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DECEMBER 5, 2010

ENGLISH VERSION

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL OF THE HIERARCHS OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



To Our Reverend Clergy, Reverend Religious, Seminarians, and to the Faithful,

Christ is Born!

Christmas begins with the joyful proclamation of good news. An angel of heaven announces to the shepherds that the Savior has been born. It is good news which cannot be contained. It is announced and celebrated in heaven and on earth by glorious choirs and lowly shepherds. We joyfully proclaim in our beautiful traditional way that "God is among us!" It is constantly repeated many times during the evening Compline Service. It is as if we cannot say it enough!

The angel announced to the shepherds the birth of Jesus and led them to the

manger. The angel also directed the three kings or astrologers to search for the newborn Jesus. Both the simple shepherds and the well studied astrologers heeded the proclamation of Jesus' birth in the world. They rearranged their lives to search for Jesus. They made personal sacrifice to greet Jesus into the world. Their hearts were open to the hand of God amidst them.

The ruler at the time, Herod, was also blessed to hear of the newborn King, Jesus. His heart and mind were not open to God's presence. He regarded Jesus' authority as a threat to his own authority. Pride does that to any person. The self takes on greater importance and significance than God Himself. The person ends up losing the privilege of coming to know God. The

angel of the Lord directed the astrologers to take a different route home to avoid revealing to Herod the place of the Child Jesus.

God continually intervenes through people in His love and concern for the welfare of all peoples. Yet, there are those who choose to allow pride and selfishness to overtake their hearts. They diminish the light of Jesus in the world. Reflect on how you yourself reveal the light of Jesus Christ in your life. Can you say of yourself that you are a hopeful person? Do you reflect God's love in your words and actions with others? Or, do you allow selfishness and pride to dominate your choices in life? Do you radiate God's love or do you diminish it?

Choosing to love God and to share the light

of Jesus Christ will bring you to a closer journey with Jesus in your earthly life and in eternity. Allow yourself to be the bright light of Jesus' love and care in the word around you and with the people you were given to love and to nurture in Jesus' name. You will come to share in the blessedness of our Blessed Mother who will intercede for your needs with Her Son, Jesus. You will then truly celebrate Christmas!

God grant you a most blessed Christmas celebration, filled with much joy shared with others. Know of our love for you and of our remembrance of you in

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CHRISTMAS PASTORAL

(continued from
previous page)

our prayers. May you be blessed with good health, happiness, and much contentment in all of your endeavors in the coming year!

Christ is Born! Let us glorify Him!

+Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan-
Archbishop of
Philadelphia

+Richard Seminack
Eparch of St.
Nicholas in
Chicago

+Paul Chomnycky,
OSBM
Eparch of Stamford

+John Bura
Apostolic
Administrator
of St. Josaphat in
Parma

Christmas, 2010



St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, New Jersey Celebrates Centennial Jubilee

October 24, 2010, marked the apex of the year-long celebration of the Centennial Jubilee of St. Nicholas Parish in Passaic. The day began with hierarchy and clergy processing to the entrance of the church,



led by **the Knights of Columbus honor guard**, altar servers and a cadre of children in Ukrainian Folk attire strewing rose petals in their path. At the entrance, Archbishop Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Archeparch of Philadelphia, was warmly greeted with bread and salt by parishioners, Sofia Capar and Robert J. Hrubec, and the children expressed a joyous welcome in Ukrainian verse. In return Archbishop blessed the crowd with a ceremonial cross.



A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy opened the celebration that day, to a church filled with parishioners, friends, and benefactors. Archbishop Metropolitan Stefan was the main celebrant; concelebrants were Most Rev. Hlib Lonchyna,

Studite, Apostolic Exarch of Great Britain, Most Rev. William Skurla, Bishop for the Ruthenian Diocese of Passaic, Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Bishop of the Eparchy of Stamford, Most Rev. Basil H. Losten, Bishop Emeritus, Eparchy of Stamford, **Rev. Jody Baron, assistant pastor of St. Michael** the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church, Rev. George Worschak, parish vocation, Jenkintown, PA, Msgr. Peter Waslo, who served as Deacon and Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, current pastor, and former pastors of St. Nicholas parish, Rev. Joseph Szupa, Protopresbyter for North Jersey, and Rev. Ihor Royik. Also in attendance were many of the clergy from the North Jersey Protopresbyterate, and Sr. Michele Yakymovitch, Provincial Superior, Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, and sixteen Sisters Servants, all of whom had

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St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, New Jersey Celebrates Centennial Jubilee

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served at the parish school, as well as representatives of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great.

