УКРАЇНСЬКЕ ПРАВОСЛАВНЕ СЛОВО

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX WORD

ОФІЦІЙНЕ ВИДАННЯ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ ПРАВОСЛАВНОЇ ЦЕРКВИ В США THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA

Christ is Born!

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UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX WORD
УКРАЇНСЬКЕ ПРАВОСЛАВНЕ СЛОВО

His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONY

His Eminence
Archbishop DANIEL - Consistory President

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

Христос Народжується!
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

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TO ALL THE PLENITUDE 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 благословенні 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 принижує людину, той ганьбить і Бога, який прийняв нашу природу. У Христі, по-богословськи говорячи про Бога, ми говоримо водночас і про людину. Втілена Божественна Економія 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 цивілізацію 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. Наука в тій мірі, яка діє як служитель людини, є безцінним даром від Бога. Ми повинні з вдячністю прийняти цей дар і не бути введеними в оману безвідповідальними голосами неосвічених і самопроголошених «духовних порадників», які видають себе за представників Бога і справжньої віри, однак жалібно втрачають свою силу через відсутність любові до своїх братів та їхнього життя, яке вони піддають серйозній небезпеці.

Чесніші браття та возлюблені чада,

З непохитним переконанням, що життям кожного з нас і мандрівкою 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 як і під час свого перебігу, рухом історії керує Христос, який любить людство і піклується про все, «який бажає, щоб усі люди були спасенні й прийшли до пізнання істини». (1 Тим. 2:4)

З Божої волі під час майбутньої Святої та Великої седмиці ми відслужимо службу освячення Святого Мира в нашому чесному Центрі. Ми вважаємо унікальним божественним даром нашій Мирності сподобитися очолити цей святковий і зворушливий обряд у четвертий раз у нашому скромному Патріаршому служінні. Слава Богу за все!

З цими почуттями, шанобливо поклоняючись Ісусу-Дитятку, народженому у Вифлеємі, ми орієнтуємо нашу думку на наших християнських братів що знаходяться там і молимося за мирне та гармонійне співіснування всіх тих, хто живе на Святій Землі.

У цьому дусі бажаємо всім вам, близьким і далеким, благословенних святків, а також здорового, плідного у добрих ділах і сповненого божественними дарами нового року благости Господа, Якому належить слава і держава на нескінченні віки. Амінь.
Різдво, 2021

† Варфоломій Константинопольський,
палкий молитовник перед Богом за всіх Вас

PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX BISHOPS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF UKRAINE

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 unfailing 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

ПОСТІЙНА КОНФЕРЕНЦІЯ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ПРАВОСЛАВНИХ ЄПИСКОПІВ
ПОЗА МЕЖАМИ УКРАЇНИ

Преподобному і христолюбивому духовенству та мирянам Української Православної Церкви в Австралії, Новій Зеландії, Канаді, Європі, Південній Америці, Сполучених Штатах Америки 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 егоїзм. Тепер людство пізнає смерть, на котру ніколи не було призначене. Людство було вигнано з Раю і тепер вже протягом тисячоліть повинне довести, що є вірним своєму Творцеві. Вчителі, Пророки і Правителі неодноразово були послані на допомогу людям у цих намаганнях, обіцяючи людям прихід Месії, Того, Хто приведе людство до спасіння. А на кінець, щоб довести Свою нескінченну і незламну Любов до Свого Досконалого Творіння, Творець посилає Свого Єдинородного Сина, нашого Господа і Спасителя Ісуса Христа, щоб воплотитися – стати одним із нас, об'єднавши Людство і Божество – щоб забрати Своє Досконале Творіння додому – знову повернутися до вічного життя, раз і назавжди.

І ось, ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ – «З НАМИ БОГ, розумійте народи і покоряйтеся, бо з нами Бог» (Ісаї 8:9). Підкорятись… стало таким чужим у сьогоднішньому 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 повернутися назад від нашого ненаситного самозадоволення. Ми молимося 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 Всеохоплюючій Любові обійняти й 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 ми були створені. Це наша справжня реальність!

Немовля Христос – Воплочений Син Божий… Піднесення нашої людської природи до Його Божественності… Любов визначена і Любов сповнена… Нехай Ваш дім і Ваше життя будуть наповнені цією любов'ю протягом цього Різдва Христового та Нового Року! Нехай ця любов ллється від Вас у життя всіх навколо Вас, надихаючи їхні помисли та вчинки – підносячи їх до Його Божества. Це і є образом Божим…

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

Христос Рождається! Славіто Його!

+ АНТОНІЙ – Митрополит
Українська Православна Церква США, Південної Америки та Діаспори

+ ЄРЕМІЯ – Архієпископ
Українська Православна Єпархія Південної Америки

+ ДАНИЇЛ – Архієпископ
Українська Православна Церква США та Діаспори

+ 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, 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

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

Вітання з Новим 2022 Роком від Голови Консисторії УПЦ США

Мої дорогі друзі в Христі,

Ми стоїмо на порозі нового 2022 року Божого. Настав час озирнутися назад, заглянути вперед, а в основному, достойно перебувати в сьогоденні.

Користуючись нагодою, хочу побажати всім вам щасливого і благословенного Різдва Христового, а також чудового Нового 2022 року, переповненого присутністю Благодаті Святого Духа!

Скористаймося цим Різдвяним періодом і зробімо своєю основною метою розповісти комусь із ближніх про чудову радість, мир і любов, які Ісус Христос приніс всьому людству понад 2000 років тому! Це незмінне Послання ЛЮБОВІ Бога все ще несе надію, радість та благословенну впевненість у вічному спасінні мільйонам людей у всьому світі!

Я сподіваюся, що всі Ви наповнені оптимізмом на майбутнє, задовольняючись сьогоденням, які б небули важкі життєві обставини. 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

In its 47th academic year, the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary is more than a 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, absorbing the sermons, 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 each evening at 9 PM to join as a true family, and pray the Evening Prayers together, before going to sleep.

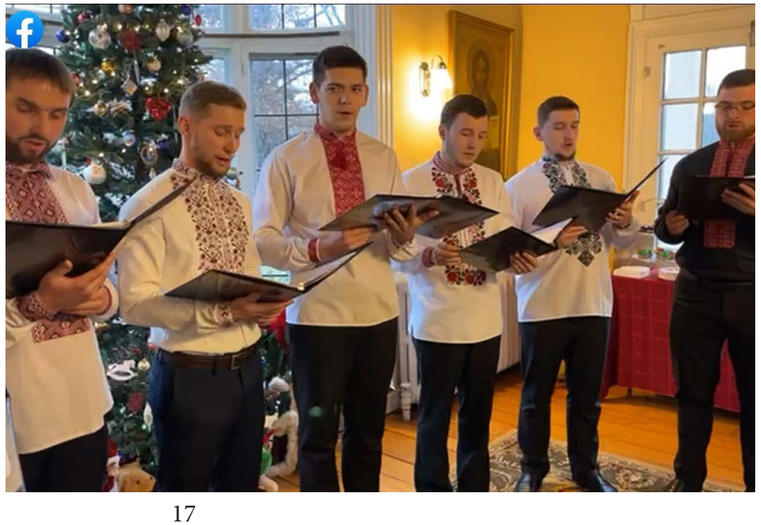
On this December 18th, 2021, the Seminary once again virtually knocked on people's doors, as they went live during their annual "Christmas at the Seminary" fundraiser. Instituted many years ago to help offset the high cost of running the institution, this fundraiser allowed the faithful to come and visit the Seminary, get to know the students, personally join in services, and start off the Christmas Season with joy and laughter. This was the first time since the start of the pandemic that the event was once again not only televised but held in person.

As 1 PM approached, the cars began to pull up to the grand white Victorian structure, which was beautifully decorated for the Christmas Season. A lush green wreath, filled with berries, hung on the door, inviting the visitors to enter. As they entered the front room of the Seminary, the guests could already hear the quiet laughter emanating from the dining area. The seminarians took turns greeting their guests and showing them in. While some remained in the front area of the building, admiring the grand fireplace, and historic icons, others happily walked further through the main classroom into the magnificent dining room. The large crystal chandelier today was outshined by the gorgeous Christmas tree which had been painstakingly adorned with delicate multicolored baubles and glimmering lights. On the sideboard a veritable smorgasbord awaited the guests, enticing them with delicious aromas, as fancy Christmas Cookies, covered in colorful sprinkles tempted their tastebuds.

