

WAY **ШЛЯХ**

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

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JANUARY 30, 2011

ENGLISH VERSION

Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

**Sunday, January 9, 2011
Cathedral of the Immaculate
Conception, Philadelphia, PA**

Watch videos from the
Festival on our Blog at
www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

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**Sisters Servants of Mary
Immaculate visited Cathedral**

Sunday, January 16, 2011



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**Sr. Nadia Baranick,
MSMG,
Reposed in the Lord**



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Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols



**Combined choir:
Cathedral of the
Immaculate
Conception,
Philadelphia, PA
and Annunciation of
the BVM parish,
Melrose Park, PA**

Directors:
Lesya Penkalskyj and
Irene Zwarych

**Choir from
St. Josaphat parish,
Trenton, NJ**

Director:
Roman Kuczarsky



*Watch videos from the
Festival on our Blog at
www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com*

**Choir from
St. Nicholas parish,
Passaic, NJ**

Director:
Olesya Hrywnak

Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

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**Male Choir
"Prometheus",
Philadelphia, PA**

Director:
Roman Kuczarsky

**Choir from the
Assumption of the
BVM parish,
Perth Amboy, NJ**

Director:
Alla Korostyl



**Choir from the
Nativity of the
BVM parish,
New Brunswick,
NJ**

Director:
Bohdanna Hnatyk



Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

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Choir from St. Michael parish, Baltimore, MD

Director:
Nazar Kalivoshko



Choir from St. Michael parish, Jenkintown, PA

Director: Maria Kaminska



**Male Choir
"Dzvin",
Philadelphia, PA**

Director:
Nestor Kyzymyshyn

Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

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**Chamber Choir "Accolade",
Philadelphia, PA**

Director: Bohdan Henhalo



Bandura, Detroit



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka

**Watch videos from the
Festival on our Blog at
www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com**



Many thanks to Tatianna Bilyj for helping take pictures and video for "The Way".



Metropolitan Stefan poses with the Combined Choir

January 30, 2011

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate visited the Cathedral on January 16, 2011.

To much delight from many parishioners, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate visited the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia on January 16th. The Sisters have been visiting parishes in celebration of their jubilee year, 50 Years as a province and 75 Years of ministry.

Towards the conclusion of the Liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka and Rev. Ivan Demkiv; Sr. Michele, SSMI, read a speech in both English and Ukrainian telling the history of the Sisters presence over the years at the Cathedral, from being teachers at the Cathedral School, to being members of the Chancery staff, and even Sr. Thomas, SSMI, being the first female Chancellor of the Archeparchy.

Sr. Michele concluded her speech saying, "Know that you have our prayers and support and if it should come to pass that you need us, we will strive to be with you, if not physically, definitely with our prayerful support. May God bless each and everyone of you." *(Read Sr. Michele's entire speech on our blog at www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com).*

After Sr. Michele's speech, a Jubilee Commemorative picture was presented to Rev. Ivan Demkiv, pastor of the Cathedral.

After the Liturgy, everyone headed over to the Cathedral Cafeteria and shared memories with the Sisters over coffee and pastries, which they provided to the parishioners as their way of saying "Thanks". The Sisters also gave everyone a Jubilee Commemorative keepsake, pens, and a computer disk containing a photo slideshow of memories!

-Teresa Siwak

(Editor of "The Way", and graduate of the Cathedral School taught by the Sisters Servants.)



Sr. Michele speaks about the history of the Sisters (also pictured are Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka and Rev. Ivan Demkiv)

Watch a video from the Sister Servants visit on our blog at www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate visited the Cathedral on January 16, 2011.

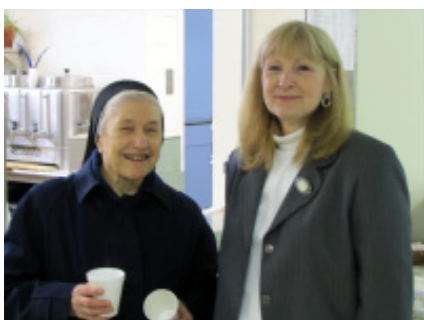
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Rev. Ivan Demkiv is presented with the Jubilee Commemorative picture.



