Christ is Born!

Христос Народжується
Відчиняйте двері ясенові, бо Різдво ступає на поріг знак добра, господньої любові у світлі Вифлеємської зорі! Хай це свято лине в кожну хату, в кожному серці свій залише слід будьте дужі, щирі й багаті щастя вам і довгих многих літ!

Христос Народжується! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
TO ALL THE PLENTITUDE OF THE CHURCH GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE FROM THE SAVIOR CHRIST BORN IN BETHLEHEM

Brother concelebrants and blessed children,

Having once again arrived at the splendid feast of the Nativity in the flesh of our Savior Christ, who visited us from the heights, we glorify with psalms and hymns His all-heavenly name. The Incarnation of the pre-eternal Word of God is "the crowning of our salvation," the "eternal mystery" of divine-human communion that transcends all reason. As St. Maximus the Confessor says so eloquently, "as a loving God, He truly became human assuming the essence of humankind, although the manner in which He became human will always remain ineffable; He became human in a manner that transcends humanity."[1]

The divine Incarnation, along with the manifestation of the truth about God also reveals the truth and ultimate destination of man, our deification by grace. St. Nicholas Cabasilas proclaims so theologically that Christ "is the first and only One to show us the true and perfect man."[2] Since that time, anyone who honors God must also honor man, and whoever undermines man also dishonors God, who assumed our nature. In Christ, speaking theologically about God we speak at the same time about man. The incarnate Divine Economy definitively abolishes the image of God as tyrannical, punitive, and adversary to man. Christ is everywhere, always and in all things the denial of the denial of man and the defender of human freedom. The life of the Church, as the flesh assumed by the incarnate Son and Word of God,[3] represents, expresses and serves this all-saving mystery of divine-humanity.

With this "other fashioning" of man and renewal of all creation in Christ as its banner, the Church today offers the good witness before every development that threatens the sacredness of the human person and the integrity of creation. It lives and preaches the truth of authentic spiritual life and the culture of love and solidarity. Offering testimony "about the hope that lies within us" (1 Pet 3.15), the Church does not in any way regard contemporary civilization as another sinful Nineveh by invoking like Jonah the divine wrath on it and its abolition, but rather the Church struggles for the culture's transformation in Christ. In our age we need pastoral imagination, dialogue and not argumentation, participation and not abstention, specific deeds and not abstract theory, creative reception and not general rejection. All these do not function at the expense of our spirituality and liturgical life, but reveal the inviolable unity of what we call the "vertical" and "horizontal" dimensions of the Church's presence and witness. Faithfulness to the tradition of the Church is not entrapment to the past, but employment of the experience of the past in a creative way for the present.

In this past year, too, the pandemic of the Covid-19 coronavirus has troubled humankind. We give glory to the God of mercy, who strengthened the specialists and scientists to develop effective vaccines and other medications in order to confront this crisis, and we encourage all faithful who have yet to be vaccinated to do so and everyone to adhere to the protective measures by the health authorities. Science, to the extent that operates as a minister of man, is a priceless gift by God. We must gratefully accept this gift and not be misled by irresponsible voices of ignorant and self-proclaimed as representatives of God and of the authentic faith "spiritual advisors," who, nevertheless, lamentably invalidate themselves through the absence of love for their brethren, whose lives they expose to grave danger.

Most honorable brothers and dearly beloved children,

With unshakable conviction that the life of each of us and the journey of all humanity is directed by the God of wisdom and love, we look forward to a happy 2022, which despite external factors and developments will be for everyone a year of salvation, inasmuch as during its course as well, the movement of history is guided by Christ, who loves mankind and cares for all things, "who desires that all people will be saved and come to the knowledge of truth." (1 Tm 2.4)

With God's will, during the upcoming Holy and Great Week, we shall hold the service of the Blessing of the Holy Chrism in our venerable Center. We regard it as a uniquely divine gift to our Modesty that we shall be deemed worthy to preside over this festive and moving rite for the fourth time in our humble Patriarchal ministry. Glory to God for all things!

With these sentiments, respectfully worshiping the child Jesus born in Bethlehem, we orient our thought to our Christian brothers there and we pray for the peaceful and harmonious coexistence of all those residing in the Holy Land.

In this spirit, we wish to all of you, those near and afar, a blessed Twelvetide, as well as a healthy, fruitful in good deeds and filled with divine gifts new year in the Lord's favor, to Whom belong the glory and might to the endless ages. Amen.

Christmas 2021

†Bartholomew of Constantinople
Fervent supplicant of all before God
Всій повноті Церкви: Благодать, милість і мир Від Христа Спасителя
народженого у Віфлеємі.

Браття-сослужителі та благословені чада,
Знову дійшовши до чудового свята Різдва у плоті Спасителя нашого Христа, який відвідав нас з висоти,
ми прославляємо псалмами та співами Його всенебесне ім'я. Втілення передвічного Слова Божого є
«вінцем нашого спасіння», «вічною таємницею» божественно-людського спілкування, яке перевищує будь-
який розум. Як красномовно каже св. Максим Сповідник, «як люблячий Бог , Він справді став людиною,
прийнявши сутність людства, хоча спосіб, яким Він став людиною, завжди залишиться невимовним; Він
став людиною у спосіб, який перевищує людське».[1]

Божественне Втілення разом із проявом істини про Бога відкриває також істину та кінцеве призначення
людини, наше обожнення благодаттю. Святий Миколай Кавасила так по-богословськи проголошує, що
Христос «перший і єдиний, хто показав нам істинну і досконалу людину».[2] Відтоді кожен, хто шанує Бога,
повинен шанувати і людину, а хто принизує людину, той ганьбить і Бога, який прийняв нашу природу. У
Христі, по-богословськи говорячи про Бога, ми говоримо водночас і про людину. Втілена Божественна
Ікономія остаточно скасовує образ Бога як тиранічного, карателя і супротивника людини. Христос скрізь,
завжди і в усьому заперечує заперечення людини і захищає людську свободу. Життя Церкви, як плоті,
взятої на себе втіленим Сином і Словом Божим,[3] представляє, виражає і служить цій всеспасительній
таємниці боголюдства.

З цим «іншим створенням» людини та оновленням усього творіння у Христі, Церква як його знамено
сьогодні пропонує добре свідчення перед кожним розвитком, який загрожує святості людської
особистості та цілісності творіння. Вона живе і проповідує правду справжнього духовного життя та
культури любові та солідарності. Пропонуючи свідчення «про надію, яка лежить у нас» (1 Пет . 3:15),
Церква жодним чином не вважає сучасну цивіліzacію іншою грішною Ніневією, закликаючи, як Йона,
божественний гнів на неї та її знищення, – Церква скоріше бореться за перетворення культури у Христі.
У наш час потрібна пастирська уява, діалог , а не аргументація; участь, а не утримання; конкретні вчинки,
а не абстрактна теорія; творчий прийом, а не загальне неприйняття. Усе це діє не за рахунок нашої
духовності та літургійного життя, а виявляє непорушну єдність того, що ми називаємо «вертикальним» і
«горизонтальним» вимірами присутності та свідчення Церкви. Вірність переданню Церкви – це не пастка
минулого, а використання у творчий спосіб досвіду минулого для сьогодення.