Having approached His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora, and receiving his blessing, first time guests followed Archbishop Daniel, who took them on a short tour of the facility. Starting in the foyer, His Eminence gave a short history of the establishment, bringing 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 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 visitors. Archbishop Daniel gave a short history of the chapel, and then brought everyone's attention to the many relics housed within, including a fragment of the True Cross of Christ. As His Eminence crossed himself and quietly left to tend to other guests, these visitors settled down for a few minutes of quiet introspection and prayer.



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 Taissa, the youngest daughter of Fr. Vasyl and Dobrodijka 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 vyshyvanky (Ukrainian embroidered shirts) filed into the room singing in Ukrainian "Dobrij Vechir Tobi" (Good Evening to you), as they took their positions before the window. Fr. Andrii Drapak, Deacon Serhij Khomitskyi, Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan, Subdeacon Pavlo Vysotskyi, Reader Maksym Zhuravchyk, Reader Andrii Vatrych, seminarian Andrii Akulenko, and seminarian Roman Marchyshak regaled all with wonderous 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 Stala" (A New Joy). The program continued for 30 minutes, as the well-trained voices sang and praised the Lord. Thus, the Seminary once again touched the hearts and souls of countless individuals, who either in the building physically, or joining virtually joined their voices in singing the ancient carols, sung by their ancestors for centuries.

As the program concluded, Archbishop Daniel stood and introduced each seminarian, and greeted their families back home. The student body hales from all over Ukraine – from Kyiv to Ternopil to Buchach. Moreover, Vladyka Daniel introduced a number of graduates of the seminary who were in attendance, but especially the part Time students who were in attendance of the programs during their annual Academic Retreat at the Seminary: Deacon John Cummings, Brian Delp, John Petterson, Illia Val and Kathleen Kopach.

His Eminence thanked all who had joined the celebration and acknowledged the good start to the Christmas festivities. He encouraged anyone who wished to purchase a CD of Seminary Carols to visit the uocofusa.org website and click on the bookstore link. Vladyka also thanked all who had donated, and encouraged anyone else who wished to donate virtually, to visit the seminary website and click the yellow donate button at the bottom of the page. All donations go towards housing and training the young men who will one day be the clergy of the Church. With a final blessing and applause, the livestream ended, and everyone in the room congratulated the seminarians for the wonderful program.

Even though the program had ended, the guests lingered, enjoying their hierarch's and each other's company. Christmas plans were shared, gift-giving ideas, recipes for kutia and uzvar, as well parish activities. Most parishes were holding their own fundraisers, were volunteering at soup kitchens, or adopting families in need this holiday season.

As the sun began to dip in the western sky, and the heavens turned a deep blue, the Christmas lights turned on, twinkling jollily, and making even the oldest guests return to their childhood. With wide eyes and broad smiles, everyone enjoyed the colored lights, the twinkling ornaments, the shining buttons, and bells. Wrapping a few St. Nicholas cookies to take home with them, the guests began to depart for their homes. Even though the day's festivities were over, the joy was just beginning as the faithful anticipated the celebration of the Incarnation of our Lord. This joy was heard throughout the land, as the faithful loudly sang carols in their cars as they drove to their homes.

The seminarians began to clear off the tables, wash the dishes, put away extra chairs, and tidy the rooms, as they too hummed and continued to sing Christmas carols as they worked. The young men had entertained their guests, but, they had also learned from them. Everyone who visited brought with them a donation to the seminary. Some donated funds, while others donated cleaning supplies (there are many windows in the building), school supplies, kitchen utensils and appliances, etc. The seminarians were humbled to be the recipients of such generosity and were moved to realize that their vocations are not just their own, but those of the faithful who are pinning their hopes on their future clergy.

As the windows of the seminary darkened, and the building became hushed, the deer returned to graze on the seminary lawn, pausing to gaze upon the twinkling Christmas lights which hung from the eaves of the grand white building. The clouds parted and the moon shone brightly on the building, as the deer pranced around the lawn – a living Christmas Card, spreading hopes of peace and joy to the world.

If you wish to donate to the Seminary, please visit stsuots.edu and click on the yellow button.

Wishing everyone a joyous upcoming Nativity Celebration!

In the late afternoon of December 20th, 2021, the usually quiet and cavernous atrium of the Consistory Offices 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, Waynesville, NC
- Соломійка, Софійка та Михайлик Воробель, 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 Petrouchtchak Families, Vancouver, WA
- The Petroff Family, Clifton Park, NY
- St. Mary Protectress Parish, Southfield, MI

Throughout the month of November and December the precious creations came pouring in via the US Postal Service, FedEx, USPS and personal hand delivery. The office staff carefully sorted and stored the marvels 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 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 atrium, 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:

- Jacob Pasakas
- Emilia Pasakas
- Taissa Pasakas
- Roman Shak
- Victoria Shak
- Sophia Zomchak
- Arsenii Hot
- Elizabeth Kravchenko

Having chased each other around the tree until they were dizzy, the kids finally quieted down when His Eminence called them to attention. He carefully explained to them that the Christmas Tree decorates our homes at Christmastime to remind us of the joy of the newly incarnated Christ Child. The evergreen tree remains green throughout the winter

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. Giggling 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 communal sigh 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.

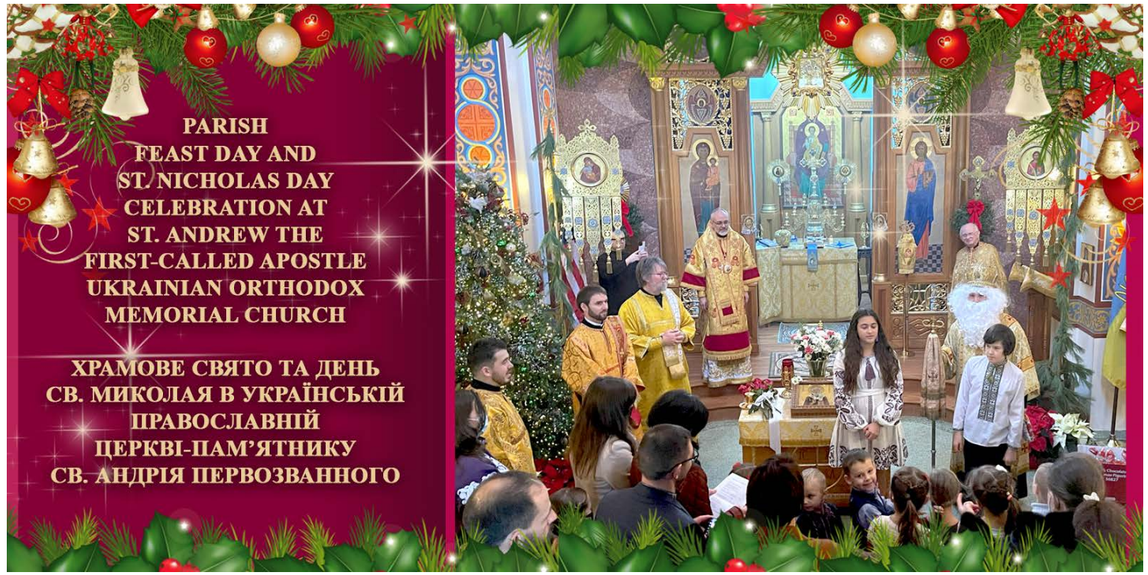
The children all clapped happily as their nostrils caught the scent of fresh hot pizza! They clambered up on the chairs around the large table and eagerly bit into the warm and oozing pizza slices. With cheese and sauce slathered over their chins, they happily chattered on about St. Nicholas, and how 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 sleepily 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 revolved 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 people of all ages, who had come to join in the celebration. This day the parishioners were not only celebrating that parish Patronal Feast Day of St. Andrew but were expecting a special visitor as the Church commemorated St. Nicholas this Sunday. The latecomers quickly peeled off their jackets exposing their beautifully embroidered Ukrainian vyshyvanky. Children quickly assembled by the door as the bells began to chime and they could see His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, splendidly clothed in gold and red vestments, approach the church and begin to ascend the steps. Quickly the director of the St. Andrew Parish Ukrainian School lined up her students and passed out red roses to each child. The doors opened and Archbishop Daniel walked in and smiled as he spotted the youth gathered before him. Timidly the children approached and greeted their hierarch, each one handing him one of the roses. His Eminence graciously accepted the flowers and then reached down to embrace the youngest of his flock in a large group hug.

