановано на 2021 рік

On Monday, January 5, 2021 His Eminence Archbishop Daniel met with the President of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Society (Central Organization of the UOC of the USA) and the director of the Consistory Office of Christian Charity – Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay. The meeting took place in Independence, OH, as Archbishop Daniel traveled to Chicago, IL for the celebration of the Glorious Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

During the morning meeting, Protodeacon Ihor and Vladyka Daniel reviewed various charitable projects of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA that were successfully completed in 2020. Among those are: The assistance

efforts to Znamyanka Children's Orphanage, where the Church continues to sponsor several Special Education teachers who work closely with the handicapped children; Food assistance to those in need during COVID-19 pandemic at the Metropolia Center and across the US; Aid to Soup Kitchens in Kyiv via cooperation with the Social Services of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine; Assistance to wounded soldiers of the ongoing Russian aggression in Eastern Ukraine; assistance to Mariupol (Eastern Ukraine) Elderly Care Center; aid to the Flood Victims in Western Ukraine, St. Sophia Seminary scholarships via Protopresbyter Wolodymyr and Pani-matka Halyna Lewytskyi, etc.

During the lengthily discussion, a proposed plan was developed for the presentation and approval to the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Most of the charitable projects that were completed in 2020 are being considered for the implementation in 2021, following the budgetary meeting of the Council of Metropolia of the Church.

In conclusion of the meeting, Vladyka Daniel, speaking on behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and the members of the Consistory of the UOC of the USA, offered gratitude to Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay and the entire membership of St. Andrew's Society of the UOC of the USA for their devotion to the charitable mission of the Church.





**UOC of the USA**  
**Delivers Financial Aid to Ukrainian Orphanages**

**УПЦ США**  
**Продовжує надавати фінансову допомогу**  
**ДИТЯЧИМ ІНТЕРНАТАМ в Україні**



**UOC OF THE USA SENDS NATIVITY SEASON LOVE TO THE CHILDREN AND STAFF OF ZNAMYANKA ORPHANAGE IN UKRAINE**

In his most recent post on Facebook, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel reflected upon the ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA with the following statement:

*“Time flies so fast... years go by... but the LOVE we share with the children of Znamyanka Orphanage ETERNAL... I am grateful for the opportunity to deliver financial assistance on behalf of the faithful and the clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA to Znamyanka Orphanage in Ukraine, under the leadership of Tatyana Ivanivna Valko....*

*Час летить... роки минають... але ЛЮБОВ, котру ми розділяємо із дітьми Знамянського дитячого будинку-інтернату, є ВІЧНА...*

*Вдячний Богові за можливість*

*подорожі в Україну, для того щоб надати матеріальну і фінансову допомогу діткам та працівникам, під керівництвом Тетяни Іванівни Валько.”*

For the past twenty-four years, the UOC of the USA continues to offer spiritual and financial (material) assistance to Znamyanka Children’s

Orphanage in Kirovohrad region in Ukraine. The Church has offered assistance to various orphanages in the past, providing the most necessary medical Montessori equipment and nutritional dietary supplements, toys and closing, etc. Out of five orphanages that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA ministered to in the past,

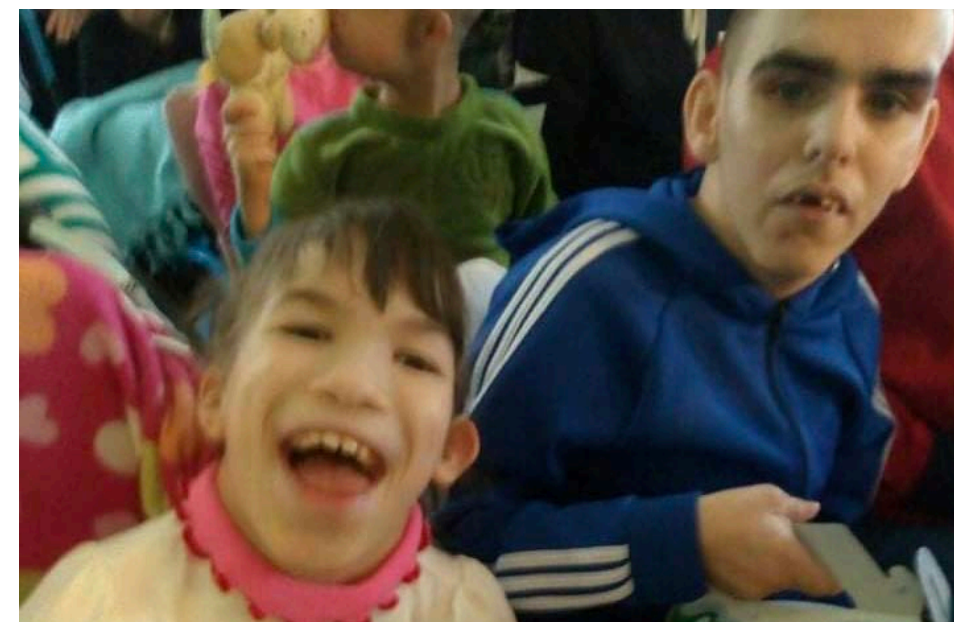


Znamyanka orphanage was the first institution that the Church worked with through the facilitation of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (cared for by Dr. Zenon and Pani Nadia Matkivskys).

During his most recent trip to Ukraine, December 21-23, 2020 – Archbishop Daniel delivered financial assistance from the faithful of the Church for the most necessary repairs of the heating pipes in the orphanage. Moreover, the Church continues to provide financial assistance to several Special Needs Instructors at the facility, by providing their salaries for the entire year of work.

If you would like to make a donation to the Orphanage Fund of the UOC of the USA, please do so via Donations page on the web site or by mailing your donation to:

**UOC of the USA**  
**PO Box 495**  
**South Bound Brook, NJ**







**UOC of the USA Joins the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in Delivering Humanitarian Aid to Those Who are in Need in the Capital of Ukraine - KYIV**