У минулому році пандемія коронавірусу Covid-19 також хвилювала людство. Ми віддаємо славу Богу
милосердя, який зміцнив спеціалістів і вчених розробити ефективні вакцини та інші ліки, щоб протистояти
цій кризі, і заохочуємо всіх вірних, які ще не вакциновані, прийняти вакцину, а всіх дотримуватись
захисних правил та заходів органів охорони здоров'я. Навка в тій мірі, яка діє як слуга людини,
є беззмінним даром від Бога. Ми повинні з вдячністю прийняти цей дар і не бути введеніми в оману
безвідповідними голосами неосвічених і самопроголошених «духовних порадників», які виділяють себе
за представників Бога і справжньої віри, однак жалібно втрачають свою силу через відсутність любові
dо своїх братів та їхнього життя, яке вони піддають серйозній небезпеці.

Чесніші браття та возлюблені чада,
З непохитним переконанням, що життям кожного з нас і мандриюююююсью всього людства керує Бог мудрості
та любові, ми з нетерпінням чекаємо щасливого 2022 року, який, незважаючи на зовнішні чинники та
розвиток подій, стане для кожного роком спасіння, оскільки він прийняв нашу природу.

† Варфоломій Константинопольський, паличний молитовник перед Богом за всіх Вас
To the Venerable and Christ-loving clergy and laity of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Europe, South America, the United States of America and in Ukraine

May the Grace of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Dear and beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord!

Christ is Born! Let us glorify Him!

Humanity is the Masterpiece of God’s Creation. Humanity was meant to live eternally in communion and pure love with God in the Holy Trinity and to be stewards of all the rest of the Creation. Humanity was given the incredible gift of free will in order to image the will of God – and in particular His unflagging Love - to all the Creation. Man and woman experienced the beauty and bounty of eternal life in Paradise and then they abused the gift of free will under the temptation to know ALL that their Creator knew. What a failure, what a distortion of the image, what consumption with ego. Humanity would now know the death that was never intended for it. Humanity was banished from Paradise and would have to prove itself over the millennia to be faithful to its Creator. Teachers, Prophets and Rulers were sent repeatedly to assist in this effort, promising the coming of the Messiah, the One who would lead it to salvation. And alas, the Creator, to prove His unending and unbending Love for His Masterpiece, sends His Only-Begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to be Incarnate – to become one of us uniting Humanity and Divinity – to bring His Masterpiece home – returned again to the possibility of eternal life, once and for all time.

And so, CHRIST IS BORN – “GOD IS WITH US, understand all ye nations and submit yourselves for God is with us”. (Isaiah 8:9) Submitting ourselves…so foreign in today’s very secularized world, something so out of line with our devotion to ourselves and all our desires that have little or nothing to do with the “God with us”. Let us make conscious decisions to turn back from our insatiable self-satisfaction. We pray before the Eucharist that we comprehend the fact that “no human sin is bad enough to overcome our Lord’s Love for us”. Let us live in that reality today! Let us allow ourselves to be embraced with His All-Encompassing Love so all that distracts us might be converted into that, which makes us whole. Let us open our hearts, minds and souls to the Christ Child Who seeks a place to lay His Head. Let us open ourselves to the reality of “God with us” and for us. For this were we created. This is our true reality!

The Christ Child – the Son of God Incarnate… Lifting our humanity up to His Divinity… Love defined, and Love fulfilled… May your homes and lives be filled with this Love throughout this Holy Nativity Season and the New Year! May this Love flow from you into the lives of all around you, inspiring their thoughts and deeds – lifting them up to His Divinity. This is the image of God…

May the Grace of the Christ Child – our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always. We assure you of our prayers daily.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

+ ANTONY – Metropolitan
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, South America and Diaspora

+ JEREMIAH – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America

+ DANIEL – Archbishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

+ ILARION – Bishop
Locum Tenens of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ ANDRIY – Bishop
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
Преподобному і христолюбивому духовенству та мирянам Української Православної Церкви в Австралії, Новій Зеландії, Канаді, Європі, Південній Америці, Сполучених Штатах Америкі та в Україні.

Нехай благодать Господа і Бога і Спаса нашого Ісуса Христа, Любов Бога Отця і Причастя з Духом Святим буде з усіма вами!

Дорогі й улюблені брати та сестри у Господі!

Христос народився! Славімо Його!

Людство є досконалим Божим творінням. Людство мало жити вічно у спілкуванні та чистій любові з Богом у Святій Трійці та розпоряджатись усім іншим Творінням. Людству було дано неймовірний дар вільної волі, щоб уявити волю Божу, зокрема його незмінну Любов до всього Творіння. Чоловік і жінка пізнали цю красу та щедрість вічного життя в раю, проте настав момент, коли вони під спокусою сатани зловжили тим даром вільної, бажаючи знати все, що знав їх Творець. Який провал, яке спотворення образу, який еёїзм. Тепер людство пізнає смерть, на котру ніколи не було призначене. Людство було вигнано з Раю і тепер протягом тисячоліть повинно довести, що є вірним до свого Творця. Вчителі, Пророки і Правителі неодноразово були послані на допомогу людям у цих намаганнях, обіцяючи людям прийому, яке трває тисячоліття, в якому людство розуміло, що все, що знає їх Творець, що є їхній волі.

І ось, ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ – «З НАМИ БОГ, розумійте народи і покоряйтеся, бо з нами Бог» (Ісая 8:9). Покорятись… стало таким чужим у сьогоденньому секуляризованому світі. Це стало чимось таким, що зовсім не відповідає тій покорі та бажанню мати щось спільне з «Богом, Котрий є з нами». Давайте приймемо свідоме рішення повернутись назад від нашого ненаситного самозадоволення. Ми змінаємо перед Євхаристією, намагаючись усвідомити те, що «жоден людський гріх не може подолати любов нашого Господа до нас». Давайте жити в цій реальності сьогодні!

Давайте дозволимо Його Всесвітньої Любові обійняти і нас. Давайте відкриємо наші серця, розум і душі до Христа-Немовляти, Який шукає місця, щоб прихилити Свою Голову. Давайте будемо відкриті для реальності, де «Бог з нами» і для нас. Для цього ви були створені. Це наша справжня реальность!

Немовля Христос – Воплощений Син Божий… Піднесення нашої людської природи до Його Божественості… Любов визначена і Любов сповнена… Нехай Ваш дім і Ваше життя будуть наповнені тією людиною протягом цього Різдва Христового і Нового Року! Нехай ця Любов лягнеться від Вас у життя всіх навколо Вас, надихаючи їхні помисли та вчинки – піднімати їх до Його Божества. Це і є образом Божим…

Нехай Благослови Немовля Христа – Господа і Спасителя нашого Ісуса Христа, Любов Бога Отця і Причасти Святого Духа завжди буде з усіма вами. Ви щодня у наших молитвах.

Христос Рождається! Славіто Його!

+ АНТІОЧІЙ – Митрополит Українська Православна Церква США, Південної Америки та Діаспори
+ ЄРЕМІЯ – Архієпископ Українська Православна Церква США, Південної Америки та Діаспори
+ ДАНИЇЛ – Архієпископ Українська Православна Церква Канади
+ ІЛАРІОН – Єпископ Українська Православна Церква Канади
+ АНДРІЙ – Єпископ Українська Православна Церква Канади
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 2022 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 2022 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 2022 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, споглянемо 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, загали 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 Божнього 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 молоюсь, щоб Бог в цей особливий час, а також протягом усього наступного року, наділив Вас та Ваших рідних Соїм рясними благословеннями.
З сердечним привітанням та запевненням у своїх молитвах, я залишаюся щиро Ваш у Христі,

+ Антоній,
Милюстю Божою, митрополит УПЦ США
My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! З НОВИМ РОКОМ!