Standing behind the children, and smiling at their interaction with their shepherd, stood Fr. Andrii Drapak. His Eminence stepped forward and venerated the cross presented him by Fr. Andriy, who had stepped in for Fr. Siwko who was absent due to health reasons, then turned and blessed those gathered in the church before entering further into the Nave.

The saints reflected in the icons which covered the walls of 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 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 bows at 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.

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 hears and grants us His mercy, healing our sickness of heart and body; giving us a way out of our predicament; opening our minds to discover an answer to our woes, and while we rejoice and put our troubles behind us, we too often do not give credit where credit is due. It is important to

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 Andrec, 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 prepare them to partake as well.

His Eminence stepped out with the Chalice as the pre-Communion prayers were recited and with a gentle smile upon his face bent to carefully administer the Body and Blood Christ to the little people. Young and not-so-young humbly approached the Chalice and partook of the Eucharist, feeling re-energized and bolstered by the Holy Sacrament.

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 had 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 bobbled 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. Svyatij 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 presents 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

Students, Teachers and Parents of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church School of Ukrainian Language and Religion (at the Spiritual Center of the UOC of the USA) Gather for the Annual St. Nicholas Program

Дітки, Вчителі та Батьки Школи Українознавства та Релігії при Українській Православній Громаді св. Андрія Первозванного в Духовному Осередку УПЦ США (Савт Бавнд Брук, Н. Дж.) Провели Святкове Дійство 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 Релігії при Церкві- пам'ятнику св. Андрія Первозванного в Савт Бавнт Бруці свято Миколая.

На святі 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 діточок. Всі діти надзвичайно хвилювалися, адже на свято завітав сам Миколай, кожен хотів якомога краще розказати віршик, заспівати і навіть затанцювати.

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

До присутніх звернулась 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 учневі солодкий подаруночок.

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

Тож наслідуймо добро і вчинки Миколая! Нехай це свято стане для нас святом Милосердя, святом Доброти, Прощення, Любові до ближніх.

Автор: Семінарист Андрій Акуленко

Photos by Seminarian Andrii Akulenko

Evening Prayer Service for the Unborn Children at the Metropolia Center of the UOC of the USA

Вечірня молитва за ненароджених дітей в Митрополії УПЦ США

“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»: Вечірня молитва за ненароджених дітей в Духовному Осередку Митрополії

У понеділок ввечері, 20 грудня, вірні місцевої громади, духовенство та семінаристи Свято-Софіївської Української Православної Духовної Семінарії приєдналися до Високопреосвященнішого Архієпископа Даниїла на щотижневому Акафісті до «Матері Божої – Вихователки дітей» у Церкві-Пам’ятнику Св. Андрія Первозванного при Духовному Осередку УПЦ США в Саут-Баунд-Бруці, Нью-Джерсі.

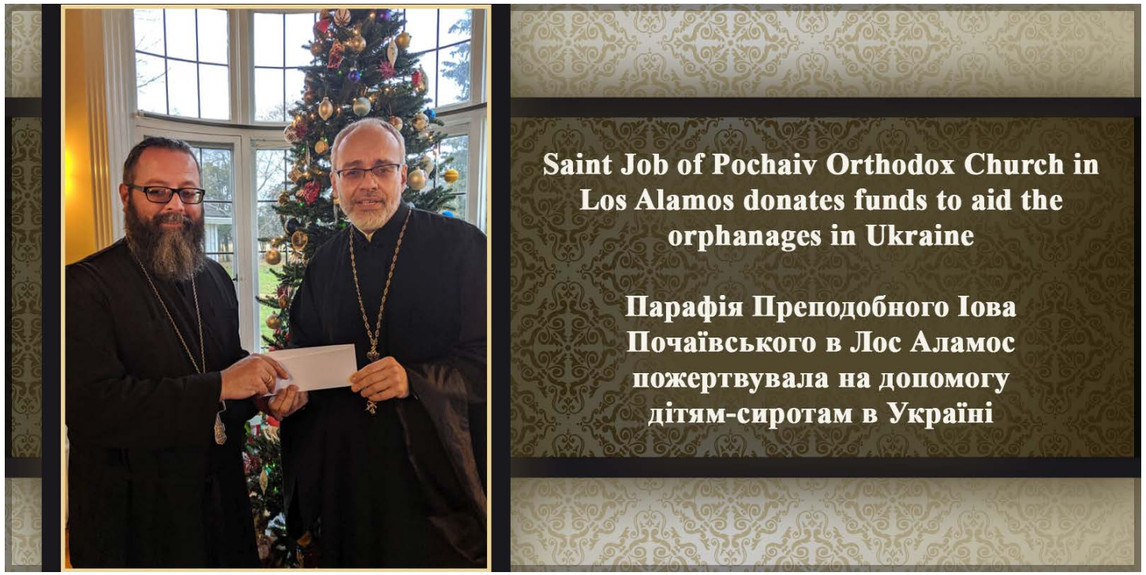
«Дозвольте дітям приходити до мене» (Матвія 19:14) — такою була тема вечірньої молитви, закликаючи згадати дітей у лоні матерів. Під час богослужіння, Архієпископ Даниїл проповідував, а семінаристи заспівали декілька духовних пісень.

Тримаючи ікону «Матері Божої – Покровительки Ненароджених Дітей», Владика Даниїл підсумував що: «Як Церква ми молимося про захист дітей в утробі матері, ми також простягаємо свою любов до тих подружніх пар, які втратили дітей, а також тих, котрі страждають в очікуванні дітей чи тих хто не можуть завагітніти. Ми особливим чином усвідомлюємо, що незалежно від того, наскільки коротким був їх час у цьому світі, кожна дитина – це подарунок, який потрібно любити та цінувати».

Звертаючись до присутніх молодих матерів, Архієпископ продовжив: «Церква з радістю та співчуттям ставиться до тих матерів, які, усвідомлюючи, що все життя є Божим даром, приходять до Церкви, шукаючи благословення для своєї ненародженої дитини. Таке благословення підтримує батьків, даруючи благодать і втіху у час скорбот та потреб, об’єднує парафію в молитві за ненароджену дитину та виховує повагу до людського життя в громаді».

На богослужінні були присутні о. Василь Пасакас, настоятель Української Православної парафії Різдва Пресвятої Богородиці в м. Саут-Плейнфілд, штат Нью-Джерсі; о. Святослав Ґоть, настоятель Української Православної парафії Святого Вознесіння в Мейплвуді, Нью-Джерсі; о. Микола Зомчак, диякон Мирослав Микитюк та диякон Сергій Хоміцький із Свято-Софійської Семінарії в Саут-Баунд-Бруці, Нью-Джерсі.

Photos by Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan



Saint Job of Pochaiv Orthodox Church in Los Alamos donates funds to aid the orphanages in Ukraine

Парафія Преподобного Іова Почаївського в Лос Аламос пожертвувала на допомогу дітям-сиротам в Україні

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 that reside in the UOC of the USA's sponsored orphanges, 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 orphanages in the towns of Znamianka (Kropyvnytsky region), Zaluchya (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-Khmelnytsky and Vyshnev; Archbishop Agapit of Vyshhorod; Bishop Volodymyr of Fastiv; Bishop Mykhailo of Komansk, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarch concelebrated the Moleben Service. Venerable brothers of the Golden-Domed Monastery, Very Rev. Volodymyr Steliac (UOC of the USA) and numerous other clergy were in attendance of the commemoration.