**УПЦ США разом із Православною Церквою України Надає Допомогу Потребуючим в столиці України - КИЇВІ**



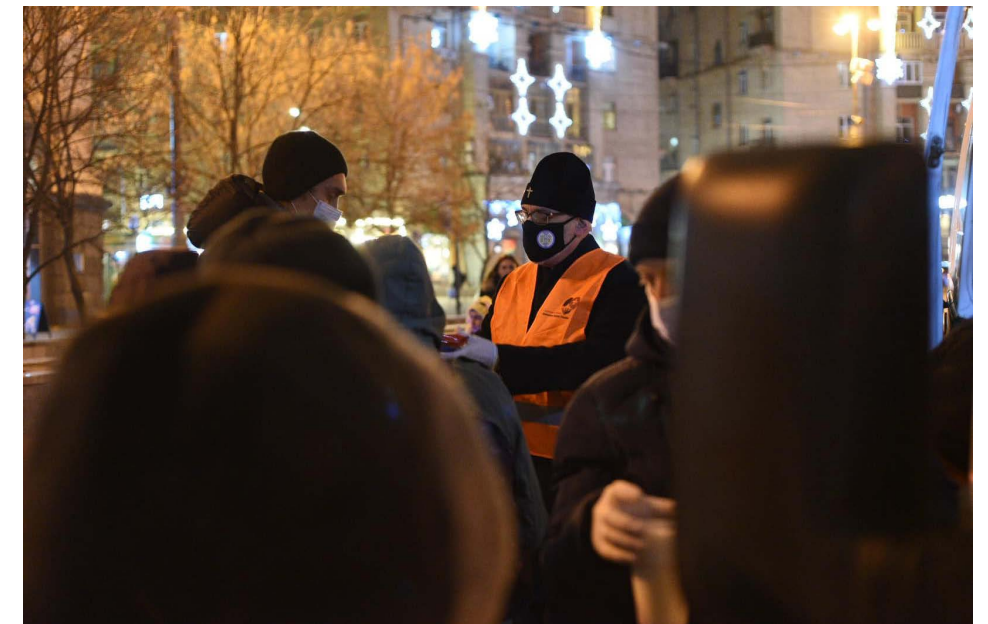
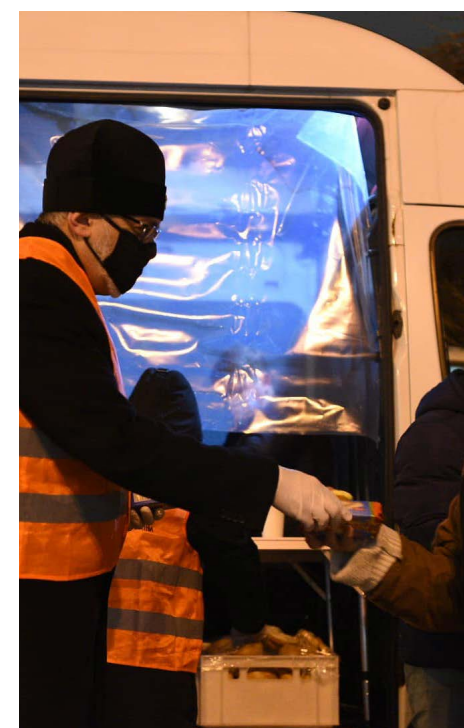
In the freezing subzero temperatures, the gaily decorated trees, their lights twinkling, flanked the wide avenues of Kyiv, giving a sense of joy and Christmas merriment in the capital city of Ukraine.

Yet, first impressions are often misleading. Underneath the façade of holiday cheer, as people around the world were making their shopping lists, purchasing gifts for their loved ones, planning exquisite meals... the people in Kyiv were also gathering. However, they were not gathering to sing Christmas Carols, or to watch a light show... they were not united in frivolity, but, in hunger, anguish, worry, and great need. The elderly, the disenfranchised, the unemployed... all came together in search of a meal to temporarily quiet their hunger pangs and sustain them for one more day upon this earth.

The elderly wrinkled faces, eyes that had once softly gazed upon



loved ones, now shown with tears of desperation. Trembling hands that had once tenderly caressed the cheeks of infants, that had strained and worked hard to feed their families, now timidly reached out for a slice of bread. Shuffling feet that had once raced to hug a crying child, had walked miles in the snow to get to work, now stood





in shabby torn boots, waiting upon the mercy of others.

The need is great, and therefore, representing His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparch of the UOC of the USA, had traveled halfway across the globe to help alleviate the abject misery of these people.

The UOC of the USA, often working through the St. Andrew Society which just recently provided aid to the elderly in Mariupol, diligently cares for people in need, whether they are near or far. This time the outcry came for the historic city of Kyiv, and the Church did not ignore it.

With the blessing of Metropolitan Antony of the UOC of the USA, and Metropolitan Epiphany, Prime Hierarch of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, this common Social Service project of both Churches, works tirelessly to assist the hungry, to give them hope once more, and to not only nourish their souls, but, also their bodies.

Working under the coordination of Roman Kholodov, along with the students of the Kyiv Theological Academy of the OCU, meals are offered biweekly – each Tuesday and Thursday. This Tuesday, Archbishop Daniel, joined the humanitarian workers to assist and alleviate the worries of these people, if only for a moment. Putting on a brave face, he passed out cups of milk, warm soup, tea, waffles, and cheesecake. High

caloric items are not a luxury, but a need in order to ward off the cold, and keep the bodies from freezing.

Standing patiently in line, people tried not to make eye contact. They were embarrassed, not used to asking for assistance. Seeing that the crowd was feeling utterly disheartened, Archbishop Daniel, walked up to them and began speaking with each person, giving them value, and assuring them that they were not invisible, but, were seen, were important, and were loved. While not able to touch or hug the people, being respective of social distancing due to the pandemic, His Eminence nonetheless was able to touch the hearts and warm the souls of those who eagerly came closer to him, to hear him speak.

His voice brought the people out of their gloom, as they lifted their eyes in wonder. His Eminence had a kind word for the elderly gentleman who having gratefully accepted the food, opted to hide it away in his pockets to take home and share

with his family. Archbishop Daniel joked with the elderly grandmother, whose fingers poked out of the holes in her worn mittens, as she took a tentative bite of cheesecake, her eyes crinkling in a smile, as she explained to His Eminence how she had often baked cheesecake for her husband.

Ivan, a grandfather of five, flashed a toothless smile, as he took a sip of hot tea, hugging it close to his chest in an attempt to warm himself, while two elderly ladies, arms locked together for warmth and safety, each graciously accepted the food items, wishing God's blessings upon those who served them.

Archbishop Daniel seemed to endlessly be handing out warm cups of tea, wrapped waffles, and bread, with each item of food, giving an encouraging word to the recipient, and quietly uttering a prayer for their wellbeing. The line of shivering individuals ebbed and flowed until finally everyone was fed.

Himself shivering, with a heavy

heart having seen such hunger in the people of his ancestral homeland, Archbishop Daniel walked through the plaza, stopping here and there to speak with individuals who had wondered off to sip their hot tea. This once great and struggling land, that had survived a tragic history, genocidal famines, and wars, was once again facing hardship. However, hope existed, as the true worth of any nation is measured by how they care for the least of their citizens.

Having distributed 250 meals that evening, the humanitarian effort was not yet over. In the freezing wind, many people seek shelter in the underground subways and railroad stations, trying to find respite from the blistering cold outside. At midnight, additional food distributions begin in these very locations.

The Church does not wait for the people to come to her for help, but, goes to the people. As Christ went among the most derelict and needy of society, so the Church goes as well, to aid those in need.

A huge "Thank You" to the people of God – the people of the UOC of the USA, for generously donating, praying, and caring for the needy around the world.

A giving hand is a blessing hand. Let us continue to bless and thereby ourselves be the recipients of the GRACE of the Holy Spirit.

*Photos by Rev. Deacon Andriy Sydor - Андрій Сидор*





**KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN TO THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND YOU!**  
**Archbishop Daniel and the Seminarians aid the homeless population.**

**ПОМІЧАЙТЕ ПОТРЕБИ ІНШИХ ТА НЕЗАЛИШАЙТЕСЬ ОСТОРОНЬ ПОТРЕБ ОТОЧУЮЧИХ!**  
**Архієпископ Даниїл та семінаристи допомагають безпритульному населенню.**



## ARCHBISHOP DANIEL AND SEMINARIANS OF ST. SOPHIA SEMINARY OFFER ASSISTANCE TO THE HOMELESS POPULATION OF DETROIT METROPOLITAN AREA

*“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit... By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” (John 15: 5-8)*

Today, the Lord’s words were manifested as His branches bore much fruit.