We stand at the gateway to a brand New 2022 Year of our Lord. It’s time to look back, look forward, and mostly to live in the present moment.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and blessed Nativity/Christmas, in addition to a wonderful New Year in 2022, overflowing with the glorious presence of the Grace of the Holy Spirit!

May we all seize this Nativity/Christmas season and make it our primary purpose to talk to someone about the wonderful joy, peace and love that Jesus Christ brought to all mankind over 2000 years ago! This unchanging message still brings hope, excitement and blessed assurance of eternal salvation to millions of people around the world!

I hope that you are all filled with optimism for the future, while being content with the present, regardless of the challenges that the present world brings into our lives. 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
In its 47th academic year, the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary is more than an institution of higher learning that prepares future clergy, it is a center of spiritual and intellectual life of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, here and abroad. In these unprecedented times, throughout the pandemic, the seminary has proven to be a beacon of light and joy to many. During the height of the pandemic the faithful could join via livestream, the daily morning Divine Liturgies and services. By seeing the service, hearing the Gospel, the faithful were strengthened, the darkness that was creeping in was dispelled and the Light of Christ reached into homes far and wide through the hard work of the Seminarians and clergy. To this day, dozens gather in touch with their families back in Ukraine, as they Skype with them in the evening. Gesturing to the side Vladyka Daniel pointed to the vast library contained within the main study room. He continued by explaining that while these books are often used, there are an additional few thousand tomes that are housed in the Seminary Library in the Consistory Building.

Taking a step down to the Dining Room and making a quick left turn Archbishop Daniel led the guests to the kitchen where he explained the seminarians not only learn to be self-sufficient in their own lives, by preparing meals, here in this kitchen they learn how to bake prosphora, paska breads, and Artos, all of which they will be responsible for when they are ordained into the priesthood one day. Pointing to some of the appliances on the countertops like the heavy-duty KitchenAid mixer, His Eminence explained that it is thanks to former donations during previous “Christmas at the Seminary” celebrations that the students are able to hone their baking skills.

Next Vladyka Daniel led the small party through the back hallway to a closed white door. Opening the door and stepping inside, the guests were transformed. As the door closed behind them, the chatter from the dining room became a whisper. The sweet scent of incense still hung in the air from previous services, as His Eminence led them into the Seminary Chapel of the Three Holy Hierarchs. As the gilded iconostas glimmered in the flickering light of two lit candles, the saints quietly gazed down upon the guests. As His Eminence gave a short history of the chapel, and then brought everyone’s attention to the icons upon the walls and explaining their origin and whom they represent. The study room, which is located between the front room and dining room, is filled with desks and computer monitors. It is in this room that many of the lessons take place, where the students learn about the Doctrines of the Church, cover dogmatics, and delve into the teachings of the Church Fathers. It is not only a room for studying, as it is often through these same computers which earlier in the day displayed detailed texts, that the students stay in touch with their families back in
In the dining hall, as 3 PM rolled around, the room filled as the guests anticipated the commencement of the short program. Archbishop Daniel, called for attention as he stood near the twinkling Christmas tree. The guests all smiled as the little girl in his arms, young Taisa, the youngest daughter of Fr. Vasyl and Dobrodjika Oksana Pasakas, rubber her sleepy eyes and smiled sweetly at everyone. The camera turned on and hundreds of virtual guests joined those in the room, just as Vladyka introduced the Seminarians and bid them come in.

The eight young men, all proudly wearing their vyshyvanka (Ukrainian embroidered shirts) filled into the room singing in Ukrainian “Dobrii Vechir Tobi” (Good Evening to you), as they took their positions before the window. Fr. Andrii Drapak, Deacon Serhiy Khomitskiy, Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan, Subdeacon Pavel Vysotskyi, Reader Makoszuk, Reader Andrii Vatrych, seminarian Andrii Akulenko, and seminarian Roman Marchyshak regaled with all wonderful renditions of new and old Christmas carols.

Having beautifully sung a number of Ukrainian carols, the young men switched to English for the Carol of the Bells. Everyone sat with smiles upon their lips, whisked away to a happy place through the joyous melodies. “Heaven and Earth” was sung bilingually, followed up by the traditional “Nova Radist Stasla” (A New Joy). The program continued for 30 minutes, as the well-trained voices sang and praised the Lord.

When the program had ended, the deer returned to grace the seminary lawn, pausing to submit ornaments to bedeck the magnificent tall Christmas Tree, its white lights twinkling an invitation for everyone to draw near.

Throughout the month of November and December the precious ornaments came pouring in via the US Postal Service, FedEx, UPS, and personal hand delivery. The office staff carefully sorted and displayed them until they were dizzy, the clouds parted and the moon shone down. The clouds parted and the moon shone brightly on the building, as the day darkened, and the building becameCases of accessibility.

The office staff carefully sorted and stored the marbles until the day that they would be hung upon the tree. That day was today, as His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, gathered his staff members, clergy, and seminarians around the Christmas Tree. The ornaments to be hung were already prepared with ribbons and hooks for hanging and laid out upon carts for ease of accessibility.

All seemed ready as the adults milled about the large room waiting for the helping angels to arrive. In no time the quiet atmosphere, echoed with the pitter patter of tiny feet, and the giggles and laughter of children. Joining their parents in decorating the tree were the youngest members of the Church.

In the late afternoon of December 20th, 2021, the usually quiet and cavernous atrium of the Consistory Office of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, transformed into a magical Christmas scene. In the middle of the tall atrium now stood a majestic tall Christmas Tree, its white lights twinkling an invitation for everyone to draw near.

In November, the call went out to the parishes of the UOC of USA, to submit ornaments to bedeck the Consistory Tree. The request was published in parish bulletins, sent via emails, and posted on social media. Many parishes, as well as individual families, got down to work, creating tiny masterpieces reflecting the joy of the Nativity Season, including:

- John the Baptist Parish, Portland, OR
- Assumption of the Virgin Mary Parish, Northampton, PA
- Saints Peter and Paul, Carnegie, PA
- Holy Trinity Parish, Trenton, NJ
- Nicholas Parish, Troy, NY
- Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Wayneville, NC
- Сополіїка, Софіїка та Михайлік, Вороніж, Україна
- Парафія Св. Пантелеймона, Бруклін, Нью-Йорк
- Наталія Потомська, Парафія Св. Пантелеймона, Бруклін, Нью-Йорк
- Оксана Сугак, Парафія Св. Пантелеймона, Бруклін, Нью-Йорк
- The Roelof and Petrovichak Families, Vancouver, WA
- The Petroff Family, Clifton Park, NY
- St. Mary Protectress Parish, Southfield, MI
- Holy Trinity Parish, Jersey City, NJ
- Holy Trinity Parish, Basking Ridge, NJ
- Holy Trinity Parish, Bridgewater, NJ
- Holy Trinity Parish, Dalton, NJ
- Holy Trinity Parish, Morristown, NJ
- Holy Trinity Parish, Nanuet, NY
- Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield, NJ
- Holy Trinity Parish, West Orange, NJ
- Holy Trinity Parish, West New York, NJ
- Holy Trinity Parish, Union City, NJ
- Holy Trinity Parish, New York, NY
- Holy Trinity Parish, Brooklyn, NY
- Holy Trinity Parish, Manhattan, NY
- Holy Trinity Parish, Baltimore, MD
- Holy Trinity Parish, Washington, DC
- Holy Trinity Parish, Alexandria, VA
- Holy Trinity Parish, Cleveland, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Cincinnati, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Columbus, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Cleveland Heights, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Westlake, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Lorain, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Bedford, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Medina, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Ravenna, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Youngstown, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Warren, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Waterford, OH
- Holy Trinity Parish, Columbus, IN
- Holy Trinity Parish, Cincinnati, IN
- Holy Trinity Parish, Indianapolis, IN
- Holy Trinity Parish, Fort Wayne, IN
- Holy Trinity Parish, Vincennes, IN
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Wishing everyone a joyous upcoming Nativity Celebration!
when other trees have dropped their leaves and seemingly died. This everlasting life is symbolic of Christ. The star atop the tree represents the Star of Bethlehem which indicated the location where Christ would be born, leading the Magi to Him. The Bible tells us to take up branches of trees, and to rejoice before the Lord our God. Therefore, at this joyous time of the year, we decorate our homes with evergreen trees and boughs, hang bright lights and colorful baubles, and put candles in our windows, all to remind us of the newly born Christ Child.