Photo Memories Disk



January 30, 2011

Sr. Nadia Baranik, M.S.M.G. Reposed in the Lord

Mother Nadia Helen Baranik, M.S.M.G., 80, fell asleep in the Lord at Philadelphia, PA on Friday, January 21, 2011, in her 65th year of Religious Life; the last eight of which she served as Mother General of her monastic community.

Born on December 29, 1930, in Olyphant, PA, she was the youngest child of the late Jordan and Anna (Kravetsky) Baranik, and a member of SS. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant, PA. Sr. Nadia entered the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Mother of God on August 26, 1947. She professed her final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on January 1, 1957.



Sr. Nadia lived an exemplary religious life, humbly and generously fulfilling the many tasks assigned to her. She devoted many years to teaching business courses at Mother of God Academy, working at the convent preschool and conducting catechism classes at various parishes. She felt privileged to serve as a sacristan, bake altar bread, and to cook and care for the household needs of the hierarchy. Sister was also entrusted with the development and management of the Treasury of Faith Museum in Philadelphia. Gifted musically, Sr. Nadia used her talents to glorify God through daily chanting of the Divine Office, and by training others in liturgical singing.



Sr. Nadia always had a cheerful smile, kind words and a warm welcome for everyone she met. May she now merit to have the radiantly smiling Face of Christ gaze on her with special love for all eternity.

Sr. Nadia is survived by three sisters: Olga Jadick, Teddy Norovich and Ann Bartnicki; one brother, Andrew Baranik; and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by two sisters: Mary Guralny and Helen Baranick; and two brothers, Metro Baranik and Al Baranik.

Her funeral was held on January 28, 2011 at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and her burial was at Our Lady of Sorrows Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Langhorne, PA.

Any memorial donations may be sent to the Missionary Sisters of Mother of God, 711 N. Franklin St, Philadelphia, PA 19123.

Вічна пам'ять! Eternal Memory!

**Women's Day
March 26,
2011**



God's Presence in the Seasons of a Woman's Life

This presentation will reflect on how God is present in the seasons of a Women's life. The speakers will stress the three seasons in a woman's life – Spring Summer and Fall. The day has been fashioned to include one hour presentations from each of the presenters, followed by group work and feedback. The day will end with aligning the three seasons of a woman's life and a prayer ritual indicative of the winter season and resurrection.

Our Speakers:

Dr. Zenia Chernyk



A nephrologist in private practice, Dr. Chernyk is a dedicated humanitarian and activist for the healthcare needs of children. As former chairperson of the Ukrainian Federation of America, her focus is on children who need specialized medical treatment. She works tirelessly to improve healthcare in Ukraine in rural practice clinics and through preventive medicine.

Christine Hayda



As wife and mother of four, Christine holds a Master's degree in Organization Development from Loyola University of Chicago. Her work with the Catholic community has included chairing eparchial conferences, serving as General Secretary for Encounter of Eastern Churches, facilitating retreats for eparchial clergy and parish councils, and workshop facilitation with financial and educational institutions and faith based communities. Christine is currently completing a second Master's degree, on identity crisis in women.

Lada Pastushak



Armed with a Master's degree in Foreign Relations, Lada is an up and coming business and community leader. Presently program director at an international business council composed of over 100 major American companies that do business in Ukraine, she also finds time to be active in her community through programs in the arts and education.