It is easy to get lost and discouraged in this world. We are living through unprecedented times. The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought added stress to already fragile lives. People for the first time are experiencing isolation due to the lockdown. They are lonely, scared, and crave the human touch. Political upheaval, civil unrest, and unemployment only add to the burden people bare.

However, no matter how dark are the clouds that roll in, there is

always light above them. While we cannot fix all the world’s woes, cannot stop wars, douse the flames of hatred, quiet the spiritual storm that overtakes the nation... we can bring peace, solace, and comfort to those within our reach. If we all made an effort, the Vine would be heavy laden with fruit, which would nourish the world.

Leading by example, was His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarchy of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Traveling through the Midwest as he made his way back to New Jersey having celebrated the Nativity of Christ with the Chicago Deanery, His Eminence made a quick detour to visit the Southfield parish of The Protection of the Mother-of-God (Pokrova). While there he filled backpacks with the most basic

of necessities, which most take for granted. Aided by the Seminarians of the Saint Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary - Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan, Subdeacon Pavlo Vysotskyi, Reader Andrii Vatrach, Mykola Stefanyk, Andriy Akulenko, Bohdan Motychak, Matvii Blyzniuk and Elizabeth Symonenko, Archbishop Daniel carefully packed each bag with the items. Socks to keep the cold feet of the homeless warm, caps to keep their heads safe from the cold, gloves and handwarmers, chapstick, hand sanitizers, protein bars, chocolate bars, cups of cereal, Kleenex, sanitary wipes, and flashlights to keep them safe in the darkness of inner Detroit.

Loading up the Seminary Van, the group headed south towards Detroit, stopping at various locations where the homeless tend to gather. Sadly,

those in need can usually be found haunting the cavernous expanses beneath tall concrete bridges, the pylons offering them a windbreak and a place to pitch their tents, erect makeshift shelters, and gather with others in the same situation for safety.

Spotting a lone figure huddle against the cold, Archbishop Daniel stopped the van beneath one such bridge, jumped out of the van, and assisted by the seminarians, grabbed the colorful sacks of kindness, and began to pass them out to the men who were congregating there. The disheveled figures, like specters began to emerge from the shadows, drawn to the light that emanated from the kind gesture. Someone actually cared enough to gift them care packages. These seeming specters, where not ghosts, but were humans, each with their own history, and story of woe that brought them to this cold, dark place.

Disregarding their less than stellar appearance, His Eminence handed out the packages to everyone, pausing to share a kind word of encouragement with each. Some of the men immediately opened the packages and began to rummage through them. One man spied the flashlight, looked up with tears in his eyes and stated, “My prayers have been answered. I have been waiting for months for someone to give me a flashlight.” We cannot imagine the horrors of walking the dangerous, cold streets at night, the streetlights being blown out, in complete darkness, not knowing if danger lurks around the next corner.





As the cold wind blew, Archbishop Daniel spotted a slight movement inside one of the tents. Walking up to it, he tapped on the entrance flap and called out to the occupant. Receiving no reply, he nonetheless, lovingly placed one of the care packages just outside the tent for the person inside to find when they emerged.

The final recipient was a woman names Kristin. She asked for a second parcel for her husband, Charlie, who was looking for charitable donations at the other corner. This woman who was in her thirties, but, looked like she was in her fifties, glorified God for the small kindness shown to her. She explained that both she and her husband had lost their jobs during the pandemic, and without an income they now lost their home and found themselves on the street. Then she gently patted her belly, and said she wished for a better world before her child was born. Kristin's child is due to be born in early June.

With final furtive glances in farewell, and promising to pray for them, Archbishop Daniel and the seminarians returned to the van, and slowly drove away. While they had helped a few people, it was less than even a drop in the bucket of need. There is such desperation in the world, so many people suffering.

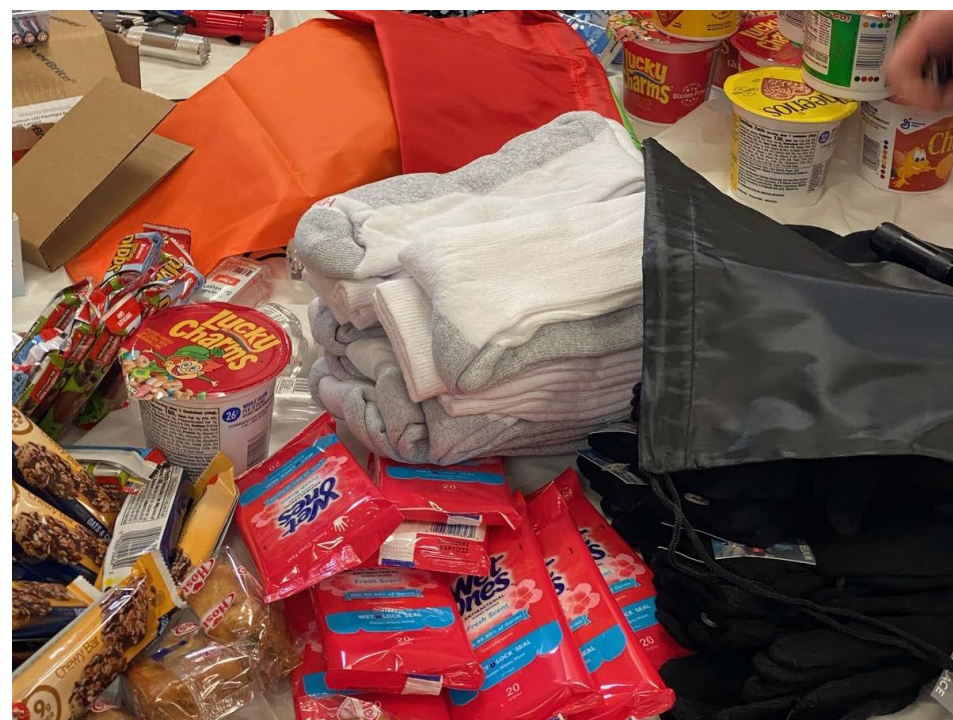
Everyone in the van remained silent, contemplating what they had seen, and reassessing what is truly necessary in this world. Those people existed, but, were they living? They recalled the words of

Christ, as He said that "the poor you will always have with you." (Matthew 26:11) Why is that? Why must there always be poor people?

Breaking the silence in the van, His Eminence explained that in the parable of the Rich Man and the Beggar, Christ explained how the poor man, Lazarus, lay at the gate of the rich man. The wealthy man passed by the beggar daily, and simply ignored his pleas. When both died, the rich man saw Lazarus resting on Abraham's loin, while he suffered in the incessant heat. This story only confirms that while the rich man did not actually do harm to the beggar, he also did no good to him. Therefore, the poor are an opportunity for those with means to work out their own salvation.

***"Whoever is kind to the poor, lends to the Lord..." (Proverbs 19:17)***

It is our Christian duty to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, etc.



Archbishop Daniel did not miss the teaching opportunity, and instructed the young seminarians, to always keep this in mind. Christ came to serve others, and therefore as His followers, how can we do anything less?

We must keep our eyes open and search out the opportunities to do good in this world. If everyone took care of the people within a mile radius from them, then everyone would feel loved and more secure, and everyone would feel the embrace of Christ through the acts of kindness of His followers.