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church Choir, under the direction of Andriy Legkyy, sang the responses to the Liturgy. The Epistle and Gospel were read in Ukrainian by Anatolii Dolyk and Rev. Royik, and English by Jerome Mykietyn and Rev. Szupa, respectively. In his homily, Archbishop Stefan acknowledged the newly completed iconography that adorns the church. He urged

parishioners, as well as all Ukrainian Catholics, to open up our churches to everyone, Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian, so that they may have knowledge of our worship traditions and view the beauty of our iconography, and to share with all the Word of God so richly depicted therein.



At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop blessed and consecrated the newly renovated church interior, and wished the parish and its parishioners many happy years as it began its new century. Following the consecration, the assembled poured out onto the front plaza and stairs leading up to the church for a commemorative photo.

Then it was on to the gala banquet at the Royal Manor. Over 500 guests were in attendance that evening. It was a time to renew old acquaintances and to make new ones; parishioners and former parishioners and guests mingled with parish school alumni,

former teachers and Sisters, many who had not seen each other in years. The banquet program opened with *The Our Father* sung by the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church Choir, and a blessing by Archbishop Stefan. Peter Kosciolek, master of ceremonies, was privileged to introduce the evening's program. George Yacekewycz,

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St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, New Jersey Celebrates Centennial Jubilee

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parishioner and resident poet, read an excerpt from the poem he wrote specifically for the Centennial Jubilee, and Steven Retkwa, second generation parishioner, pronounced the toast. The SUM Dancers, Passaic, welcomed the hierarchy and guests with the traditional Ukrainian greeting dance, *Pryvit*. After a delicious banquet, the keynote address was presented by Most Rev. Hlib Lonchyna, Studite, Apostolic Exarch of Great Britain and former pastor of St. Nicholas, who had flown in from Great Britain for this special occasion.



St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church Choir with their director, Andriy Legkyy, and the Choir "New Ukrainian Wave", directed by Myron Hrytsyk astounded all with their vocal renditions. As the evening drew to a close, Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, the current pastor, spoke warmly of his service here at the parish, the kindness and magnanimousness of the parishioners, and of the bright future ahead for St. Nicholas Parish. Closing out the joyous and entertaining evening was Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Bishop of Stamford Eparchy, who gave the Benediction.



Thus, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Passaic, New Jersey, begins its second century.



December 5, 2010

Centenarian Celebrates Parish Centennial Jubilee



Miss Julia Ressetar, at 101 years of age, marked the Centennial Jubilee of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Passaic, New Jersey, with a visit from its pastor, Rev. Andriy Dudkevych. Miss Julia is St. Nicholas's oldest living parishioner and the middle child in a family of 15. Due to health issues she was unable to participate in all of the jubilee events held on October 24th of this year. During his visit, Rev. Andriy presented Miss Julia with an icon of St. Nicholas, the parish patron saint, specially chosen for the celebration, and a copy of the jubilee commemorative book filled with the history and pictures of parish life. Miss Julia is a first-hand witness to much of the parish history recorded in the book

As for many Ukrainian families in the area, Miss Julia's family roots go back to the coal mining regions of Pennsylvania. Originally emigrating from what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the family settled in the Mount Carmel area, later moving onto New Jersey in search of jobs and security. Miss Julia and her family were always active parishioners. Many will remember her sister, Helen, who lived to age 99, and who for many years taught kindergarten and catechism preparation at the parish.

Speaking as one who has already begun her second century, Miss Julia's advice to the parish as it begins its second is to always keep our faith and prayer foremost in our hearts and minds. It is a far more dark and precarious world we live in today than it was 100 years ago she tells us, and now, even more so we need God in our lives and to light our way. God grant you many more years of health, happiness, and salvation, Miss Julia!