Archbishop Daniel walked over to the ornaments and told the children to gently take them and hang them upon the green tree. Picking up little Victoria, he lifted her high so she could reach one of the upper branches of the tree. Frowning in concentration, she reached as high as she could and finally managed to hook a branch. She slowly let go and watched the ornament bob back and forth on the branch. Giggleing she clapped her small hands joyfully and squirmed to get down and get another ornament to hang.

The atrium echoed with laughter and chatter as the parents of the children joined them in hanging the ornaments all around the tree. Suddenly the seminarians broke out in song, singing Christmas Carols. The others join in praising to the Lord and asking for peace upon the Earth.

While everyone worked diligently, the sun began to sink in the western sky, leaving a dark royal blue sky visible through all the glass windows surrounding them. Against the darkening background the lights of the tree, the reflection of the baubles, and the smiles of the faithful shown ever brighter.

Suddenly, the final ornament was hung, and everyone stepped back to admire their handy work. A continual murmur was heard as heads tilted in admiration, eyes sparkled, and lips curled up in smiles. The tree was truly a masterpiece of creativity, as if the faithful of the Church had given a tiny piece of themselves to beautify the Church tree. Robed in the glorious ornaments, the tree itself seemed to stand straighter and shine brighter.

His Eminence startled everyone out of their reverie as he clapped his hands and with an animated smile gathered the children and led them to the Seminary Library, located just off the atrium. He mentioned that after St. Nicholas had visited them yesterday at the St. Andrew Memorial Church, he had stopped by the Consistory, and knowing that they would be helping decorate the tree, he left them additional surprises as gratitude for their service to the Church.

The children all clapped happily as their nostrils caught the scent of fresh hot pizza! They clambered up on the chairs around the large table and eagerly bit into the warm and oozing pizza slices. With cheese and sauce slathered over their chins, they happily chattered on about St. Nicholas, and how surprised they were that he would have known they would be there today.

As their parents wiped their faces, and cleaned their hands, the youngsters were drawn to the pile of packages that Archbishop Daniel had dragged into the library. With eyes wide in anticipation, the kids hopped from foot to foot as they waited to be handed their gifts. St. Nicholas had passed along dollies, stuffed animals, books, cars, and a variety of toys to these good children. Having grabbed their packages the children immediately sat on the floor and ripped them all open, exclaiming in delight and showing each other what they had received.

Having had a long day, and now with their tummies full, the children’s eyes soon became heavy as they tried to stifle yawns. Their parents smiled at them, as they picked them up, received His Eminence’s blessing and began to pack up for the trip home. Some of the youngsters were asleep before they even left the building, while others sleepy tripped over their own feet as their parents bundled them up and led them out of the building. With final looks over their shoulders at the beautiful Christmas Tree, and double checking that they had their presents with them, the youngsters crawled into the waiting cars and zoomed off towards home.

The grand tree suddenly found itself standing alone in silence as the doors were locked for the night. The lights upon the tree still sparkled brightly, their reflection multiplying upon all the windows surrounding the tree, making it look like the entire universe of stars revolted and twinkled around it. As night fell, and darkness engulfed the Metropolia Center, the glowing Christmas Tree stood tall and proud, a beacon to all, announcing the upcoming Incarnation of our Lord.

*Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan*
Every Sunday is a special day, but Sunday the 19th of December 2021, was even more special than usual. The parking lot of the St. Andrew Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, New Jersey overflowed with cars this morning. As the faithful quickly made their way through the chill morning air, their warm breath created puffy white clouds behind them. Mothers hurried after their running children calling to them to zip up their coats against the cold, but their words fell on deaf ears as the youngsters rushed across the grass and up the steps to the brightly illuminated church.

The narthex was already filled with cars this morning. As the faithful entered the beautiful church, they marveled at the icons which covered the walls of the Nave. The saints reflected in the icons blessed those gathered in the church before entering further into the temple priests. In those days, lepers were shunned. They were not permitted inside the city walls and had to survive away from their family and loved ones. It was the priests who would decide if the individual had recovered and was healthy enough to return to life within the city, and with their family once again. Therefore, Christ instructs them, as if they were already healed, to go and show themselves to the priests. On their way to the temple, all ten men are healed. With laughter and joy, they happily wave their once rotting arms over their heads and remove their bandages as they run towards the temple, eager to resume their public lives, and become members of society once again.

As the faithful which had filled the tiny church, gazed down upon the church, gazed down upon the faithful which had filled the tiny church to capacity. Most adults had their heads bowed in prayer, as many parents tried to contain their children which had gathered near the beautifully decorated Christmas tree in the corner of the church, and were either resting on the floor, tumbling off their chairs, or pulling on their mothers’ hair. As a voice from the altar proclaimed, “Let us be attentive!”, even the children who had been making noise quieted down. His Eminence stepped out on the ambo and read from the Gospel of Luke 17:12-19, retelling the occasion when Christ entered a village and from afar ten lepers called to Him for mercy. The Lord healed all ten, but only one returned and gave thanks. He sends the Samaritan on his way, explaining that he has been healed by his faith.

His Eminence continued that we often find ourselves in a similar position as these ten men. Perhaps we are not ill, nonetheless, we face some sort of struggle in our daily lives, and we pray for God’s mercy upon us. The Lord heals all ten, but only one returned to thank Him. Closing the Gospel Book and placing it back upon the Altar Table, Archbishop Daniel stepped out into the Nave to deliver a moving sermon.

The Lord instructed the ten men with leprosy to go show themselves to the temple priests. In those days individuals who were ill with leprosy were shunned. They were not permitted inside the city walls and had to survive away from their family and loved ones. It was the priests who would decide if the individual had recovered and was healthy enough to return to life within the city, and with their family once again. Therefore, Christ instructs them, as if they were already healed, to go and show themselves to the priests. On their way to the temple, all ten men are healed. With laughter and joy, they happily wave their once rotting arms over their heads and remove their bandages as they run towards the temple, eager to resume their public lives, and become members of society once again.