Therefore, fearlessly go out into the darkness, and be the beacon of light to all those around you. By alleviating humanities physical needs, you will fulfill their spiritual needs as well, and guide them towards salvation.

*Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan and Elizabeth Symonenko*  
*Text by Elizabeth Symonenko*

## BOOKS AND BLANKETS SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH THE YOUNGEST PATIENTS

On a cold and gloomy winter's day, filled with fear, uncertainty, and sadness, a chime of bells, and a spark of light dispelled the dark, if for a moment, bringing with it warmth, love, and Christ.

For weeks Lily Powers, the President of the JrUOL Chapter of the Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrova) Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Southfield, Michigan, collected books and blankets for the young patients at Children's Hospital of Michigan-Detroit.

It is always difficult to be ill, in pain, and in a hospital. It is even harder during a pandemic, especially if you are a child whose family members are not permitted to visit, a child who cannot congregate with other children in the hospital, a child who cannot share toys, crayons, or puzzles, and a child who is forbidden from sharing books out of fear of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

Children's Hospital is no stranger to Lily's family, as weeks after being born, her eldest brother's life was saved by the doctors at the facility. Therefore, when she heard that the children who were found themselves as patients during the holiday season, had no distractions from their woes, nothing personal to comfort them, and little to cheer their lonely hearts, Lily jumped into action. This was something that could be remedied.

She immediately reached out to her parish, asking for donations of





children's books, and blankets, that each child could call their own. A fuzzy, colorful, warm blanket for them to cuddle with. A story to take them away from the buzzing and beeping of machines, the aches and pains, to far away sunny shores, or to fly up to the heavens and explore the stars, or burrow with bunnies beneath the earth.

In addition to asking her parish for assistance in this project, she turned to Stoney Creek Highschool, in Rochester, Michigan, where she is a senior this year, soliciting donations from the KeyClubSCHS, and the SCHS National Honor Society, as well as reaching out to various business downtown which permitted her to leave collection boxes at their locations.

She went home and pulled clothing out of her closet to sell and make a few extra dollars to purchase crayons and coloring books, puzzles, books and blankets. One evening as she sat mesmerized by the twinkling lights upon the Christmas tree new ideas came to mind. Why not make this an event for the children? Something that would bring them joy, and let them know they are not forgotten behind the cold metal and sterile doors.

Letting her fingers do the walking, Lily contacted the manager of the Detroit Youth Choir, LaVell Nero, with hopes the nationally renowned choir, which had appeared on "American's Got Talent" would sing Carols for the children.

While the choir was singing outside, why not bring that joy indoors, too. Therefore, Lily contacted the

hospital and inquired about doing a "Light up Night", with people gathering at dusk to shine flashlights at the windows of the patients, making their rooms sparkle and twinkle with "moonbeams".

As nobody was permitted entry to the hospital, Lily reached out to Derhun Sanders, director of "Dunamis Outreach Ministries", who created a music video that would be piped to the monitors in the patient's rooms. The short 10-minute video featured puppets, and families, dancing, singing, and bringing joy and laughter to the screen.

To add just a bit more sparkle to the event, Lieutenant James Harris of the Detroit Fire Department, was contacted to organize a drive-by. The sirens and flashing lights of the firetrucks would announce the start of the festivities. Carolers outside, moonbeams sparkling through windows, joyous singing on the monitors, as gifts were delivered to the bedbound children.

As the weeks went by and the plans were solidified, Lily was just a bit concerned as the donations of books and blankets was sparse to say the least. Convincing herself that there was still time, and they would gather enough to cheer the almost 200 children, she nonetheless, kindly reminded people of the need and the joy that these items would bring.

Suddenly, one Sunday morning, her church collection box was filled with colorful blankets and a myriad of books, with additional cash donations allowing her to purchase even more items. People had not

only opened their wallets, but had opened their hearts, filling the bin with adventure books, mystery books, number books, picture books, books for the young, as well as for the teenager. Cozy blankets, begging to be wrapped around a cold body, were decorated with stars and bows, firetrucks, and unicorns.

That afternoon, having dropped off the church donations at home, as the fluffy snow began to cover the streets, Lily made her rounds collecting the donated items from the various locations. It had become dark before she reached the high school. Debating whether to brave the snow and stop by the school, or just go home, she decided to drive up to the school through the newly fallen unplowed snow in the parking lot. There to her amazement, and gratitude, she found that her huge bin overflowed with cute blankets featuring puppies and kittens, llamas, and giraffes. Additional boxes and bags were stacked all around. Books were neatly packed, and puzzles were wrapped. Soliciting the assistance of her siblings, Andy, Mikey and Lexi, all Stoney Creek HS graduates, and former JrUOL members, she managed to collect all the items and bring them home to sort and organize.

The students of Stoney Creek made a great gesture in helping other young people. There were dozens of hand-tied blankets, lovingly made with a personal touch. There were Sherpa blankets, fleece blankets, wooly fuzzy blankets in every color of the rainbow, all waiting to cuddle and warm a child's heart. One

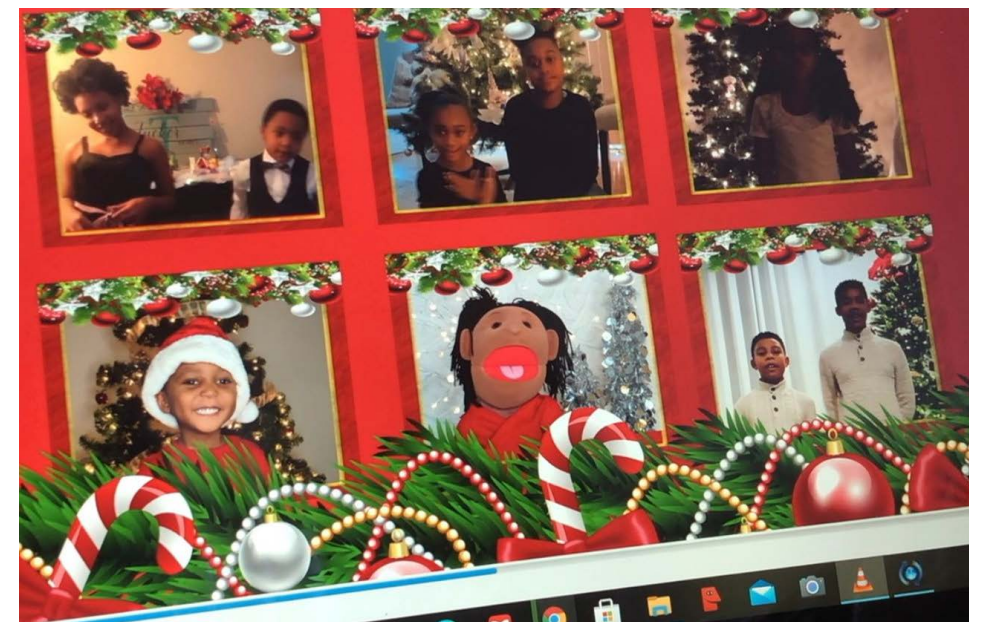
National Honor Society student prepared separate packages containing hand-sanitizers and \$5 Starbucks gift cards to be shared with the nurses who cared so lovingly for their little patients. The kindness and generosity of so many individuals would not only bring joy to the children at the hospital, but to everyone who witnessed this little Christmas miracle.