The fifth President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, along with his wife Marina, as well as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Vatican, Andriy Yurash, were present, and praying along with the clergy.
At the conclusion of the service, His Beatitude delivered a moving sermon, and took the opportunity to award former President Petro Poroshenko, and his wife, with honorary Church awards.

Additionally, on this momentous occasion, congratulatory greetings were delivered from the Prime Minister of Ukraine, various government officials, politicians, as well as public and cultural activists.

Press Service of the Kyiv Metropolia of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine (OCU)

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Архієпископ Даниїл Взяв Участь в Подячному молебні з нагоди третьої річниці з дня Об'єднавчого Собору

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

Високопреосвященний Архієпископ Даниїл співслужив Предстоятелю помісної Української Православної Церкви, представляючи Українську Православну Церкву США. Молебень співслужили також митрополит Вінницький і Барський Симеон, митрополит Переяславський і Вишневський Олександр, архієпископ Вишгородський Агапіт, єпископ Фастівський Володимир, Екзарх Вселенського Патріарха єпископ Команський Михаїл, всечесна братія Золотоверхої обителі, протоієрей Володимир Штеляк (УПЦ США) та численне запрошене духовенство.

За богослужінням молилися п'ятий Президент України Петро Порошенко з дружиною Мариною та Надзвичайний і Повноважний Посол України у Ватикані Андрій Юраш.

На завершення відправи Його Блаженство виголосив першосвятительське слово, а також відзначив Петра і Марину Порошенків високими церковними нагородами. Також цього дня на адресу Предстоятеля 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)

Following the meeting of the most recent Clergy Conference of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, and with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel traveled to the capital of Ukraine – Kyiv, in order to deliver 30 liturgical Eucharistic sets for the chaplains of Donetsk and Mariupol Diocese of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

On Tuesday, December 14, 2021 – Archbishop Daniel, accompanied by Very Rev. Fr. Volodymyr Steliac (pastor of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring, MD) met with the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine - His Beatitude Metropolitan Epifaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine.

The meeting took place in the office of the Metropolitan of Kyiv at the Monastery of St. Michael the Archangel. Metropolitan Serhiy of Donetsk and Mariupol Diocese was present at the meeting and received the liturgical pastoral charitable aid from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, which was sponsored by St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Silver Spring, MD and Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Trenton, NJ (Fr. Zinoviy Zharksy - pastor).

His Eminence Metropolitan Serhiy offered his gratitude to the clergy and faithful of the UOC of the USA for their continued support, as it came timely in the most difficult winter season and in the midst of the military escalation at the Eastern border of Ukraine. Addressing Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Serhiy shared with the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine the information about the long-standing cooperation between the UOC of the USA and the Diocese of Donetsk and Mariupol.

Responding to the kind words of Metropolitan Serhiy, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel related the prayerful greetings of the Primate of the UOC of the USA His Eminence Metropolitan Antony as well as the clergy and faithful of the entire Church in the United States of America. Vladyka Daniel verbally offered words of support for the clergy of the Donbas region of the OCU, who continue to minister in the most difficult circumstances on the Eastern border of Ukraine.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Epifany expressed his gratitude to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA for their unwavering support of the charitable ministerial projects of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, assisting the clergy that serve as military chaplains and helping various soup kitchens in the Mariupol area.

In addition, Archbishop Daniel presented financial charitable aid on behalf of St. Andrew Society (one of the Central Organizations of the UOC of the USA) as well as the clergy and faithful of the Church.

In conclusion of the meeting, the Primate of the OCU presented Very Rev. Fr. Volodymyr Steliac with a jeweled cross of the Primate, as a sign of gratitude for the support of the military chaplains (Fr. Volodymyr serves as Active Duty Chaplain of the US Air Force).

Text in Ukraine Language - Читайте в Українській мові
Photos by Deacon Andrii Sydor (www.pomisna.info)

Священник Православної Церкви України Андрій Мариновський передав допомогу одиноким і літнім парафіянам у селах Тернопільської області. Благодійна допомога стала можливою завдяки старанням УПЦ США (Вселенський патріархат) та добродіям з Канади.

«Слава Ісусу Христу. Вітаємо усіх Вас, брати і сестри, з Новим Роком. Нехай буде благословенним цей рік для нашої Церкви, нашої неньки України і для усіх нас. Напередодні свята Різдва Христового, ми мали змогу знову допомогти одиноким і перестарілим парафіянам смт. Микулинці, смт. Дружба, с. Воля, с. Лучка, с. Кривки, всього 25 чоловік, продуктовими наборами. Дякуємо “St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Society”, “Товариству Милосердя Канада” і усім хто долучився до цієї Богоугодної справи», – йдеться у дописі священника ПЦУ отця Андрія у Фейсбуці, опублікованому 1 січня.

Він також попросив Господа благословити усіх людей у кого серце наповнене справжньою християнською любов’ю, усіх хто чинить добро і милосердя.

«Вітаємо усіх Вас з Різдвом Христовим. Продовжуймо і на далі творити добро і бути справжніми дітьми Божими. Христос Рождається! Славімо Його! о. Василь, о. Андрій і православні громади смт. Микулинці, смт. Дружба», – підсумував священник.

Нагадаємо, в УПЦ США помолились за ненароджених дітей і подружні пари, які втратили дітей. Також архієпископ Даниїл відвідав парафію УПЦ в Медісоні, штат Вісконсин.

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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.

“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.

“Merry 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.

df.news
Фото: Андрій Мариновський, Фейсбук

Christmas Eve, or Rich Kutia – is one of the most mystical aspects of the celebration on the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior. Traditionally, 12 dishes are served, representing the 12 Apostles, with each dish having its own deep meaning and symbolism.

1. KUTIA - boiled wheat with honey and poppy seeds is an act of sacrifice to God, therefore Kutia is a sacred part of the meal, and eaten first. Honey is a symbol of God's word, purity, Christian faith, while poppy seeds symbolize innocent blood and martyrdom, and are both added to the wheat porridge.

2. COMPOTE - Of the 12 dishes for the Holy Supper, compote is considered the second most popular after kutia. It is a symbol of new life, the birth that was given to man by God.

3. BORSCH – this soup is prepared from vegetables and dark red beets. That is why the dish turns out rich and has a dark red color. Borsch has long been considered a symbol of the blood of the innocent children killed by King Herod in Bethlehem.

4. FISH - In early Christianity, fish was accepted as a symbol of Christ by many Church Fathers. The sign of the fish was the first monogram of Christ. Greek abbreviation ICHTIOS - the name of Jesus reads as "fish." It was the fishing brothers who became the first disciples of Jesus, who told them that they would be "hunters of men." Believers, disciples of Christ, like Himself, were likened to fish who are safe only in the "water of doctrine."

5. BEANS AND PEAS - This dish is considered by Christians a symbol of God's Spring, rebirth. It also symbolizes the unity of all family members gathered at one table to celebrate Christmas.

6. STUFFED CABBAGE WITH WHEAT/MILLET - the very name of this dish indicates its symbolism. The dove (holub) is a symbol of God's love, a symbol of the Holy Spirit, a symbol of beauty and strength received from the Creator.

7. MUSHROOMS - can be served in any form – fried, pickled, etc. Of the 12 dishes for Christmas, mushrooms symbolize two natures of Jesus Christ: earthly (stem) and divine or heavenly (cap).

8. VARENYKY - symbolize prosperity. The Lord has appointed a place for man in the Kingdom of God, where he feels good "like a dumpling in butter," in other words, he feels very good.

9. SAUERKRAUT - Prepared from cabbage, which symbolizes simplicity, strength and unity around Jesus Christ.

10. Kasha/Porridge - symbolizes the continuation of the family, God's people, congregating around the newborn Jesus. Porridge is a symbol of the common union of people through the sanctification of humanity, which came to us through the incarnation of the Son of God.

11. CAKE OR BREAD - Is a symbol of death and subsequent resurrection. Our ancestors explained this by saying that the grain is first thrown into the ground, where it is buried and "dies", and then germinates and bears fruit (thus "resurrecting").