Nine run off to the temple, but, the tenth stops, glances at his healed skin and repaired flesh, and humbly gazes back at Christ who still stood in the distance watching. The man turns his back to the city and the temple, and comes to Christ, falls to his knees, and bow in the Lord’s feet, thanking Him for the gift of healing. Jesus raises this man, who is a Samaritan, considered unclean by the Jews, and solemnly makes a statement, that there were ten men who were healed, but only one returned and gave thanks. He sends the Samaritan on his way, explaining that he has been healed by his faith.

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realize God’s hand in our lives, and to acknowledge Him and thank Him for the daily miracles He performs in our lives.

Too often people only turn to God in times of trouble, and then only to beg Him to take the troubles away. However, obstacles in life often help us to become better people. Pride is transformed to humility through difficulties. Therefore, not only should we remember to thank God when He answers our prayers, but our gratitude ought to be endless in every situation. Certain flowers only bloom if there is a cold frost in the Winter, and diamonds can only shine if carbon is exposed to extreme heat and pressure. Therefore, we need to humbly accept the difficulties that come our way, knowing that if we persevere, if through it we allow our faith to grow, that we too will shine brightly.

As babies slept in their mother’s arms and on their father’s shoulders, the adults bowed their heads and recollected how many times their troubles were erased and tried to remember if they had thanked the Lord. As the Divine Liturgy continued, and the choir, under the directorship of Dr. Michael Andrech, sang the hymns, their voices weaving an ethereal thread from the heavens down to surround all the faithful, the people refocused, and humbly thanked the Lord for everything, the good and the bad.

As the curtain behind the Royal Gates closed, the adults gently gathered their children and nudged them to get in line for Communion. The youngsters stood in a haphazard line, pushing, and shoving as children do, while their parents tried to calm them. Mothers with babes in arms, gently tried to rouse the sleeping infants and with babes in arms, gently tried to partook of the Eucharist, feeling re-energized and bolstered by the Holy Sacramento.

As the Divine Liturgy concluded, His Eminence once again stepped out into the Nave, this time flanked by clergy and Altar servers carrying icons. These icons, sponsored by the parishioners, were written by an iconographer in the Ternopil region of Ukraine had had only recently arrived in the U.S. The largest icon of the group was of the Birth-Giver of God – Intercessor for the Innocent Victims of the Holodomor in Ukraine. On the icon the Theotokos, with a worried expression, holds the Christ Child, while below them the scorched earth stands barren. To her right is represented the first Holodomor Monument erected in Ukraine, while to her left is the oldest monument to the Holodomor in the United States – the very Saint Andrew Memorial Church in which everyone was currently gathered.

Archbishop Daniel explained the significance of each icon, focusing on the center one, and prayed that the Mother-of-God safeguard Ukraine and all the world from such disasters in the future. His Eminence blessed each icon, sprinkling them with Holy Water, and then turned and generously sprinkled the children who crowded in behind him. The youngsters squealed and laughed as the icons were returned into the Altar, and Vladyka stepped back up on the Ambo.

As everyone settled down, His Eminence reminded them that this day we also celebrate St. Nicholas, and thus if the children have been good throughout the year, it is possible that the saint himself might stop by for a visit. The little heads of the children bobbed up and down as they tried to reassure Archbishop Daniel that they had in fact been very good children this year. Smiling at them His Eminence called out, and immediately the doors of the church swung open, allowing a cold blast of air to come roaring down the center of the church. As if descending from the heavens upon that breeze, Saint Nicholas, dressed in golden vestments entered the church and walked down the center aisle. The children’s eyes grew wide as they gazed up at the saint, wondering if he knew that they perhaps had been naughty once or twice throughout the year.

Saint Nicholas turned to face the children and their parents and asked them a few questions. To impress him, some children had prepared poems which they happily recited in an effort to gain the saint’s approval. Svyatl Mykolaj was convinced that those gathered within the walls of St. Andrew’s Church were deserving of gifts. He first turned to Archbishop Daniel who stood on the ambo, and approaching His Eminence presented him with the first gift. With gratitude Vladyka accepted the gift and watched as the saint then turned his attention to the children who were patiently waiting, with hands outstretched, to receive a gift as well. Having given gifts to all the children, St. Nicholas posed for a few photos, before once again leaving. He expressed his regrets at not being able to spend more time with the parishioners, but he explained that there many other children he still needed to visit that day, and with a final wave, the doors once again opened, and he disappeared into the cold breeze outdoors. The children escaped their parents’ grasp and ran after him, but, when they got to the doors, the saint was nowhere to be seen. Amazed, the youngsters ran back to their parents, who having led them up to venerate the cross and icon of St. Nicholas, once again fought to pull jackets on their squirming little bodies. With smiles and laughter, the faithful began to exit the church and return to their homes. The parents once again chased after their excited children, pulling up their hoods, and trying to zip up their coats, but the kids were too excited and ran circles around their parents, who eventually gave up and simply laughed with their offspring.

Thus, with joy and happiness the memorial church emptied, and once again stood as a lone beacon, a reminder of the horrors mankind can inflict upon fellow man. And yet not all hope is lost, as the echoes of the children’s laughter still echoed through the grounds, filled with excitement and hope for a bright future.

Photos by Reader Maksym Zhuravchyk
Студенти, вчителі та батьки Школи Українознавства та Реалії при Українській Православній Громаді св. Андрія Первозванного в Духовному Осередку УПЦ США (Савт Бавнд Брук, Н. Дж.) Провели Святкове Діяство Присвячене Життю Святителя Миколая

Кожен знає, що у ніч на 19 грудня до всіх дітей приходить святий Миколай з чарівною торбинкою, повною подарунків. Сьогодні Високопреосвященніший Архієпископ Даниїл з радістю помолився та благословив усіх присутніх, таким чином розпочавши у школі Українознавства та Реалії при Церкві-пам’ятнику св. Андрія Первозванного в Савт Бавнд Брук свято Миколая.

На свято були присутні вчителі, учні та їх батьки, а також наймолодші учні школи: вихованці групи дошкільної підготовки, для яких це був перший виступ перед такою великою аудиторією. Дошкільнята весело та з захватом співали пісеньку, у якій розповідали про дива у цю ніч та про Миколая з торбинкою, у якій повно гостинців для слухняних дітей. Всі діти надзвичайно хвилювалися, адже на свято завітав сам Миколай, кожен хотів якомога краще розказати віршик, заспівати та навіть затанцювати.

В цей день сцена ніби перетворилася в казку, а всі участники свята - в казкових персонажів. На свято завітала чарівниця звітова з своїми дочечками - сніжинками. Сніжинки весело кружляли в танці, а ангелітка допомагали Миколаеві. Всім нам хоча й на не дуже великий відрізок часу, але все одно вдалося побувати у казці.

До присутніх звернулася директор школи пані Галина Мартинець. Привітавши усіх присутніх зі святом Миколая, пані-директор подякувала Владиці Даниїлу за світлий та теплий візит, організаторам свята, а особливо вчителю музики пані Оксані Кіт, і також юним артистам та меценатам. Варто сказати, що Миколай, як і завжди прийшов не з пустими руками. Він особисто з найкращими побажаннями подарував кожному учнівцеві солодкий подаруночок.

Родзиною свята стало частування усіх присутніх різними смаколиками, приготовленими батьками.

Тож наслідуймо добро і вчинки Миколаї! Нехай це свято стане для нас святом Милосерд’я, святом Доброти, Прощення, Любові до ближніх.