On December 19th, St. Nicholas Day, a parade of cars filled to the rim with books, blankets, and other goodies, set out in the waning daylight, heading south to Detroit. Pulling up in the circular drive the cavalcade was met by Children's Hospital Coordinator, Kori Crosby, along with additional hospital personnel who helped fill carts and trollies with goodies, rolling them back inside to prepare for distribution.

With lights flashing, and music playing, the ailing children in the hospital momentarily forgot their pain, their loneliness and uncertainty, and smiled and giggled, joining in the singing of Carols, and reaching their little hands out to accept the packages of love brought to them.

May the Lord grant speedy and complete recoveries to all the young patients of the hospital, and all hospitals.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who donated towards this most worthy cause. Even in the toughest circumstances, when we come together, we can bring joy and peace to others.





## GENEOLOGY OF CHRIST

Genealogy is a popular pastime for many Americans today. There are numerous high-profile websites and even TV programs dedicated to helping people learn “who they are”. Many people begin their ancestry search hoping to find wealthy or noble predecessors, naively hoping to find someone who came over on the Mayflower (little danger of that for us Ukrainian Orthodox!) Yet as any experienced genealogist will confirm, it’s not what you want to find, but what you really do find that you must be prepared to accept.

This Sunday, our reading is the beginning of St. Matthew’s Gospel, and it begins with a genealogy of Jesus Christ. Of the whole liturgical year, this was the favorite pericope of our late beloved +Metropolitan Constantine of thrice-blessed memory, and I can still clearly hear him majestically intoning the cadence of all those names. For many, these names have little relevance; it is our lack of familiarity with the Old Testament which condemns us. St. Matthew very methodically compiled this listing, which includes figures both famous and infamous, in order to help us understand just Who Jesus is and why He came.

One would expect the pedigree of the Messiah to include only the most noble and pious figures throughout history, and Jesus is clearly shown to be a descendant of David, as would be expected; however, his ancestors include notable sinners, non-Jews, and in a very uncharacteristic move for a genealogy, women.

Judah impregnated his own daughter-in law. Would we be happy to uncover him as an ancestor? Rahab was a prostitute. How would you put that on your coat of arms? David himself, the great King, was

guilty of adultery and murder – how many of us would be proud to claim such an ancestor? We need to apply the great axiom of St Gregory Nazianzen: what is not assumed is not saved. St. Matthew is reminding us that by accepting sinners as His ancestors, our Lord came to save sinners: A Savior for those who need to be saved.

St. Matthew doesn’t hesitate to tell us the Messiah wasn’t a “pure-bred” Jew. Rahab the harlot was a Canaanite native of Jericho, and Ruth was a Moabite convert. The unshaken assumption of any devout first-century Jew was that the Messiah would be a Messiah for the Jews and Jews alone, but this genealogy teaches us otherwise – it reveals the universality of Christ. It would be St Paul who would later explain so clearly “there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.” (Colossians 3:11)

And it is significant that while descent was usually traced through the father, St. Matthew does indeed mention Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the wife of Uriah. Without reading modern feminism into the text, the Evangelist wants us to know that our Lord welcomes women into his company, as was later clearly demonstrated during his three-year ministry.

So, far from being an exercise for priests and deacons (and bishops) to practice their Hebrew pronunciation, we see the powerful message conveyed by the genealogy; yet it is not only the persons named who give us food for thought. The very structure of the genealogy itself conveys a powerful message.

St. Matthew is very careful to stress the alignment of fourteen

generations: “from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah, fourteen generations”. Again, considering the Old Testament a bit more closely, we can see a pattern. The fourteen generations from Abraham to David cover the period when the Jewish people were ruled by Judges.

The fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian captivity cover the period when the Jewish people were ruled by Kings. The fourteen generations from the Babylonian captivity to the birth of Jesus Christ cover the period when the Jewish people were ruled by Priests. St. Matthew wants us to see that there was no Savior during each of these stages. Salvation was not possible through a Judge alone, or through a King alone, or even through a Priest alone, but Salvation comes only in the fullness of time through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, who perfectly unites within Himself the offices of Judge, King, and Priest.

Furthermore, the Jews were quite fond of finding significance in numbers. Hebrew, like Slavonic, had no special characters for numerals; letters of the alphabet were used to express numbers, as well. When an astute Jew would add up the numerical values of the consonants (vowels weren’t used) that spelled the name David, he would get – 14! St. Matthew didn’t want to leave any doubts.

At one point during our Lord’s ministry, He paused and asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” He then asked a more direct question: “Who do YOU say that I am?” This beautiful genealogy is St. Matthew’s gift to each of us, to help each of us come to the right conclusion.

**Fr. Michael Kochis**

## ВТЕЧА ВІД ІРОДА — ВТЕЧА ВІД ГРІХА

Сьогодні Євангельська розповідь навчає нас як рано у своєму земному житті Господь наш Ісус Христос почав страждати, щоб принести спасіння усьому роду людському. Можливо ми часом забуваємо що Христос почав страждати ще до того як Він народився. Згадаймо, що не одна родина не відкрила дверей перед Вседівою Марією перед Різдом її сина. Не одна людина не відкрила дверей свого серця Господу.

Прошло не так багато часу з того дня як ми з вами йшли на світло чудової зірки, яка привела нас до міста Вефлеєм де ми стали свідками цього небувалого чуда. Ми з вами духовно бачили як народився Христос. Ми бачили як Бог наш для нашого спасіння тіло прийняв від Духа Святого і Марії Діви і став чоловіком. І зараз ми бачимо, що ті люди, до яких був посланий Христос, відвертаються від нього, а Цар іудейський Ірод загострює мечі, щоб вбити новонародженого Христа - Немовлятка.

Ось праведний Йосиф, Діва Марія і новонароджений Христос змушені залишити Вефлеєм, залишити Ізраїль, залишити цю землю де жив народ, який отримав від Бога десять заповідей, народ який знав віру істину, але на жаль не зумів розпізнати Сина Божого, що прийшов відкупи все людство від вічної загибелі.

І ось вони біжать від злого задуму Ірода і знаходять пристановище у тій землі з котрої Мойсей вивів народ Іудейській від чотириста

літнього рабства. Вони знаходять пристановище в Єгипті, хоч Єгиптяни були ворогами для юдеїв, тому що вони були язичниками і поклонялись звірям.

Це повинно бути прикладом для нас Православних християн, бо ми як юдеї того часу маємо віру істину, ми повинні бути православними в словах і ділах, жити так як вчить нас Христос.

Наш Високопреосвященний Архієпископ Даниїл каже, що різниця між православними і протестантами в тому, що в протестантів сто процентів людей вірять в десять процентів правди, а у нас Православних хоч і 100 процентів правди, тільки 10% людей мають віру і живуть по ній. Ми як охоронителі віри православної повинні бути тим дзеркалом, яке відзеркалює світло Христове по всьому світу.

Сьогодні виникає в нас запитання: чому Христос повинен залишати свою землю та бігти в іншу? Чому Христос не покарав тих хто переслідував Його? Відповідь на це запитання таке: Христос прийшов на землю не для того щоб карати, а для того, щоб врятувати людину, подати їм руку Своєї допомоги, щоб донести до них слово Святого Євангелія.