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

"Jesus went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets." (Lk. 6, 17-23)



St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

A long time ago in a place far away...a baby was born to a well to do Christian family in about 270 AD. He would be known throughout the coming years down through the centuries as a model of Christian love and caring especially of children. The family lived in a city called Patara, in the province of Lycia, which in this present day is in Turkey of all places. Myra, the capital of this province and within walking distance from Patara, had been visited by St. Paul during his missionary tours and the faith in Christ had been firmly planted in the hearts of the people. They, as all parents, had high hopes for their son, that he would grow up to be able to serve the Lord in some wonderful manner. Nicholas showed at a very early age, a desire to study the Holy Scriptures. In fact, at the age of 5 he began studying the Holy books with the teachers of the faith. His respect and love for the Scriptures continued as he grew. Still a young man, Nicholas' parents both died, leaving him on his own but with great wealth. Many in this position would have spent their lives enriching themselves. Yet, from then on it is told, that Nicholas resolved in his heart to use this fortune for the needs of his people. In love, he

began doing, in secret, many good deeds with the money his parents had left him. The most famous story we have of Nicholas is the one that is still told, as it became known throughout the region, and the whole Christian world. Nicholas was told of a very serious problem the father of three daughters had. Living in Nicholas' hometown, and following the customs of the society at that time, the father was unable to provide the money necessary for a dowry for his beautiful daughters so that they could marry. In this era, having no dowry meant that they would most certainly be sold into prostitution. The father was beside himself. What would he do? Nicholas was to rescue the daughters from their fate. In secret, and in the middle of the night, Nicholas took three gold coins from his great wealth. Not wanting them to know where the money had come, some say he rode in a horse drawn carriage past the family's home and through the small bag containing the coins through the window as he rode by. As was often done, the daughters had stockings hanging to be dried on the hearth of their fireplace. The bag of coins landed inside the first daughters stocking. When the family awoke, they knew nothing of what had happened until the stockings were removed and lo and behold, the bag and coins were discovered. You can

imagine the great joy that filled the household of this desperate family. Now, at least the first daughter would be able to be married and not fall into a life of misery. But what was to become of the other daughters? Nicholas repeated his act of charity the next two nights. But on the last night, the curious father wanted to catch the patron in the act to thank him for his gracious gifts. Waiting up, he did just that! Watching from the window, he saw it was Nicholas that was the wonderworker and giver of love. He thanked Nicholas profusely for his great kindness and unmerited love for his daughters could now all live upright lives in their community. This story has been told for generations and generations as a model practice of love and giving. As it has been told, it is often embellished and was modified to fit different cultures of the Christian world. Nicholas became known, even though his desire was to work in secret, as the Wonderworker, for his great deeds. As it was, Nicholas was in Myra one day when the elders

were meeting. Nicholas had grown up participating in his parish church, being an acolyte and serving at the altar. Because of his knowledge of the Scriptures, he had become a deacon and a priest. The elders were meeting this particular day, to select a new bishop. Nicholas was elected to this office and served the region for many years. On festive days, Bp. NICHOLAS would dress in his fine robes, fitting of the office, and serve his cathedral graciously. With his red robes and mitered hat, he was a glorious sight to see. He loved his people and his people loved him. During the era in which this all took place, there was a great persecution of Christians. The Emperor of that time was called Diocletian. Diocletian's men often went for the leadership of the church. It is reported that this was the case with Bp. NICHOLAS. He was captured, and publicly tortured for his faith. Finally he was chained and thrown into prison...along with many others. It was not until the Emperor Constantine replaced Diocletian, that Christians, along with Bp. NICHOLAS, were finally released. It is hard to imagine this type of

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St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

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persecution. Many died for their faith. When released, Bp. NICHOLAS returned to Myra. He continued to serve his people, teaching them the faith and life in Christ - not of hate, but of love. As time passed, Constantine enabled a great gathering of bishops from all over the world to come together in the city of Nicea. This was no easy task in the 4th century. Imagine; no cell phones, no cars, no trains or planes to make communication quick and effortless. Bp. NICHOLAS was to join this great event. Constantine organized the event to discuss and dispel a controversy that had arisen in many of the churches. This division was led by a person called Arius. Now Arius was not particularly an evil person, yet he was teaching that Christ was not God, but was merely a man. Out of the controversy we Christians gained the clearly stated Nicene Creed. What does this have to do with our story of St. Nicholas? Well, being in attendance, he debated with Arius regarding his beliefs. Bp. NICHOLAS, being well schooled in the Scriptures was prepared to defend his faith. But, I am afraid to report that Arius got the best of him. So angry with the heretical teaching of Arius and his followers was Bp. NICHOLAS, that he