Автор: Семінарист Андрій Акуленко

Photos by Seminarian Andrii Akulenko
“Let the Children Come to Me”: Evening Prayer Service for the Unborn Children at the Metropolia Center

In the evening hours of Monday, December 20th, faithful of the local community, clergy and seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary joined His Eminence Archbishop Daniel for the weekly Akathist Service to the “Mother of God – Nurturer of Children” at St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church at the Spiritual Center of the UOC of the USA in South Bound Brook, NJ.

“Let the children come to me,” (Matthew 19:14) was the theme of the evening Prayer Service, calling to remembrance the children in the wombs of their mothers. The service included prayer, reflection by the archbishop, and several spiritual songs chanted by the seminarians.

While holding the icon of the “Mother of God – Protectress of the Unborn Children”, Vladyka Daniel concluded: “While as the Church we pray for the protection of children in the womb, we also reach out in love to those couples who have lost children, as well as couples who struggle in hope for a child or who have received an adverse prenatal diagnosis. In a special way, we recognize that no matter how short their time in this world, each child is a gift to be loved and cherished.”

Addressing the young mothers in attendance, the archbishop continued: “the Church welcomes with joy and compassion the mothers who, recognizing that all life is a gift from God, come to the Church seeking a blessing for their unborn child. Such a blessing sustains the parents by imparting grace and comfort in time of concern and need, unites the parish in prayer for the unborn child, and fosters respect for human life within the community.”

In attendance of the service were Rev. Fr. Vasyl Pasakas, pastor of the Nativity of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in South Plainfield, NJ; Rev. Fr. Sviatoslav Hot, pastor of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Maplewood, NJ; Rev. Fr. Mykola Zomchak, Deacon Myroslav Mykytyuk and Deacon Sergiy Homitskyi of St. Sophia Seminary in South Bound Brook, NJ.

“Дозвольте дітям приходити до мене” (Матвій 19:14) була темою вечірньої молитви, зв'язаною з пам'яттю про дітей, що не народилися, і однаковим стерпленням у відносини зі сім'ями, які зазнають важких обставин орієнтовано на молитву за дітей, що нащадки матерів, а також відчуття любові до тих, хто зазнає важких обставин, які визначаються наявністю вагітності або її відсутністю.

Попри відсутність наявності дітей, які народились, молитва спрямована на підтримку матерів та їх сімей, які зазнають важких обставин.

На богослужінні були присутні о. Василь Пасакас, настоятель Української Православної парафії Різдва Пресвятої Богородиці в м. Саут-Плейнфілд, штат Нью-Джерсі; о. Святослав Готь, настоятель Української Православної парафії Святого Володимира в Мейплвуді, Нью-Джерсі; о. Микола Зомчак, диякон Мирслав Микитко та диякон Сергій Хоміцький із Свято-Софіївської Семінарії в Саут-Баунд-Бруці, Нью-Джерсі.

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan
Recently, while visiting the national Spiritual Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, Rev. Fr. Theophan Mackey, pastor of Saint Job of Pochaiv Ukrainian Orthodox Parish community in Los Alamos, presented a check for $3,000 to His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

The donation was raised by Saint Job of Pochaiv parish family through this year’s sale of homemade cookies by the parishioners of the church. The funds are earmarked for the benefit of Ukrainian orphans who reside in the UOC of the USA’s sponsored orphans, caring for the children and people affected by the Chornobyl Nuclear disaster that occurred thirty-five years ago. Since the year 2000 the UOC of USA has been supporting three orphans in the towns of Znamianka (Kropyvnytsky region), Zaluhy (Ivano-Frankivsk region), and Phuhachivka (Zhytomyr region) and hundreds of children that live there.

Saint Job of Pochaiv Orthodox Church would like to thank the people of Los Alamos, NM for their generosity and enthusiasm for the annual cookie sales. The event continues to grow and provides help to those in need!

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the Unification Council, His Beatitude Metropolitan Epifaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine, on December 15, 2021 led a Moleben of Thanksgiving in the Saint Michael Golden-Domed Cathedral.

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel concelebrated with the Primate of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine. In addition, Metropolitan Symeon of Vinnytsia and Bar, Metropolitan Oleksandr of Pereiaslav-Khmelnitsky and Vyshnev; Archbishop Agapit of Vyshhorod; Bishop Volodymyr of Fastiv; Bishop Mykhailo of Komansk, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate concelebrated the Moleben Service.

Venerable brothers of the Golden-Domed Monastery, Very Rev. Volodymyr Stelian (UOC of the USA) and numerous other clergy were in attendance of the commemoration.

Z нагоди третьої річниці з дня Об’єднаного Собору

З нагоди третьої річниці з дня Об’єднаного Собору Блаженнійший Митрополит Київський і всієї України Епіфаній 15 грудня 2021 року оновив подячний молебень у кафедральному Свято-Михайлівському Золотоверхому соборі.

В існуючій встановленій Архієпископом Даниїлом співслужили Предстоятелю Помісної Православної Церкви, представляючи Українську Православну Церкву США, Молебень співслужили також митрополит Винницький і Барський Симеон, митрополит Перемишльський і Вишневський Олександр, архієпископ Вишгородський Агапіт, епископ Фастівський Володимир, Екзарх Вселенського Патріархії епископ Команський Михаїл, всесвітня братія Золотоверхі обителі, протоієрей Володимир Штеплік (УПЦ США) та численне запрошене духовенство.

Благословення молилися п’ятирічний Президент України Петро Порошенко з дружиною Мариною та Надзвичайний і Повноважний Посол України у Ватикані Андрій Юрій.

На завершення відправи Його Блаженство виголосив першосвятительське слово, а також відзначив Петра і Марину Порошенків високими церковними нагородами. Також цього дня на адресу Предстоятела надійшли вітання від Прем’єр-міністра України, урядовців, політиків, громадських та культурних діячів.

Пресслужба Київської Митрополії Української Православної Церкви (ПЦУ)

Press Service of the Kyiv Metropolia of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine (OCU)
Священик Православної Церкви України Андрій Мариновський передав допомогу одній з літніх парафій у Донецьк і Маріуполь. 

Вітаємо усіх Вас з Різдвом Христовим. Продовжуймо і на дії творити добро і бути справжніми дітьми Божими. Христос! Рождествуй! Слава Ісусу Христові! о. Василь, о. Андрій і православні громади смт. Микулинці, смт. Дружба, – підсумував священик.

Гордимось, в УПЦ США допомагалися не лише немаєдеться дітям і подружжям парі, але й старим. Також архієпископ Даниїл відвідав паство у ПТУ в Медісоні, штат Вісконсин.

A priest of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Andriy Marynovsky, delivered aid to single and elderly parishioners in the villages of the Ternopil region. Charitable assistance was made possible by the efforts of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (Ecumenical Patriarchate) and benefactors from Canada.

“Мerry Christmas to you all. Let us continue to do good and be true children of God. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!” the priest concluded.

We would also like to inform you that the UOC of the USA held a prayer service for unborn children, and parents who have lost their children. Archbishop Daniel also visited the UOC parish in Madison, Wisconsin.

“Glory to Jesus Christ. Happy New Year to you all, brothers and sisters. May this year be blessed for our Church, our motherland Ukraine and all of us. On the eve of Christmas, we had the opportunity to help lonely and elderly parishioners of the village. 25 complete food kits were dispersed among the needy. Thank you “St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Society,” the Society of Mercy Canada, and all those who have joined in this God-pleasing cause,” stated Father Andriy, a priest at the OCU, on Facebook on January 1.