12. DONUTS – Every Nativity Eve meal must have donuts. They were considered a symbol of the saints in heaven who believed in Jesus and received eternal life. There are millions of them, and every person, especially Christians, are called to that sweet, full, eternal life. The word "svyato (holiday)" comes from "saint", and hence the donut is a symbol of the holy day, the joy that God has given to His people.

12 пісних та смачних страв на Святий Вечір

Святвечір, або, Багата Кутя – одне з найбільш містичних подій напередодні Різдва. Всі його обряди і ритуали говорять про його давній сакральний зміст.

У християнській традиції страви символізують дванадцять апостолів.

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 невинно пролитої крові, мучеництва.

2. УЗВАР - З 12 страв на Святу вечерю узвар вважається другим за популярністю після куті. Це символ нового життя, народження, яке було дароване людині Богом.

3. БОРЩ - Готують його лише з овочів та заздалегідь заквашеного кваса з буряка. Саме тому страва виходить насиченою та має темно-червоний колір. Саме через це борщ здавна вважався символом крові невинних дітей, яких вбив цар Ірод в Вифлеємі.

4. РИБА – у ранньому християнстві риба була прийнята як символ Христа багатьма Отцями Церкви. Знак риби був першою монограмою Христа. Грецька абревіатура ΙΧΤΙΟΣ – ім'я Ісуса читається як "риба". Саме брати-рибалки стали першими учнями Ісуса, який сказав їм, що вони будуть "ловцями людей". Віруючі, учні Христа, як і Він самий, уподібнювалися рибам, які перебувають у безпеці лише у "воді вчення".

5. КВАСОЛЯ І ГОРОХ - Ця страва вважається у християн 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 – сама назва цієї страви вказує на її символічність. Голуб - символ Божої любови, символ Святого Духа, символ краси і сили, отриманої від Сотворителя.

7. ГРИБИ - Можуть бути в будь-якому вигляді. З 12 страв на Різдво саме гриби символізують одразу дві природи Ісуса Христа: земну (ніжка) і божественну або небесну (шапочка).

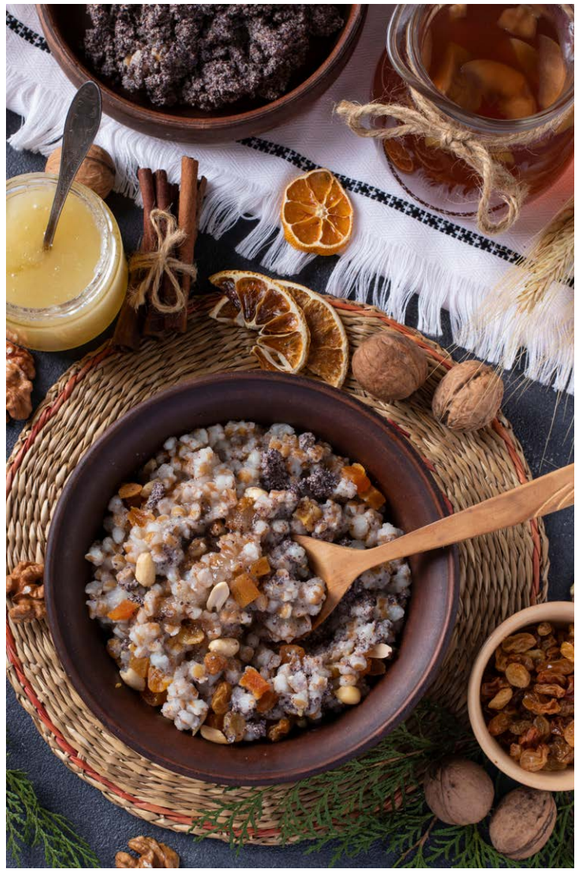
8. ВАРЕНИКИ – символізують достаток. Місце людини Господь призначив в Царстві Божому, де вона відчуває себе добре "як вареник у маслі", тобто дуже добре.

9. КАПУСНЯК – Готується з квашеної капусти, яка символізує простоту, міцність і єдність навколо Ісуса Христа.

10. КАША – символізує продовження роду, це Божий народ, який консолідується навколо новонародженого Ісуса. Каша є символом загального союзу людей завдяки освяченню людського роду, що до нас прийшло через втілення Сина Божого.

11. КАЛАЧ АБО ХЛІБ - Є символом смерті та подальшого воскресіння. Наші предки пояснювали це тим, що зерно спочатку кидають у землю, де воно "помирає", а потім проростає та дає плоди (тим самим "воскресаючи").

12. Пампушки – 12 страв на Святий вечір наші предки не могли уявити без пампушок. Їх вважали символом святих 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 «святого», і звідси пампух – символ свята, радості, які Богом даровані людям.



Papushky 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 and 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. A cold oven with the light on is a perfect place for this.
- 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.

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:
(Айсинг для розфарбовування)

- 1 egg white (білок)
- 1 cup (150 grams) powered 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.

- Починаємо приготування:
- У невелику каструлю кладемо мед, цукор, вершкове масло і прянощі. Все перемішуємо і нагріваємо на вогні до повного розчинення, потім знімаємо з плити і залишаємо остигати.
- У миску просіваємо борошно з розпушувачем, вбиваємо куряче яйце і додаємо медову масу. Все ретельно перемішуємо і ставимо в холодильник на 1-2 години.
- Готові тісто розкачуємо товщиною з палець і з допомогою формочки вирізаємо потрібні фігурки.
- Деко промазуємо маслом, присипаємо борошном і викладаємо пряничную заготовку. Випікаємо печиво в духовці, розігрітій до 180 градусів, протягом 8-10 хвилин (до рум'яності). А потім подаємо до столу.

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 twho 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.

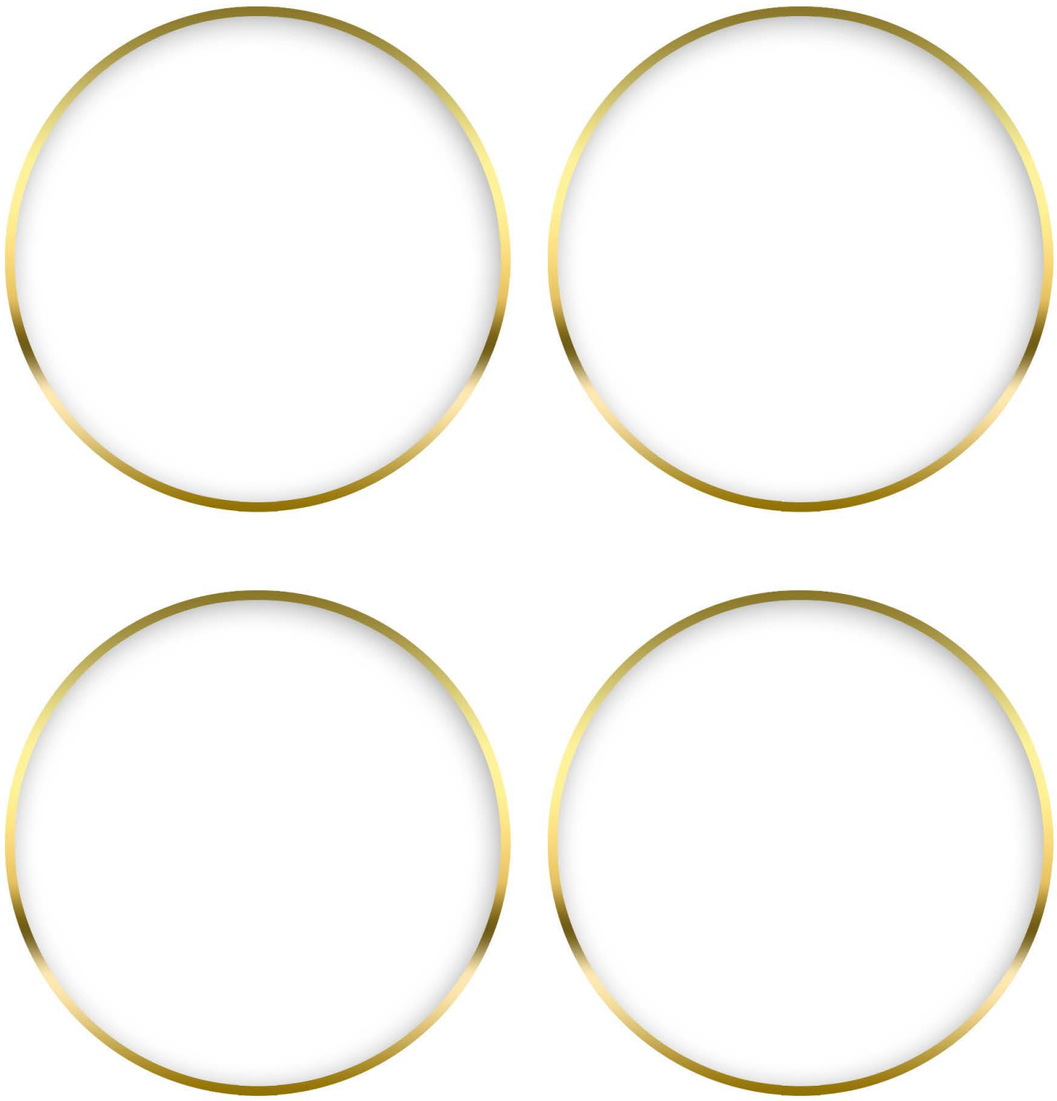
Tie a bow at the top, or make a loop for hanging.