Чи прийняв Ірод цю руку допомоги, що Всемиловитий Господь простягнув до нього? Чи розкаявся він в своїх злих задумах? Із євангельської розповіді ми бачимо що ні. Навпаки, він ще більше озлобив

своє серце. Він віддав жорстокий наказ повбивати усіх дітей від двох років народження в місті Вефлеємі і в околицях його. Ці діти стали першими хто постраждав за Хреста. І як навчає нас Господь, блаженні ті, хто за мене невинно постраждали, бо їхнє буде Царство Небесне, так і ці діти стали святими мучениками, яким Бог відкрив двері Царства Небесного. А Ірода осягнула Божя кара, ще в час його земного життя. Він вмирав в тяжких муках, і згубив не тільки своє царство, але і своє життя.

Як би він щиро розкаявся, то Господь прийняв би його покаяння. Приклад такого Божого пробачення ми чули сьогодні в читанні святого Апостола. Святий Апостол Павло сповідає нам як він переслідував Христову Церкву, але через велику милість Господню, через покаяння був покликаний Господом до апостольського служіння.

Господь наш Ісус Христос своєю втечею до Єгипту показує добрий приклад, тому що Ірод, був ворог Христа, Ірод символізує гріх, а гріх це протистояння волі Божої. Так і ми, брати і сестри, повинні боятися Ірода—гріха, який є противний нашому Господу, ми повинні уникати його, як це зробив у певний час Господь наш Ісус Христос. І тоді Господь буде з нами нині і по всяк час і на віки вічні. Амінь.

**о. Борислав Кронер**  
*Парафія св. Михаїла*  
*Вунсокет, Род-Айленд*



# FRUITCAKE



## INGREDIENTS

### SOAKED FRUIT MIXTURE:

- 1 and 1/4 cups (200 grams) dark raisins
- 1 and 1/4 cups (200 grams) golden raisins
- 2 cups (320 grams) mixed unsweetened dried fruit, chopped (peaches, apricots, pears, apples)
- 1 cup (160 grams) dried unsweetened black figs, chopped
- 1 cup (160 grams) dried unsweetened tart cherries, chopped
- 3/4 cup (120 grams) dried unsweetened prunes, chopped
- 3/4 cup (6 ounces; 180 mL) dark rum

### FRUIT CAKE INGREDIENTS:

- 1 and 1/2 cups (180 grams) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon Diamond Crystal kosher salt
- 1 stick (4 ounces; 113 grams) unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup (160 grams) packed light brown sugar
- 5 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated orange zest
- 1/2 cup (120 mL) freshly squeezed orange juice
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, and coarsely grated
- 3/4 cup (90 grams) slivered almonds (or chopped pecans or walnuts)
- 3 tablespoons (36 grams) finely diced crystallized ginger
- one batch soaked fruit mixture (see above)
- optional add-in: 2/3 cup (100 grams) chopped bittersweet chocolate or dark chocolate chips

### FOR STORAGE:

- medium sherry or triple sec
- 2 large pieces of unbleached cheesecloth, for wrapping

### DECORATIVE GLAZE (OPTIONAL):

- 1/4 cup (72 grams) apricot preserves
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) water
- whole pecans, for garnishing

## MIX:

The Day Before Baking: Combine the dried fruit in a large mixing bowl. Add the dark rum, cover, and allow the mixture to soak at room temperature for a minimum of 12 hours, or ideally 24 hours prior to preparing the fruit cake batter.

Prepare the Fruitcake: Preheat the oven to 300F (150C) with a rack in the center position. Set aside two 8x4-inch All Clad Pro-Release Bakeware Loaf Pans. If using these pans, you do not need to line or grease the pans prior to adding the batter.

In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together the all-purpose flour, baking powder, spices, and salt. Set aside.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, cream the softened butter and light brown sugar together over medium-high speed for 3 minutes, or until light and fluffy.

Reduce speed to medium and add the eggs one at a time, beating just until each egg is incorporated. The mixture will look slightly broken.

Over low speed slowly add the flour mixture until just absorbed. Remove the bowl from the stand mixer. Add the lemon zest, orange zest, fresh orange juice, grated apple, slivered almonds, diced candied ginger, soaked dried fruit mixture (with any liquid if it hasn't already been absorbed), and chocolate (if using).

Stir mixture with a large spatula, scraping the edges and bottom of the bowl several times, until all the ingredients are evenly incorporated. It is a very thick, fruit heavy mixture.

Transfer and divide the batter evenly among the loaf pans. Use an offset spatula to smooth the batter into an even layer.

## BAKE:

Set the loaf pans on the center rack, several inches apart from one another. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes to 1 hour and 30 minutes, rotating the pans halfway, or until the cakes have set. Remove from the oven and place on a rack to cool completely before removing from the pans.

## STORING AND AGING:

Once the cake has cooled, carefully remove the cakes from the loaf pans and set upright. Soak two large pieces of cheesecloth in medium sherry or triple sec (\*they should be lightly damp, not soaking wet when you wrap the cakes, so you may need to squeeze out any excess liquor). Wrap each cake tightly. Cover loafs with wax paper and foil before transferring to a large Ziploc bag. Store in the refrigerator for up to 6 to 8 weeks. You can serve this cake right after it has cooled, but the flavors improve greatly with time (a few days or up to a week, at the least, is my recommendation). Unwrap and re-soak the cheesecloth once a week.

**FOR GARNISHING: Note:** *This is not recommended if you are planning to continue to wrap and age the fruitcake.* If desired, you can top the fruitcake with a light apricot glaze and whole pecans before serving.

Combine the apricot preserves and water in a small saucepan. Bring to a light simmer, stirring until the glaze is shiny and thin. If it is too thin for glazing, reduce to desired consistency. If it becomes too thick, add a teaspoon of water. Brush the tops of the fruitcakes with apricot glaze and garnish with whole pecans.

## SERVING NOTES:

Slice fruit cake with a serrated knife. Serve on its own or spread with a small amount of salted butter.

#abeautifulplate





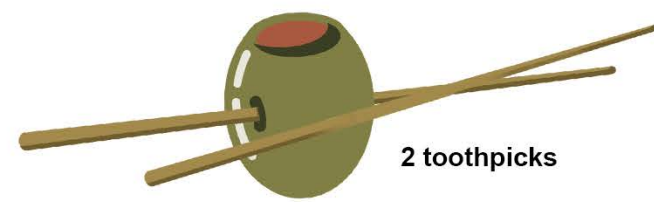
Acrylic or Poster Paint  
Black, brown, etc.

Paintbrush



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Glue or Tape  
Scissors



2 toothpicks



Styrofoam cup  
(or paper cup)

## Create your own Nativity Scene

- Paint the inside of the cup black (let dry)
- Paint the outside brown/grey (let dry)
- Cut out the cave entrance in the cup
- Cut out the images below
- Glue the icon to the inside of the cup
- Glue the angels and star to separate toothpicks and poke them into the cup (as shown above)







**Andronik, Gabriela Alexa** baptized and chrismated on September 19, 2020 in St. Volodymyr Cathedral Church, New York, NY. Child of Oleksandr Andronik and Iryna Yushchuk. Sponsors: Andrew Kellard and Yulia Drebit. Celebrated by Rev. Volodymyr Muzychka.