slapped Arius in the face, attempting to, in a very human way, stop him from his blasphemy. Bp. NICHOLAS would never live down this act, and he was ex-communicated from the Church because of it. Now some would say this was not characteristic of our present day thinking of the "Jolly ol' St. Nick", yet as we know, all things work together for good for those that love the Lord. After some time, Nicholas confessed his sin and was restored to his position as the bishop of Myra. Arius was defeated, not because of Nicholas' famous outburst, but because he was wrong. Many other miracles were told of our to-be Santa Claus. Living near the Mediterranean Sea, in a city of great commerce and shipping, the Bp. NICHOLAS, often blessed the ships and their crews departing on long voyages. He became known as the patron saint, not only of young children, but also of sailors. In fact, so well known was Nicholas for the many miracles that were associated with him and the sailors, that many years later, we find coins stamped with the likeness of Nicholas on them. These miracles are far to

numerous to account for in this story, however one stands out. Nicholas is said to have appeared to Constantine in a dream. This story is past down to us to this day. A local governor was bribed to condemn three innocent men to death. On the day fixed for their execution Nicholas showed up and stopped the executioner and had them released. He sternly criticized the governor and he repented. There were three imperial officers, Nepotian, Ursus, and Herpylion, on their way to duty in Phrygia who witnessed this. Later, these men were imprisoned on false charges of treason and, the Emperor Constantine signed an order for their death. They remembered the bishop of Myra's passion for justice and prayed to God that he would help them as well. That night Nicholas appeared to Constantine in a dream, ordering him to release the three innocent officers. The local magistrate had the same dream, and in the morning these two spoke of their dreams, and decided to look into the matter personally. On learning that they had prayed for the intervention of Nicholas, Constantine freed them and sent them

to the bishop with a letter asking him to pray for the peace of the world. Now, as time passed, Bp. NICHOLAS was regarded as a living saint. His many charitable acts and his great love for those that were troubled had been known far and wide. It is said that as he grew older, his face shown with the light of Christ. As an old man, he died in Myra and was buried in the Cathedral there. You can still visit his church this very day, centuries after his wonder-giving life has passed. We continue to celebrate St. Nicholas day on his death day, December 6th every year. Somehow, perhaps due to the day being during the Nativity fast, over time, St. Nicholas day became associated with the Nativity of our Lord Jesus, and was joined together by many into what we now call Christmas. As you can see, the saint we remember was much a part of Church history. Even though many of the stories have been embellished, it is certain that this great saint of the Church is to be remembered for his great love and dedication to his people, especially children, and to the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, we continue to tell of his great love, and likeness of Christ our Savior. Peace to the world, Glorify Him!

Holy Ghost Church, Chester, PA

Children of all ages (and adults)
are invited to

meet the **REAL ST. NICHOLAS**



Sunday Dec. 5, 2010
after the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Brunch buffet will be served

\$10.00 Adults

\$5.00 Children 12 and under (age 5 and under free)

Sponsored by Apostleship of Prayer

Pease join us in a celebration of **Saint Nicholas**, the
patron Saint of children and sailors.

CALL Barbara 610-485-6686 FOR RESERVATIONS

Conception of St. Anne (Immaculate Conception)

NOTICE

This notice is written to remind the clergy and faithful that the Holy Day of the Conception of St. Anne (Immaculate Conception) is celebrated on Wednesday, 9 December. It is **not** a Holy Day of Obligation. By decree of the Ukrainian Bishops of the Metropolitan Province of Philadelphia on 30 November, 2006 this Holy Day has been re-appointed to its original celebration.

St. Josaphat - Martyr for the Faith

On November 12th, Roman Catholics and Eastern Catholics remembered St. Josaphat Kuntsevych, a bishop and monk whose example of faith inspired many Eastern Orthodox Christians to return to full communion with the Holy See. St. Josaphat, worked faithfully for the unity of the Church until he suffered martyrdom. He died defending the truths expressed in the Creed, "I believe in One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic church." St. Josaphat is the first Ukrainian saint canonized by the Catholic Church. Pope Pius IX proclaimed him a Saint of the Church Universal on June 29, 1867 and he is buried in a glass fronted altar in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

On the feast day of St. Josaphat, the students of **Assumption Catholic School** participated at the Liturgy and meditated on the life and heroic holiness of the great saint. After the Liturgy, Sr. Yosaphata, the Vice Principal and Financial Administrator of the school, received a beautiful bouquet of flowers on her feast day.