Enjoy your personalized Christmas Tree ornament.

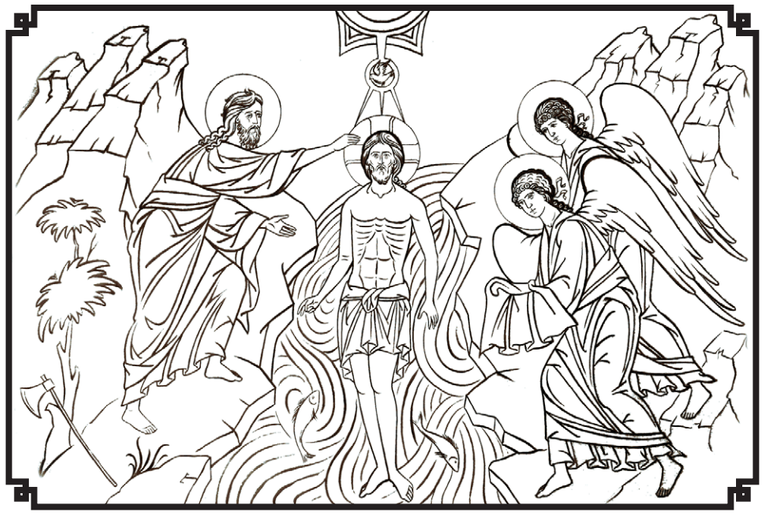
SAMPLE TEMPLATE

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 heading down the wrong path, a path of sin and death, and to stop and turn around and walk the path of righteousness. John told them to change the course of their lives, to do the right thing and to be kind and good, because Jesus was coming.

One day, as he was baptizing the crowds, Jesus came up to him. St. John recognized Him, as they were cousins, but also, he recognized Jesus as the Christ. With this realization, John was hesitant in baptizing Christ, but Jesus insisted he do so.

We are baptized at the beginning of our life journey. Whether we are baptized as infants or as adults, baptism is what brings us into the life of the Church, what makes us members ready to receive Holy Communion and all the blessings of the Church. Through baptism we are washed of our sins and are prepared to live in Christ.

Christ was also baptized at the beginning of His journey — He had been alive on earth for thirty years, and when He was prepared to begin His public ministry, when He was ready to reveal Himself and to the people, to His disciples and begin to preach to the crowds, He was baptized. He didn't need baptism to wash away His sin (because He was sinless). His baptism was different. You and I were sanctified by holy waters; we were washed clean and made holy by the waters of baptism. For Christ, the opposite happened: He sanctified the water — He transformed regular water into something Holy and powerful.

During His baptism, as He stood in the water, the clouds opened, and a dove was seen to fly down from the heavens. The Evangelist Matthew tells us that when He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

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 flooded the earth in Noah's day, it's the same water that parted at the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross, and it's the same water that flowed in the Jordan when Christ was baptized.

Answer the following questions:

1. In which river was Jesus baptized? _____
2. What relation was John to Jesus? _____
3. When Jesus was baptized, what was revealed to humanity? _____
4. Name the three Persons of the Holy Trinity _____
5. How old was Jesus when He was baptized? _____
6. How old were you, when you were baptized? _____

Continued on next page...

Baptisms

Baibak, Alice Anastasia baptized and chrismated on November 13, 2021 in St. Michael's Church, San Francisco, CA. Child of Artem Gaiduchenko and Alina Baibak. Sponsors: Oleksii Tokan and Anna Kurashvili. Celebrated by V. Rev. Georgiy Tyapko.

Dovgaliuk, Lukyan baptized and chrismated on December 4, 2021 in Holy Trinity Church, Sacramento, CA. Child of Igor Dovgaliuk and Chastin Dovgaliuk. Sponsors: Oleg Dovgaliuk and Brooke Pierman. Celebrated by Fr. Myroslav Turchak.

Gorsky, Eugene baptized and chrismated on July 25, 2020 in Assumption of the Virgin Mary Parish Church, Northampton, PA. Child of Eugene Gorsky and Helen Pelzman. Sponsors: and . Celebrated by Rev. Oleg Kravchenko.

Ivanko, Michael baptized and chrismated on November 7, 2021 in St. Michael's Church, San Francisco, CA. Child of Kiryl Ivanko and Daria Rudenko. Sponsors: Dzianis Ivanov and Kateryna Yermoloieva. Celebrated by V. Rev. Georgiy Tyapko.

Kurylo, Matthew baptized and chrismated on November 13, 2021 in St. Volodymyr Cathedral Church, New York, NY. Child of Mykhailo Kurylo and Olha Kurylo. Sponsors: Roman Ostash and Olha Polyvyana. Celebrated by V. Rev. Volodymyr Muzychka.

Moruza, Andrey Kasun baptized and chrismated on November 14, 2021 in St. Nicholas Church, Catonsville, MD. Child of Joseph Frank Kasun and Jacgueline Rorabeck. Sponsors: and Elisabeth A. M. Hall. Celebrated by Fr. Charles Sanderson.

Asleep in the Lord

Iwaszczenko, Tamara of Disputena, VA on December 12, 2021 at the age of 92 years, officiating clergy Fr. Yuriy Kasyanov of Holy Trinity Parish, Cheektowaga, NY 14227.

Krasnopeta, Emma of Northampton, PA on November 22, 2021 at the age of 95 years, officiating clergy Rev. Oleg Kravchenko of Assumption Virgin Mary Parish, Northampton, PA 18067.

Racz, Nancy Louise of Youngstown, OH on December 9, 2021 at the age of 103 years, officiating clergy Fr. Ivan Tchopko of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Youngstown, OH 44509.

Stcherbak, Andrej of Alden, NY on December 1, 2021 at the age of 91 years, officiating clergy Fr. Yuriy Kasyanov of Holy Trinity Parish, Cheektowaga, NY 14227.

Baptisms continued...

Moruza, Paul Delongpre baptized and chrismated on November 14, 2021 in St. Nicholas Church, Catonsville, MD. Child of Tito G. Maruza and Margaret Delongpre. Sponsors: Brian David Murphy. Celebrated by Fr. Charles Sanderson.

Ost, Brian baptized and chrismated on March 14, 2020 in Assumption of the Virgin Mary Parish Church, Northampton, PA. Child of and . Sponsors: and . Celebrated by Rev. Oleg Kravchenko.

Ost, Alexandra baptized and chrismated on October 14, 2006 in Assumption of the Virgin Mary Parish Church, Northampton, PA. Child of Brian Ost and Mary Leszczuk. Sponsors: William M. Leszczuk and Jeneen Ost. Celebrated by V. Rev. Basyl Zawierucha.

Continued from previous page...