**Bedrik, Andrew** baptized and chrismated on October 4, 2020 in St. Vladimir Church, Pittsburgh, PA. Child of Oleg Bedrik and Olena Bedrik. Sponsors: Valerii Diachenko and Nadezda Chesnakova. Celebrated by V. Rev. John Haluszczak.

**Boichuk, Daniel** baptized and chrismated on November 1, 2020 in St. Panteleimon Parish Church, Brooklyn, NY. Child of Iaroslav Boichuk and Iryna Kovalska. Sponsors: Pavlo Chaplugin and Natalia Novikova. Celebrated by Rev. Vasyl Shak.

**Gavryliuk, Melania** baptized and chrismated on November 11, 2020 in Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Palos Park, IL. Child of Oleksandr Gavryliuk and Karyna Sych. Sponsors: Oleksandr Romaniuta / Olha Ilkiv and Oleg Ilkiv / Iryna Solovey. Celebrated by V. Rev. Vasyl Sendeha.

**Hraichuk, David** baptized and chrismated on October 17, 2020 in St. Andrew Memorial Church Church, S. Bound Brook, NJ. Child of Vasyl Hraichuk and Halyna Hraichuk. Sponsors: Igor Tafychuk and Doris Nadya Sorvino. Celebrated by Rev. Vasyl Shak.

**Kondryshyn, Volodymyr Tymur** baptized and chrismated on November 16, 2013 in Holy Ascension Church, Maplewood, NJ. Child of Andriy Kondryshyn and Olena Slobodchykova. Sponsors: Volodymyr Sereda and Ludmyla Tereshchuk. Celebrated by V. Rev. Oleh Hucul.

**Kondryshyn, Artem** baptized and chrismated on September 19, 2020 in Holy Ascension Church, Maplewood, NJ. Child of Andriy Kondryshyn and Olena Kondryshyn. Sponsors: Vladyslav Pasyeka and Polina Andrutchuk. Celebrated by Rev. Vitaliy Pavlykivskiy.

**Motyka, Yeva** baptized and chrismated on September 19, 2020 in Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Palos Park, IL. Child of Viacheslav Motyka and Maryna Udod. Sponsors: Oleksandr Gavron and Olga Mazur. Celebrated by V. Rev. Vasyl Sendeha.

**Pylpytsiv, Emilia** baptized and chrismated on September 26, 2020 in Holy Trinity Church, Cheektowaga, NY. Child of Oleh Pylpytsiv and Yuliia Ptashynska. Sponsors: Andriy Zvarych and Vira Shcherbakova. Celebrated by Fr. Yuriy Kasyanov.

**Pyrka, Daniel** baptized and chrismated on October 17, 2020 in St. Andrew Memorial Church Church, S. Bound Brook, NJ. Child of Yurii Pyrka and Olga Lymych. Sponsors: Roman Lymych and Zoryana Lymych. Celebrated by Rev. Vasyl Shak.

**Stepowyj, Eloise Esther** baptized and chrismated on October 10, 2020 in Holy Ascension Church, Maplewood, NJ. Child of Nicholas Stepowyj and Melissa Reinertsen. Sponsors: Michael Stepowyj and Paige Chmielewski. Celebrated by Rev. Sviatoslav Hot.

**Tkachenko, Sofia** baptized and chrismated on October 4, 2020 in Holy Trinity Church, New York, NY. Child of Oleksandr Sorokopud and Iryna Tkachenko. Sponsors: and Arina Dieieva. Celebrated by V. Rev. Todor Mazur.

**Tsera, Artem** baptized and chrismated on October 10, 2020 in St. Panteleimon Parish Church, Brooklyn, NY. Child of Andrii Tsera and Olga Iliuk. Sponsors: Nazarii Iliuk and . Celebrated by Rev. Vasyl Shak.

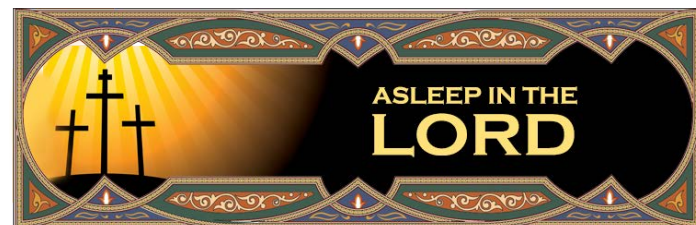
**Yarmola, Stephanie** baptized and chrismated on October 10, 2020 in Holy Trinity Mission Church, Sacramento, CA. Child of Andrey Yarmola and Ulyana Drozdovska. Sponsors: Oleg Yarmola / Nika Szyrynski and Taras (David) Parke / Ustyna Drozdovska. Celebrated by Fr. Myroslav Turchak.



**Isaac Kousari and Natalya Bapst** in St. Volodymyr's Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL, on October 10, 2020, witnessed by Adrian Kousari and Aleksander Bapst. Celebrant: Fr. Ivan Lyamar.

**Andrii Rymarchuk and Nataliya Timoshenko** in St. Peter & Paul Parish, Palos Park, IL, on September 19, 2020, witnessed by Serhii Mocholskyi and Olga Piskoun. Celebrant: V. Rev. Vasyl Sendeha.

**Yaroslav Sishchuk and Viktoriya Shtymiak** in St. Panteleimon Parish, Brooklyn, NY, on October 11, 2020, witnessed by Taras Shchrbuk and Yuliya Shtymiak. Celebrant: Rev. Vasyl Shak.



Brithinee, Allan of McKeesport, PA on September 10, 2020 at the age of 81 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. John Haluszczak of St. Vladimir Parish, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Dowbenko, Kateryna of Gibsonia, PA on March 2, 2017 at the age of 93 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. John Haluszczak of St. Vladimir Parish, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Goldfarb, Inna of Williamsville, NY on October 28, 2020 at the age of 53 years, officiating clergy Fr. Yuriy Kasyanov of Holy Trinity Parish, Cheektowaga, NY 14227.

Hatch, Marcia K. of Coatesville, PA on March 30, 2018 at the age of 64 years, officiating clergy Fr. Michael Danczak of Holy Ghost Parish, Coatesville, PA 19320.

Jaksich, Leona of Homer Glen, IL on August 10, 2020 at the age of 81 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. Vasyl Sendeha of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Palos Park, IL 60464.

Java, Katherine of Pittsburgh, PA on December 12, 2013 at the age of 96 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. John Haluszczak of St. Vladimir Parish, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Mykytiuk, Lidia of Pittsburgh, PA on April 26, 2019 at the age of 89 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. John Haluszczak of St. Vladimir Parish, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Nissel, Katarina Rose of Crescent, PA on September 8, 2020 at the age of 16 years, officiating clergy Fr. Michael Kochis of St. Vladimir Parish, Ambridge, PA.

Perchysyn, Luba of St. Anthony, MN on September 7, 2020 at the age of 96 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. Evhen Kumka of St. Michael's & George's Parish, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

Sacco, Lesja of Pittsburgh, PA on August 23, 2020 at the age of 65 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. John Haluszczak of St. Vladimir Parish, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Zbalishen, Alexander of Carnegie, PA on October 6, 2020 at the age of 95 years, officiating clergy Rev. John Charest of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA 15106.