He also asked the Lord to bless all those whose hearts are filled with true Christian love, all those who do good and are merciful.

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12 LENTEN AND DELICIOUS DISHES FOR
Christmas Eve
12 ПІШНИХ ЄМАН І СМАЧНИХ НА Свято Пізні

1. КУТЯ - варена пшениця з медом і маком є актом жертви Богові, бо пшениця з медом — це сакральна частина Святої вечері. Мед є символом Божого слова, чистоти, християнської віри. Також до куті обов'язково додавали мак — символ невинної пропитої крові, мучеництва. 2. УЗВАР - з 12 страв на Святу вечерю узвар вважається другим за популярністю після куті. Це символ нової життя, народження, яке було дароване людям Богом. 3. ВАРЕНИКИ - їх додають лише з овочів та заздалегідь заквашеного капусти з буряка. Саме тому страва виходить насиченою та має темно-червоний колір. Саме через це вареники вважаються символом крові невинних дітей, яких вбив цар Ірод в Вифлеємі. 4. РИБА - у ранньому християнстві риба була прийнята як символ Христа батьками Отцями Церкви. Знак риби був першою монограмою Христа. Грецька абревіатура XPIOS — що в ієсус читається як “риба”. Саме брати-рибалки стали першими учнями ісуса, який заявив ім, що вони будуть “ловцями людей”. Віруючі, учні Христа, як і Він самий, уподобалися рибам, які перебувають у воді легко. 5. КУЩА/ГОРОХ - це страва вважається у християні символом Божої весни, відродження. Також вона символізує єдність всіх членів сім'ї, які зібралися за одним столом для святкування Різдва Христового. 6. ГОЛУБЦІ З ПШОНОМ - саме назва цієї страви вказує на її символічність. Голуб - символ Божої любові, символ Святого Духа, символ краси і сили, отриманої від Соціетера. 7. ГРИБИ - можуть бути в будь-якому вигляді. З 12 страв на Різдво саме гриби символізують одразу дві природи ісуса Христа: земну і божественну або небесну (шапочка). 8. КАША - пшена з медом і маком є другим за популярністю після куті. Божий народ, який коноплюється навколо новонародженого ісуса. Каша є символом загального союзу людей завдяки освяченню людського роду, що до нас прийшло через втілення Сина Божого. 9. ДОКУ - символизує продовження роду, це Божий народ, який коноплюється навколо новонародженого ісуса. Доку є символом загального союзу людей завдяки освяченню людського роду, що до нас прийшло через втілення Сина Божого. 10. КАЛАЧ АБО ХЛІБ - є символом смерті та подальшого воскресіння. Наші предки пояснювали це тим, що зерно спочатку кидати у землю, де воно "покує", а потім проростає та дає плоди (тим самим "воскресає"). 11. ПАМПУШКИ - 12 страв на Святій вечір наші предки не могли увити без пампушок. Їх вважали символом святів на небі, які повірили в ісуса і отримали вічне життя. Їх мільйони, і кожна людина, зокрема християнин, покликаний до того солодкого, повноцінного, вічного життя. Слово "свято" походить від "свято", і звідси пампушки - символ свята, радості, які Богом даровані людям.
Pampushky Ingredients:
• 2 3/4 cups (400 g) all purpose flour
• 1 cup + 2 tsp (225 g) water (95F - 105F warm)
• 1 1/2 Tbsp (35 g) honey
• 3 Tbsp (21 g) vegetable oil
• 1 level tsp (5 g) salt
• 1 tsp (5 g) lemon juice
• 2 tsp (9 g) traditional yeast
• Egg Wash
  • 1 egg yolk

Garlic sauce:
• 3 cloves garlic pressed
• 1/2 tsp kosher salt
• 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
• 2 Tbsp chopped herbs (parsley, cilantro)
• 3 Tbsp water

Instructions:
• Bring the water to about 95-105F (barely warm to touch) and pour into a mixing bowl. Add the yeast and the honey. Let the yeast hydrate for about 10 minutes, until you see foam forming on top.
• Add the rest of the ingredients to the bowl, mix together and let rest for 20 minutes.
• Knead the dough in the bowl for about 2 minutes. The dough should be soft and tacky to touch. Add more water if needed. If the dough feels too sticky, let it rest for another 10 minutes and then knead again for 1-2 minutes. As the flour in the dough absorbs more water gluten develops stickiness will decrease. If you feel it is still too sticky, you can add more flour later when shaping rolls.
• Cover the bowl with a damp kitchen towel or a plastic wrap and place in warm place for about 1 to 1.5 hours or until the dough doubles in size.
• Cut the dough into 9 equal pieces. Shape each piece into a ball. Add some flour if the dough is too sticky.
• Place the dough balls into a greased round cake pan, spreading them out evenly.
• Start preheating the oven to 360F (180C).
• Cover the pan with a damp towel and let the dough balls proof for 40 minutes in a warm place.
• Whisk one egg yolk in a small bowl. Using a pastry brush, paint the rolls with a light, even coat of egg wash.
• Place the pan in the oven and bake for 25-30 minutes until golden brown. Sometimes, depending on how dry your oven runs, you may want to cover the pan with foil after 15 minutes of baking to avoid hardening of the top surface, or use a water pan to produce steady steam.
• While your pampushki are baking, start making the garlic sauce. Press garlic into a medium bowl, add salt, oil, water, chopped herbs and stir. Set aside.
• Once the pampushki are ready, transfer them to a serving platter. Drizzle the garlic sauce all over and let rest for a few minutes to allow the sauce to soak in. Serve warm.

Papushky Ingredients:
• Medianyky (Honey Cookies)
  • Ingredients:
    • 2 cups or 250 grams of honey (меду)
    • 3 ½ cups or 450 grams of flour (борошна)
    • ½ cup or 75 grams of sugar (цукру)
    • 1 tablespoon butter (масла)
    • 2 teaspoons baking powder (розпушувача)
    • 1 egg (яйце)
    • 2 Tbsp grated orange peel (апельсинової цедри)
    • Spices to taste:
      • 1 tsp Ground Cinnamon (кориці)
      • ½ tsp Ground Cloves (гвоздики)
      • ½ tsp Ground Ginger (імбиру)
      • ½ tsp Ground Nutmeg (мускатного горіха)
  • Icing:
    • 1 egg white (білок)
    • 1 cup (150 grams) powdered sugar (цукрової пудри)
    • 1 tsp lemon juice (лимонного соку)
    • Food coloring (харчовий барвник)

Instructions:
• Place honey, sugar, butter, orange peel and spices into a small saucepan. Stir everything and heat until completely dissolved, then remove from the heat and set aside to cool.
• In a bowl sift the flour with baking powder, beat the egg and add the cooled honey mixture. Mix everything thoroughly and place in refrigerator for 1-2 hours.
• Roll out the finished dough to the thickness of a finger and using cookie cutters, cut out the desired figures.
• Coat the pan with oil, and sprinkle with flour. Place the cookies on the prepared cookie pan. Bake cookies in an oven preheated to 350 F (180 C) degrees for 8-10 minutes (until golden brown). Serve.
LET’S MAKE A CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Using the template and example on the following pages, cut out the circles.

Decorate the blank circles with your own drawings and greetings.

Fold each circle in half, with the image side folded inward.

Apply glue to one side of the folded circle and attach the corresponding half of the next cutout, until you have all eight pieces glued together, connecting the final two halves.