Welcome to Assumption Catholic School

Meredith and Jacques Streets
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone - 732-826-8721
Fax - 732-826-5013
E-mail: ACSSchooloffice@gmail.com
Website: www.assumptioncatholicsschool.net

"Building confident, happy, and successful children"

Founded in 1963, Assumption Catholic School brings the tradition of high-quality Catholic education to the city of Perth Amboy, NJ. We are a fully accredited school that provides a safe, Christ-centered, Catholic environment to a diverse population of pre-Kindergarten through 8th-grade students. Our school welcomes students and families of any religion, race or nationality to receive a comprehensive learning experience combined with the Christian values of the Catholic Faith.

If you would like to receive more information about our school, you may call our office at 732-826-8721



Tradition Behind School Fundraiser

The students and teachers spend weeks preparing the homemade foods and baked goods - including 300 dozens of pierogies (varenyky) - to sell at the schools' annual Christmas Bazaar to raise money for **Assumption Catholic School** and its outreach. Working alongside their teachers, the students learned the value of a hard day's work - and that cooperation



comes first. The Pierogies Project is always filled with love for our traditions and Church. A very special thanks to the members of

the school FSA for putting in especially long hours assisting with all sorts of preparations leading up to the School Christmas Bazaar!

CLASS OF 2011 RECEIVES CLASS RINGS



On Friday, November 19, 2010 the eighth grade class was buzzing with excitement. If you saw them you would have witnessed them practically floating through the halls. This was their big day. They received their class rings. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy Fr. Ivan Turyk blessed their rings in a

beautiful ceremony. The students were told about the significance of the ring and how it should always remind them of their days here at **Assumption Catholic School**. Each student then came forward to Fr. Ivan and received their rings. Fr. Paul Makar, the vocation director of Philadelphia Archdiocese, was also part of this special day. Students were happy to be the first to receive their rings from the new Pastor and Administrator of the school Fr. Ivan. They were also happy to have two priests for their ceremony. After students received their rings, they had their pictures taken with both priests, their



principal, Mr. S. and their teacher, Mrs. Pickering. They then took their families to the Church hall for a small celebration. More pictures were taken and rings were turned. The turning of the rings is a tradition in which the students have others give one complete turn to their rings until they reach the year of their graduation. For this year's class it would be 111 because the class of 1999 turned theirs 99 times.



The Class of 2011 has lived up to their responsibility of being good role models for the rest of the school. The entire ACS family congratulates them and hopes they enjoy the rest of their days here at ACS.

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Renewed Ukrainian Interest In 20th-Century Church Leader Sheptytsky

The research of Ukrainian historians has led to renewed interest in the Servant of God Metropolitan Archbishop Andrey Sheptytsky (1865-1944), who led the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church for over four decades and saved the lives of Jews during World War II.

Venerable John Paul II told Ukrainian bishops in 2001:

I wish to recall with gratitude other Pastors too who also paid dearly for their faithfulness to

Christ and for their decision to remain in union with the Successor of Peter. How can we fail to recall, among them, the Servant of God Metropolitan Andrii Sheptytsky? My revered predecessor, Pope Pius XII, declared that his noble life was cut short "not so much by his advanced age, but by the sufferings of his soul as Pastor, struck down with his flock."

<http://www.ewtn.com/vnews/getstory.asp?number=108733>
12-November-2010-
Catholic World News Brief

ST. MICHAEL'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, FRACKVILLE

**TO PRESENT CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT
PROCESSIONAL SUN., DEC. 5 AT 4 P.M.;
PROGRAM TO INCLUDE BRASS ENSEMBLE,
REENACTMENT OF THE NATIVITY STORY
AND AUDIENCE CAROL SING-A-LONG**

FRACKVILLE, PA.—: St. Michael's Church extends its annual holiday invitation to one and all to attend A Christmas Candlelight Processional Pageant, which will be held Sunday, December 5 at 4 p.m. in St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, West Oak Street, Frackville. "This is our annual Christmas gift to the community," is the way Rev. Archpriest John M. Fields characterized this pageant, which was first presented by the parish children in 2004.

The program will include the story of the Birth of Christ, with Scripture reading, a reenactment of the Nativity scene by the children of the parish, and an audience carol sing-a-long with many of the traditional Christmas carols, including Ukrainian carols.

A brass ensemble will perform before the program and also provide accompaniment during the presentation.