Zerebny, Tekla of Evergreen Park, IL on August 31, 2020 at the age of 97 years, officiating clergy V. Rev. Vasyl Sendeha of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Palos Park, IL 60464.



may god grant to them many happy and blessed years!

**His Eminence Metropolitan Antony** 1/26/2013 - as Metropolitan

**V. Rev. Myron Mykhaylyuk** 1/2/1977  
**V. Rev. Pavlo Bodnarchuk** 1/3/1993  
**Rev. Andriy Matlak** 1/9/2013  
**V. Rev. Orest Poukhalskii** 1/9/2000  
**V. Rev. Roman Yatskiv** 1/14/1989  
**Rev. Yurii Bobko** 1/18/2020  
**V. Rev. Ion Proteasa** 1/19/1992  
**V. Rev. Harry Linsinbigler** 1/25/2003  
**Rev. Sviatoslav Hot** 1/25/2020  
**V. Rev. Gerald Ozlanski** 1/25/1987  
**V. Rev. Nicholas Klodnicki** 1/28/1984  
**V. Rev. Stepan Bilogan** 1/28/2001  
**V. Rev. Myroslav Schirta** 1/30/1998

**Archdn. Vasyl Janick** 1/28/2006



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- 27th 1955 - PROTOPRIEST JOSEPH BODNAR
- 6th 1958 - PRIEST STEFAN VULCHYN
- 9th 1968 - PROTOPRESBYTER JOHN SAWCHUK
- 9th 1968 - PROTOPRESBYTER LEV WESOLOWSKY
- 26th 1974 - PROTOPRESBYTER ALEXANDER DOWHAL
- 9th 1984 - PROTOPRIEST MYKOLA UHORCZAK
- 28th 1990 - PROTOPRESBYTER JURIJ HULEY
- 17th 1996 - PROTOPRIEST TYT MELNYCHUK
- 13th 1996 - PRIEST GREGORY WOLKOWYNSKY
- 19th 1999 - PROTOPRIEST MYKOLA HODYNSKY
- 10th 2002 - PROTOPRESBYTER PETRO BUDNYJ

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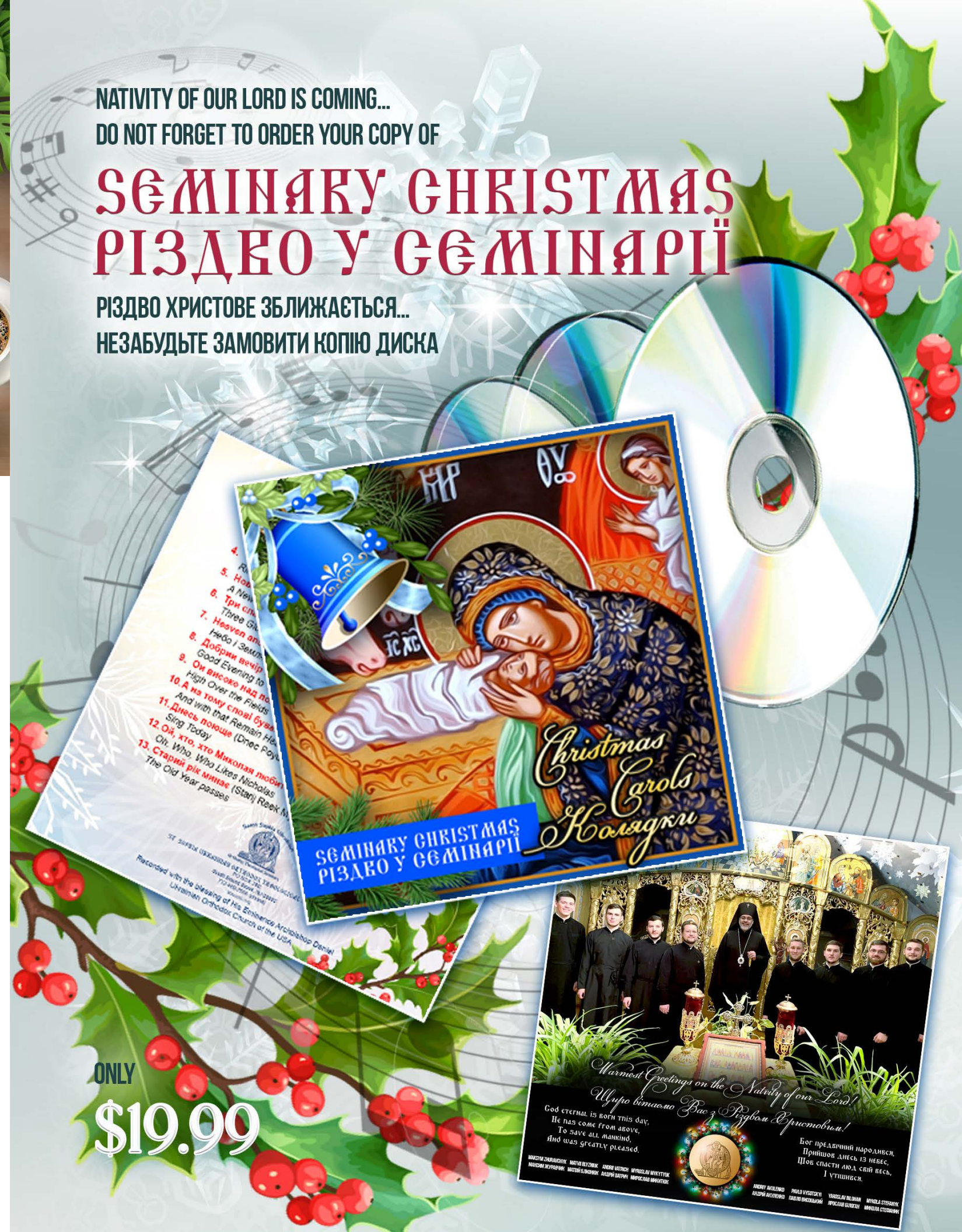
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Не пас соне ггом this day,  
To save all mankind,  
Ано was greatly pleased.  
Бог предвчний народився,  
Приншов днес із невос,  
Щоб спасти люд свій весь,  
І утїшився.



## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS В ЛЮТОМУ СВЯТКУЄМО

**7**

St. Gregory the Theologian  
Свт. Григорія Богослова

**12**

Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom

Собор Вселенських учителів і святителів: Василя Великого, Григорія Богослова і Іоана Златоуста

**14**

Zacchaeus Sunday  
Неділя Закхея

**15**

THE MEETING OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

СТРІТЕННЯ ГОСПОДА БОГА І СПАСА НАШОГО ІСУСА ХРИСТА

**21**

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee  
(Fast-free week)

Неділя про митаря та фарисея  
(Седмиця всеїдна)

**28**

Sunday of Prodigal Son  
Неділя про блудного сина



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**St. Basil the Great**

**January 14**

**Meeting of our Lord in the Temple**

**Стрітення**

**February 15**

**Theophany**

**January 19**

**Sunday of Publican and Pharisee**  
**(Fast-free week)**

**February 21**

**St. Antony the Great**  
**(Metropolitan Antony's Saint's Day)**

**January 30**

**Sunday of Prodigal Son**

**February 28**

**Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs**  
**Seminary Chapel Patron Feast Day**

**February 12**

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