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

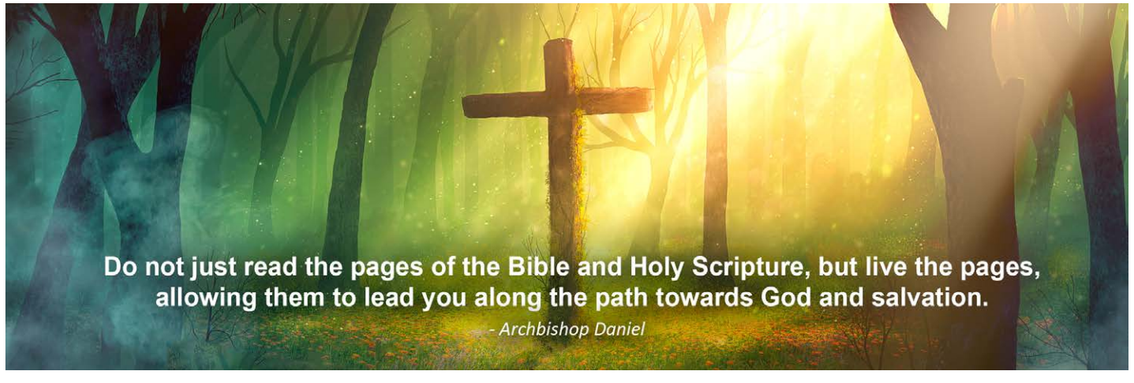
For this experiment you will need:

- 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

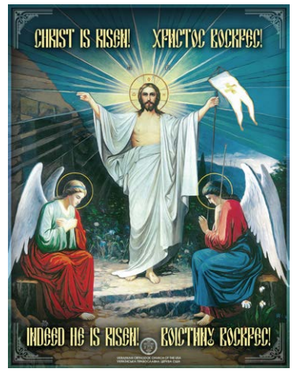
How To Perform the Pepper and Soap Experiment:
Step 1: Fill a shallow bowl or baking dish with water. The water is the life God created.
Step 2: Sprinkle pepper all over the water. You want enough to be very visible on the surface of the water. The pepper covers the entire surface of the water, just as sin enters our lives and darkens the world around us. Hatred, anger, pride, greed, etc.… all are like this salt, and destroy the once clean creation of God.
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 all sin and darkness, 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 Poukhalskii	**1/9/2000**
Rev. Andriy Matlak	**1/9/2013**
V. Rev. Roman Yatskiv	**1/14/1989**
Rev. Yurii 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 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**
Dn. Myroslav Mykytyuk	**1/30/2021**



MEMORY ETERNAL! **ВІЧНА ПАМ'ЯТЬ!**



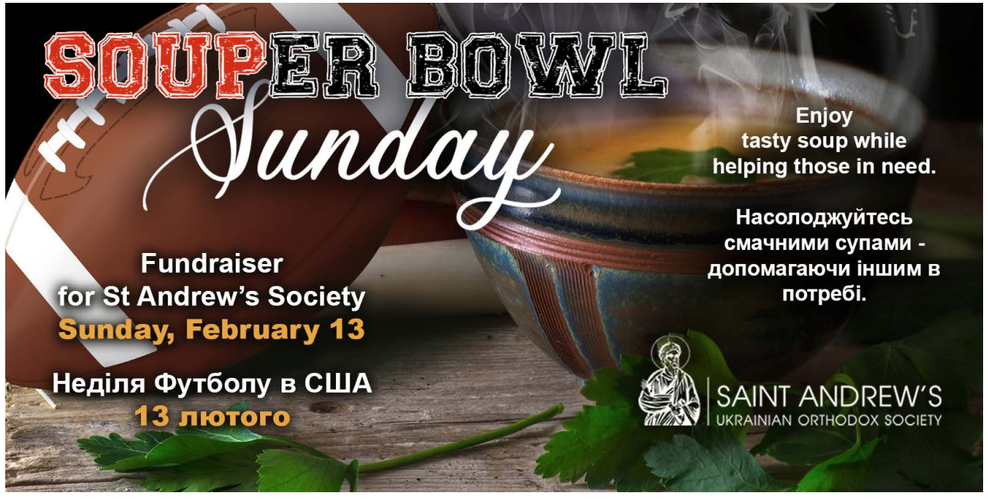
JANUARY

Archbishop Wolodymyr (Didowych) – January 20 1990

28th 1942 -	**PROTOPRIEST ISIDORE KOSTIUK**
27th 1955 -	**PROTOPRIEST JOSEPH BODNAR**
6th 1958 -	**PRIEST STEFAN VULCHYN**
9th 1968 -	**PROTOPRESBYTER JOHN SAWCHUK**
9th 1968 -	**PROTOPRESBYTER LEV WESOLOWSKY**
26th 1974 -	**PRTOPRESBYTER 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**

GIVE A GIFT TO THE NEWBORN CHRIST CHILD BY GIVING A GIFT TO A CHILD WHO SIMPLY NEEDS LOVE
ЗРОБІТЬ ДАРУНОК НОВОНАРОДЖЕНОМУ ХРИСТУ, НАДАЮЧИ ПІДТРИМКУ ДИТИНІ, ЯКА ПРОСТО ПОТРЕБУЄ ЛЮБОВІ
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА США
Benefitting children in
Mariupol and the Donbas War Region
Благодійна допомога дітям у
Маріуполі та на Донбасі

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE PATRON FEAST DAY - ST. SOPHIA UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
THREE HOLY HIERARCHS
HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY - 10 A.M.
FEBRUARY 12, 2022
ЛАСКАВО ЗАПРОШУЄМО ВАС НА ХРАМОВЕ СВЯТО СЕМІНАРІЙНОЇ КАПЛИЦІ
ТРЬОХ СВЯТИТЕЛІВ
АРХИЄРЕЙСЬКА БОЖЕСТВЕННА ЛІТУРГІЯ В 10 ГОДИНІ РАНКУ
12 ЛЮТОГО 2022


SOUPER BOWL
Sunday
Enjoy
tasty soup while
helping those in need.
Насолоджуйтесь
смачними супами -
допомагаючи іншим в
потребі.
Fundraiser
for St Andrew's Society
Sunday, February 13
Неділя Футболу в США
13 лютого
SAINT ANDREW'S
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX SOCIETY

MARCH FOR
LIFE
ПОХІД ЗАДЛЯ
ЖИТТЯ
JANUARY 21, 2022
WASHINGTON DC
21 СІЧНЯ, 2022
СТОЛИЦЯ США
ВАШИНГТОН

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

New Year - New Resource!

UOC Youth

An interactive magazine for youth & teens.

www.uocyouth.org

SAVE THE DATE!

JULY 27-31, 2022

In the beginning...

75th UOL Convention July 2022

St. Peter & St. Paul UOC Carnegie, PA

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75UOL2022

75th UOL Convention | St. Peter & St. Paul (orthodoxcarnegie.org)

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 Pokotylo at frandrii@yahoo.com, Howard West at howardewest1988@outlook.com, or Elizabeth Symonenko at symonsays@hotmail.com, or visit our website at guardiansofmet.org

ПОКРОВИТЕЛІ МИТРОПОЛІЇ

Члени Ради Митрополії, Консисторія, духовенство та вірні Української Православної Церкви США, у цей святковий день Собору Архистратига Божого Михаїла та всіх Небесних Сил Безтілесних, 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 збереженні міцною УПЦ США для майбутніх поколінь. Частиною місії Покровителів УПЦ США будуть старання в напрямку поповнення бюджету Церкви за рахунок щорічних членських внесків/спонсорства та додаткових пожертв 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-ласка, зв'яжіться з отцем Андрієм Покотило - frandrii@yahoo.com, Ховардом Вест - howardewest1988@outlook.com, або Єлизаветою Симоненко - symonsays@hotmail.com або відвідайте нашу вебсторінку 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
Ласкаво запрошуємо Вас до Українського Культурного Центру УПЦ США на концерт Різдвяних колядок

CAROLING FOR Christ

КОЛЯДА ДЛЯ Христа

Free admission
Вхід безкоштовний

1:00 PM
January 15, 2022
Ukrainian Cultural Center

о 13:00 годині
15 січня 2022
Український Культурний Центр

Prepare three of your favorite Christmas Carols or a short 15 min Christmas play/Vertep!