Pull a string, yarn, ribbon or wire, through the center of the ornament, threading beads at the top, and at the bottom for interest.

Tie a bow at the top, or make a loop for hanging.

Enjoy your personalized Christmas Tree ornament.
CREATE DESIGNS IN THE TEMPLATE
CUT OUT ALL 8 CIRCLES

CAN YOU SPOT THE 5 DIFFERENCES?
St. John the Baptist lived in the desert far from the cities because he did not want to spend all his time focusing on food, entertainment, and gossip. He would rather focus on God exclusively. He lived frugally, dressed in camel-hair clothing and happily eating locusts and honey, which he thanked God for each day.

As an adult he left the wilderness and settled near the River Jordan, preached, and baptizing people in the waters of the river. John told the people who came to him to repent — to realize that they were sinners and needed to change their ways.

One day, as he was baptizing the crowds, Jesus came up to him. John recognized Him, as they were cousins, but also, he recognized Jesus as the King of Jerusalem. John stepped back and said, “I must baptize Him, but He should baptize me.”

Jesus told him, “I must be baptized, but you will baptize me.” John hesitated, but Jesus insisted he do so. With this realization, John was hesitant in baptizing Christ, but Jesus insisted he do so.

Jesus stepped into the Jordan River and sanctified it, purging evil from the water and making it holy. He emerged from the water, and the heavens opened up. A voice spoke from heaven, saying “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

The Holy Trinity is made manifest, all three in one accord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity is revealed to us. As creation lurches up in joy, the Holy Trinity reveals itself and God confirms the goodness of His beloved Son. The Holy Trinity is revealed to us. At this remarkable moment, as all the water, the life blood of our entire planet, is sanctified by Christ Himself, Christ emerges, and the heavens open up! The Son stands there in the flesh, the Holy Spirit appears as a dove, and the Father’s voice booms down from the heavens, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

The Holy Trinity is made manifest, all three in one accord and in one place together, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As creation lurches up in joy, the Holy Trinity reveals itself and God confirms the goodness of His beloved Son.

The water we are drinking today is the same water that flowed in the Jordan when Christ was baptized. The water is transformed into something Holy and powerful. The water we are drinking today is the same water that flowed in the Jordan when Christ was baptized.

Now, let’s do an experiment with that same water, in which Christ once stood, and sanctified.

How To Perform the Pepper and Soap Experiment:

1. Shallow bowl or dish to hold water
2. Water
3. Pepper
4. Liquid Soap (dish soap and hand soap both work)
5. Q-tip
6. Shallow bowl or dish to hold water
7. Paper towel

For this experiment you will need:

- Liquid Soap (dish soap and hand soap both work)
- Pepper
- Water
- Shallow bowl or dish to hold water
- Q-tip swab, paper towel, or finger

How To Perform the Pepper and Soap Experiment:

Step 1: Fill a shallow bowl or baking dish with water. The water is life-giving.

Step 2: Sprinkle pepper all over the water. You want enough to be very visible on the surface of the water.

Step 3: Dip the Q-tip, or corner of moist paper towel, or even the tip of your finger in the soap. As Christ stepped into the Jordan River and sanctified it, purging evil from the water and making it holy, now touch the soapy fingertip in the center of the dish filled with floating pepper. Watch the pepper run away from the soap, just as evil runs from Christ.
may god grant to them many happy and blessed years!

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony 1/26/2013
V. Rev. Myron Mykhaylyuk 1/2/1977
V. Rev. Pavlo Bodnarchuk 1/3/1993
V. Rev. Orest Pouskhalski 1/9/2000
Rev. Andriy Matlak 1/9/2013
V. Rev. Roman Yatskiv 1/14/1989
Rev. Yuri Bobko 1/18/2020
V. Rev. Ioan Proteasa 1/19/1992
Rev. Sviatoslav Hot 1/25/2020
V. Rev. Harry Linsinbigler 1/25/2003
V. Rev. Gerald Olsanski 1/25/1987
V. Rev. Nicholas Klodnicki 1/28/1984
V. Rev. Stepan Bilog 1/28/2001
V. Rev. Myroslav Schirta 1/30/1998
Dn. Myroslav Mykytyuk 1/30/2021

Do not just read the pages of the Bible and Holy Scripture, but live the pages, allowing them to lead you along the path towards God and salvation.

Archbishop Daniel
GUARDIANS OF THE METROPOLIA

Members of the Council of Metropolia, Consistory, Clergy and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, on this, the Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the other Bodiless Powers of Heaven Feast Day, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA formally announces the formation of the Guardians of the Metropolia organization of the UOC of USA.

At the 22nd Regular Sobor of the UOC of USA on October 19th, 2019, with the blessings of Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel, a group of Sobor delegates was tasked to form the Guardians of the Metropolia, which is a charitable, auxiliary organization of the Church.

The Guardians of the Metropolia are dedicated to promoting our Orthodox Christian Faith, growing the core ministries of the UOC of USA, and bequeathing a strong Church for future generations.

As part of their mission, the Guardians of the UOC of USA will raise funds through annual membership pledges/sponsorships, in addition to donations from individuals, businesses, banks and other organizations. These funds will be dedicated towards growing the core ministries of the UOC of USA and its future.

For more information concerning the Guardians of the Metropolia please contact Father Andrii Pokorylo at frandrii@yahoo.com, Howard West at howardeast1988@outlook.com, or Elizabeth Symonenko at symonsays@hotmail.com, or visit our website at guardiansofmet.org

PОКРОВИТЕЛІ МИТРОПОЛІЇ

Члени Ради Митрополії, Консistorія, духовенство та вірні Української Православної Церкви США, у цей святковий день Собору Архієпископа Божого Михайлії та всьох Небесних Сіл Бессіленних, Українська Православна Церква Сполучених Штатів Америки офіційно проголошує утворення організації Покровителів Митрополії Української Православної Церкви Сполучених Штатів Америки.

На 22-му регулярному соборі УПЦ США 19 жовтня 2019 року з благословенням митрополита Антонія та архієпископа Даниїла, групі делегатів Собору було доручено сформувати Покровителів Митрополії.

Покровителі Митрополії є благодійною, допоміжною організацією УПЦ США. Вони будуть концентрувати свою діяльність на поширені вчення Православної Християнської віри, розбудові відділів служіння УПЦ США та збережені міцною УПЦ США для майбутніх поколінь. Чистинною місією Покровителів УПЦ США будуть старання в напрямку поповнення бюджету Церкви за рахунок щорічних членських внесків/спонсорства та додаткових посеред у від приватних осіб та/або організацій, банків та підприємств. Ці кошти будуть спрямовуватися на розвиток відділів служіння УПЦ США та її майбутнього.

Для отримання додаткової інформації щодо Покровителів Митрополії, будь-яка, зв'язатися відм. Андрієм Покотильно - frandrii@yahoo.com, Ховардом Вест - howardeast1988@outlook.com, або Єлизаветою Симоненко - symonsays@hotmail.com або відвідайте нашу вебсайт за адресою guardiansofmet.org
You are invited to join us for a Christmas caroling concert at the Ukrainian Cultural Center of the UOC of USA. Please contact Fr. Vasyl Pasakas.

For registration, please contact Fr. Vasyl Pasakas.

(732) 356-0090
135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873
Please, consider making a donation to the Ministry of the UOC of the USA:

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SOBOR
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Eve of Theophany
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Theophany
Great Blessing of Water
January 19

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