The pageant will include the participation of children portraying Joseph, Mary, the three wise men, angels, shepherds, and villagers.

The audience will sing along as traditional carols are interspersed with the narration of the Gospel accounts of the Nativity of the Christ Child.

After the program, the outdoor Christmas tree lighting will take place.

Then all are invited to enjoy a covered dish which will be served in the parish hall and St. Nicholas will make his annual visit. The feast of St. Nicholas is December 6.

There is no admission and the program is open to the public.

For additional information or directions, please call the parish rectory: (570) 874-1101.



THEATRICAL PLAY

"Evening of Kozak Glory"

Assumption Parish - School Auditorium
684 Alta Vista Place, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Sunday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Join us for this unique fundraising event, which will benefit the St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, NJ! St. John's parish is in the process of building a new church and all proceeds from the Theatrical Play will go into their Church Building Fund.

The evening will include: a special presentation of Ukrainian Kozak life, music, and singing. The play will be in Ukrainian but you will enjoy the singing and beautiful Ukrainian costumes.

Tickets are \$10 for Adults

For tickets call Oksana Pylypiv at (201) 213-4321.

Tickets will also be sold at the door.

All are Welcome!

Northeastern Pennsylvania's Seventh Annual Ukrainian New Year Dinner Dance - MALANKA



**Malanka will be conducted on Friday, January 14, 2011
from 6:00pm to 1:00am at St. Vladimir Parish Center,
428 North Seventh Avenue,
Scranton, Pennsylvania.**

A generous buffet including Ukrainian specialties will be served along with a midnight bubbly toast and dancing to the music of Fata Morgana. Cash bar and door prizes.

Tickets are \$40.00. Reservations can be made by contacting parish ticket coordinators:

**St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Scranton and
St. Andrew UOC, Blakely** - Helenmarie Olecki 570 343-8002

**SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Olyphant and
SS. Peter and Paul UGCC, Simpson** - Sandra Berta 570 383-9487

SS. Peter and Paul UGCC, Wilkes-Barre - Dr. Michael Labuda 570 820-7105

St. Vladimir UGCC, Edwardsville - Andy and Dorothy Jamula 570 822-5354

SS. Cyril and Methodius UGCC, Berwick - Ann Zinich 570 752-4706

St. Nicholas UGCC, Glen Lyon - Debbie Fudjak 570 736-6908

SS. Peter and Paul UGCC, Plymouth - Ann Beshada 570 829-4202

St. Volodymyr UGCC and SS. Peter and Paul UOC, Glen Spey, NY -
Christina Shablovsky 845 856-5700

Holy Transfiguration UGCC, Nanticoke - Gerry Adamchak 570 824-3880

St. Vladimir UGCC, Scranton - Shirley Nidoh 570 344-5359

*No tickets will be sold at the door.
Early reservations are encouraged*

ECED Autumn Meeting Falls into Place

The semi-annual meeting of the Conference of the Eastern Catholic Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED) was held Monday, November 1-Thursday, November 4 in Houston, Texas.

The Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center provided facilities for the discussion sessions, and ample place for lodging, eating, praying and social gathering for the days of intense deliberations.

Besides regular attention to the business end of the board—accounting for monies spent, sales of catechetical material, and production of new catalogues, the group also spent much time on the revision of seventh and eighth grade texts.

Tuesday, after a day of concentrated effort, after dinner the group traveled to nearby St John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Parish for the celebration of vespers—and another item of business. Vespers was celebrated by Fr Elias Rafaj, pastor and vice-chair of ECED, who arranged the local details for the meeting. After a brief social get together with some of the parishioners, a presentation was made by Larry Monks, who is developing a new ECED website.

It was time to return to the retreat center and get some rest to prepare for the next day's schedule of meetings. A comprehensive report was given by the business manager, plans were discussed for other on-going projects and production of new material. Much attention was given to the topic of the "Encounter of the Eastern Churches" a seminar for catechists and other interested persons slated for the Autumn of 2012. Still in early stages of development, the Encounter is envisioned as three regional presentations (East Coast, Midwest, West Coast) to focus on matter of importance to those who teach "religion" at school or at home.

The final day was devoted to wrapping up some of the loose ends, and election of the board members. Setting the date for the next meeting, to be held in Pittsburgh, the meeting was adjourned, and the group made their way back to the airports for the journey home.