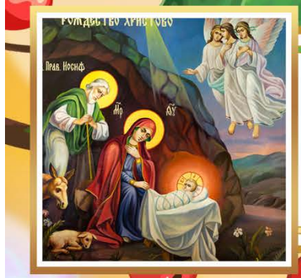
Підготуйте Ваші три улюблені колядки, або коротку сценку з вертепу!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

THE BABE WAS BORN!

To register, please contact Fr. Vasyl Pasakas.
Для того, щоб зареєструватися будь-ласка звертайтеся до о. Василя Пасакас.
(732) 356-0090
135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА США



UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS
В СІЧНІ СВЯТКУЄМО

УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА США

4
Great-Martyr Anastasia

Вмц. Анастасії

6
Eve of the Nativity of Christ

Навечір'я Різдва Христового

7
Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ

Різдво Господа Бога і Спаса нашого Ісуса Христа

8
Synaxis of the Theotokos

Собор Пресвятої Богородиці

9
Holy Protomartyr Archdeacon Stephen

Св. Ап. першомученика і архидиякона Стефана

11
Holy Innocents
(14,000 infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem)

Свв. Мучеників 14,000 немовлят вбитих Іродом у Вифлеємі

13
Ven. Melania

Прп. Меланії

14
St. Basil the Great

Свт. Василія Великого

18
Eve of the Theophany

Навечір'я Богоявлення

19
Holy Theophany of our Lord/Baptism of Christ

Святе Богоявлення, Хрещення Господа Бога

20
Synaxis of the Forerunner, John the Baptist

Собор Предтечі і Хрестителя Господнього Іоана

30
St. Anthony the Great

Прп. Антонія Великого

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS
В ЛЮТОМУ СВЯТКУЄМО

УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА США

6
Zacchaeus Sunday

Неділя Закхея

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: Василія Великого, Григорія Богослова і Іоана Златоуста

13
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee (Fast-free week)

Неділя про митаря та фарисея (Седмиця всеїдна)

15
THE MEETING OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

СТРІТЕННЯ ГОСПОДА БОГА І СПАСА НАШОГО ІСУСА ХРИСТА

20
Sunday of Prodigal Son

Неділя про блудного сина

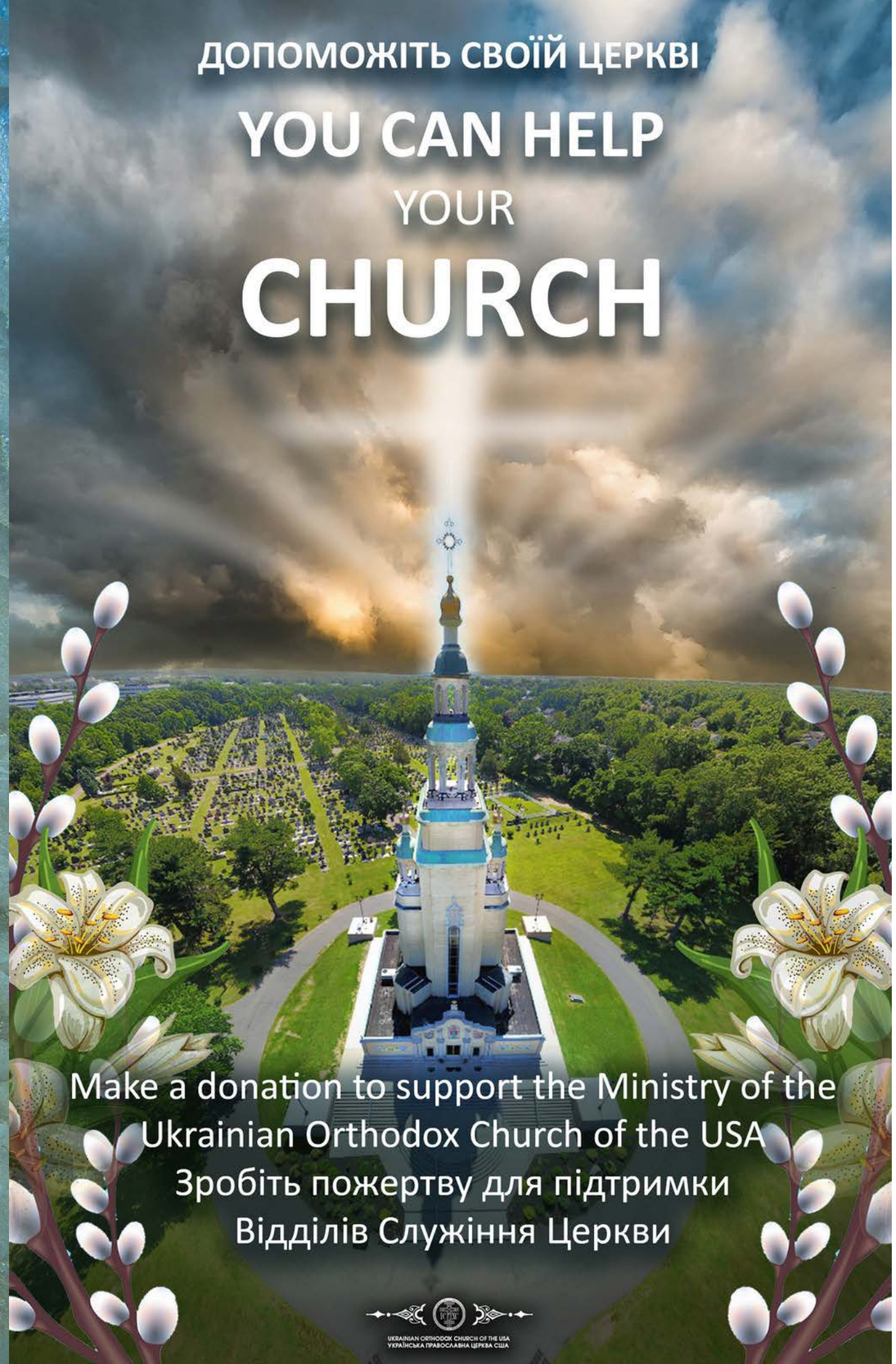
26
Memorial Saturday (Meatfare)

Субота поминальна (М'ясопусна

27
Meatfare Sunday (The Last Judgment)

Неділя М'ясопусна (про Страшний Суд)

ДОПОМОЖІТЬ СВОЇЙ ЦЕРКВІ
YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHURCH



Please, consider making a donation to the ministry of the UOC of the USA:
Online via PayPal using the DONATE button on our website: uocofusa.org
Bank Transfer - please contact treasurer@uocofusa.org for details
Checks - made payable to UOC of the USA - and mailed to the Consistory Offices:
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
135 Davidson Ave.
Somerset, NJ 08873

Будь ласка, розгляньте можливість зробити свою пожертву для служіння УПЦ США:
В інтернеті через PayPal за допомогою кнопки DONATE на нашому веб-сайті: www.uocofusa.org
Банківський переказ - будь-ласка, зв'яжіться з treasurer@uocofusa.org для отримання детальної інформації
Чеки – виписуючи на УПЦ США - і надсилаючи до: UOC of USA - 135 Davidson Ave. Somerset, NJ 08873

УКРАЇНСЬКЕ ПРАВОСЛАВНЕ СЛОВО
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX WORD
P.O. Box 495
South Bound Brook, NJ 08880

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Get involved in the life of your Church!
The success of all Church sponsored events depends upon your active participation!

Eve of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (STRICT FAST DAY)

January 6

Stuffed Toy Donations Due by:

January 30

Nativity of our Lord (Julian Calendar)

January 7

Save the Date SOBOR

2022

Eve of Theophany (Strict Fast) Great Blessing of Water

January 18

UOCofUSA
uocofusa.org

Theophany Great Blessing of Water

January 19

Mailing address: PO Box 495
South Bound Brook, NJ 08880

Shipping address: 135 Davidson Ave.
Somerset, NJ 08873

Tel: (732) 356-0090