PHOTO: ECED members **L-R:** Fr Leonard Korchinski (Eparchy of St Nicholas, Chicago); Fr James Bankston, (St Nicholas) Fr Vasile Colopelnic (Eparchy of Stamford); Fr John Lucas (St Nicholas); Bishop Nicholas (Samra) episcopal liaison of the Eastern Catholic Bishops; Dr Barbara Lutz, treasurer/business Manager, Very Rev Gregory Noga, chairman, (Eparchy of Passaic); Fr Elias Rafaj, vice-chair,) Sr Marion Dobos OSB, (Archeparchy of Pittsburgh); Fr Anthony Hernandez (Eparchy of the Protection, Phoenix) and Cindy Corbett, recording secretary.

Schedule of services at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for Christmas 2010

Friday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE.
9:00 p.m.- Compline Lytia Service. Hierarchical
Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG).

Saturday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY.
9:00 a.m.- Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (UKR).
11.00 a.m.- Divine Liturgy (ENG).

December 26 - SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.
SYNAXIS OF THEOTOKOS.
9.00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR).
11.00 a.m. Divine Liturgy(ENG).

Monday, December 27 -
FEAST OF ST. STEFAN.
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG).

Saturday, January 1 - CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD.
FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT. NEW YEAR'S DAY.
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG).
4:30 p.m. Sunday's Divine Liturgy (ENG)

Wednesday, January 5 - EVE OF THEOPHANY
6:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy. Blessing of Water (ENG).

Thursday, January 6 - THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
(JORDAN).
9:00 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Blessing of Water (UKR).

Friday, January 7 - CHRISTMAS (Julian Calendar)
10:00 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (UKR).

January 9 – SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY
3 p. m. FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS



Christmas Bazaar Базар Різдвяний DECEMBER 4-5, 2010

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Old York & Valley Roads Elkins Park, PA

Saturday 10:00AM - 7:00PM

Sunday 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Featuring:

- ◆ HOLY SUPPER - "СВЯТА ВЕЧЕРА" TABLE
- ◆ HOME-BAKED CAKES AND COOKIES
- ◆ UKRAINIAN TABLE: CDS, CHRISTMAS CARDS, EMBROIDERIES, CERAMICS
- ◆ FOOD COURT SERVING TRADITIONAL UKRAINTIAN "PIEROGIES & HOLUBTSI"
- ◆ RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS



U.S. BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN UKRAINE

The American Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor published its annual International Religious Freedom Report. The report analyzes religious demography, policy framework and legislation, restrictions of religious freedom, and societal respect for religious freedom.

“The government generally respected religious freedom in practice. There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom by the government during the reporting period,” reads the report. But “local officials at times took sides in disputes between religious organizations, and property restitution problems remained; however, the government continued to facilitate the return of some communal properties.”



Anti-Semitism and anti-Islamism are reported as prime examples of societal abuse and discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice. There is no formal state religion but in certain regions of the country, smaller religious groups complained of unequal treatment by local authorities.

There are conflicts between the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate (UOC-KP) regarding church property, also the UGCC in eastern Ukraine has problems with local authorities in obtaining land for church construction. Lviv’s Jewish community is concerned about the ancient cemetery (now it is a municipal market which can be sold to a private investor). Also the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Ukraine reported some difficulties with registering new religious communities in Crimea due to what it considered the political bias of some local authorities. These are few of examples from the International Religious Freedom Report.

But the main issue according to Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor is still restitution. “Restitution of communal property confiscated by the Soviet regime generally remained a problem. The slow pace of restitution was partly a reflection of the country’s budgetary situation, which limited funds available to relocate occupants of seized religious property. In addition, restitution claims for the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities were complicated by intracommunal competition for particular properties,” reads the report.

Information

The International Religious Freedom report is submitted to Congress annually by the Department of State in compliance with Section 102(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) of 1998. This report supplements the most recent Human Rights Reports by providing additional detailed information with respect to matters involving international religious freedom. It includes individual country chapters on the status of religious freedom worldwide.

www.risu.org.ua



NEW YEAR'S EVE "ZABAVA" 2010

Sponsored by
Ukrainian Assumption Church



**Friday, December 31, 2010
8:00 p.m.**

**School Auditorium - Meredith & Jacques Sts.
Perth Amboy, NJ**



**Music by
"HALYCHANY"**

**Delicious, Bountiful Buffet Dinner
served at 8:00 p.m.
and available all evening
Champagne toast and dessert table
Last year 400 people attended**

**Advanced Ticket Sales - \$70.00 per person
After December - 25, \$80.00**



No refunds - No tickets at the door

**For Tickets Contact the Church
732-826-0767**

Metropolitan's Schedule for December, 2010

December

1, 2 - Meeting of Vision Planning Committee of Synod of Ukrainian Catholic Church, London, UK

5 - 60th Anniversary Celebration of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Hillsborough, NJ

7 - Meeting of Bishops and Religious and Monastic Superiors of USA of the Ukrainian Catholic Church

9 - Women's Day 2011 Planning Meeting
- Archieparchial/Sisters of St. Basil Pilgrimage to the Mother of God 2011 Meeting

10 - Meeting of Vocations Representatives of Eastern Catholic Associates of USA

14 - Meeting of Directors of Archieparchial Corporation
- Meeting of Trustees of Endowment Funds of Archeparchy
- Meeting of Archieparchial Consultors

15 - Computer Workshop for Staff of Archeparchy

16 - Conference call meeting of Research Committee for Causes and Context Studies of Sexual Abuse

24, 25 - Christmas Hierarchical Divine Liturgies at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral

26 - Clergy Gathering at Bishops' Residence

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 4, 2010: Christmas Bazaar at the Nativity of BVM Church (630 Laurel Street, Reading PA) from 12 to 4PM. Baked bread, rolls, pyrohy, holubtsi, halushki, soups, cakes & pastry, art & crafts, raffle and more. For more info, please call 610.376.0586 or e-mail nativitybvmucc@catholic.org.

December 5, 2010: 60th Anniversary. St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1700 Brooks Boulevard, Hillsborough, NJ, 12pm. For information call 908-725-5089.

December 5, 2010: After 10:45am Sunday Liturgy, a light lunch will be held prior to St. Nicholas visiting the Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic parish located at Liberty Ave & Bloy St. in Hillside (Union County), NJ. The parish children and Odarka Polanskyj-Stockert will present a bilingual entertainment program in honor of St. Nicholas. For further information, please visit the parish website at www.byzcath.org/ImmaculateConception or email ICUkrainianCatholic@yahoo.com

December 5, 2010: Holy Ghost Church, Chester, PA will celebrate the St. Nicholas feast day on Sunday Dec. 5, after the 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy. Brunch will be served, sponsored by Apostleship of Prayer, followed by a visit from St. Nick. \$10.00 adults/\$5.00 children 12 and under (age 5 and under free). Please call Barbara @610-485-6686 for reservations.

December 11, 2010: Annual Cookie Walk, St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1545 Easton Rd, Warrington, PA, 9AM. www.stanneukrainiancc.com

December 11, 2010: Holy Ghost Church, Chester, PA. Annual Christmas cookie sale. Assorted one pound trays, \$12.50 per pound. Orders must be placed in advance. Please call 610-459-1935. Deadline to order is Sunday Dec. 5, 2010.

December 5, 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 19, 2010: Generations of Faith (GOF) at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, 4521 Longshore Ave, Philadelphia, PA. Following 10 AM Liturgy. Kindly enroll 2 weeks in advance. 215-332-8488.

December 31, 2010: Zabava – New Year's Eve 2010. Assumption Parish in Perth Amboy, NJ. Tickets are now available for the 2010 New Year's Eve Dance to be held in the school auditorium on Friday, December 31, 2010. The fabulous buffet dinner will be served at 8:00 p.m. and available all evening. Music will be provided by the band "HALYCHANY". Champagne toast is included but you can also "Bring Your Own Bottle." Advanced Ticket Sales - \$70.00 per person. After December - 25, \$80.00. Almost 400 people attended Zabava last year. No refunds - No tickets at the door. For Tickets Contact the Church 732-826-0767.

January 9, 2011: Festival of Christmas Carols, 3pm, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia.

January 14, 2011: Malanka (Dance), St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 N. Seventh Ave, Scranton, PA. For information call Paul at 570-563-2275

March 26, 2011: Archeparchial Women's Day

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Articles and photos proposed for publication should be in the Editor's office at least two weeks before requested date of publication. For advance notice of the upcoming events, kindly send one month in advance. All articles must be submitted in both English and Ukrainian languages, THE WAY will not translate proposed articles. All materials submitted to THE WAY become the property of THE WAY.