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The
Missionary
Sisters of the
Mother
of God

REGISTRATION FORM - PLEASE RETURN BY MARCH 15, 2011

Make checks payable to: **Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia**

Mail registration to:
Women's Day Registration
Ukrainian Catholic
Archeparchy of Philadelphia
827 N. Franklin Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123-
2097
**For more information,
contact:**
Sr. Dorothy Ann Busowski,
OSBM
(215) 663-9153
or
dabusowski@stbasils.com

Name		

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Email		Phone

Parish/State _____		

**Immaculate Conception Cathedral Hall
827 N. Franklin St. Philadelphia, PA**

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord at Assumption School in Perth Amboy, NJ

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord was commemorated at the Assumption School with Children's Liturgy in parish church and the blessing of the water. After the service, Fr. Ivan Turyk blessed the school by sprinkling holy water in every room. "We ask your blessing on these classrooms, that all who study, learn and teach here may grow in knowledge of you and of one another..." he prayed aloud. Fr. Ivan's visit was a wonderful way to begin the New Year at Assumption School! For more information about the ACS, you may contact us by phone at 732-826-8721 or at www.assumptioncatholicchurch.net



New Year's Zabava 2010!

The annual New Year's Dance Zabava, held Friday, December 31st, 2010 at Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, NJ was one fantastic celebration. With almost 400 people in attendance, great music courtesy of Halyshany, and ruffle gifts from MEEEST Company this event was a lot of fun for everyone! Silver, gold, and black garland and balloons adorned the hall



transforming it from everyday ordinary to holiday festive. Tables were laden with a sumptuous buffet for those in attendance to partake of all evening long. At midnight corks popped and bubbly libations were poured as Father Frost and his Granddaughter made a surprise visit to the patrons. Desserts were brought out, the band played on, and a good time was had by all. Well done Zabava committee! More pictures on our church website at www.assumptioncatholicchurch.net



A Special Christmas Celebration

For many Ukrainians, Christmas is not just on December 25th. There are those who start the holiday season with Saint Nicholas day and continue it well into January. Thus, about 100 parishioners came together to the Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, NJ on January 6th, Epiphany, and recreated a Holy Supper, called "Sviata Verchera" in Ukrainian.



Each family brought a traditional meatless, dairyless food item to share. The choices were many, from borscht to shrimp to buckwheat "holubchi" and more. Desserts were just as plentiful. After all went through the buffet line and were settled comfortably, three attendees (Anna, Ksenia, and Volodya) delighted all with violin, accordion, and guitar accompaniment to well-known Ukrainian carols. The singing and playing went on and on until the crowd was surprised with a troupe of wandering thespians. Dressed in full costume, they entertained everyone with a comical holiday skit. It was a perfect evening - good fellowship, good food, and good music!

Written by Mrs. Melanie Lawrence





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SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2011

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Donation \$25

PRESENTER: ARCHPRIEST DANIEL TROYAN
Chaplain for the Sisters of St. Basil the Great and their Ministries
Director for Evangelization at the Archeparchy of Philadelphia

TOPIC: "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD" :
A celebration of the Priceless Human Soul

SUMMARY: A day of meditation, forgiveness and healing based upon
the **Prayer of St. Ephraim:**

*The Great Fast is a time of regeneration: focusing on the cry from our human
helplessness, from the brokenness of our vision and energy, to the restoration of
our body and soul to the life and control of the Spirit.*

Presenting the healing power of **God's Word** to make our flesh like His: Holy.

MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

ANOINTING SERVICE - HEALING OF MEMORIES



Send to: Sister Marina Bochnewich, OSBM
BASILIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTER
SISTERS OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT
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Do you have a desire to grow in and deepen your baptismal commitment?

Share in the life of prayer, community and service of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, Province of Jesus Lover of Humanity – become “One in Spirit” with the sisters as a member of the Basilian Associates Program.

For further information, please contact:
Sister Rita Stremba, OSBM at 215-379-3998
or write to:
Sister Rita Stremba, OSBM
710 Fox Chase Rd
Jenkintown, PA 19046





A Reward Shared By All

Oftentimes, a religious vocation to the priesthood is looked down upon by people. After all, in this modern day and age, where we enjoy unprecedented plenty and freedom, why should a young man seemingly restrict his freedom and self-fulfillment by taking on a life of prayer, voluntary poverty, and standing in opposition to the world? For those who consider the celibate priesthood as a vocation, discerning a religious life is even tougher, for many in today's world feel (quite incorrectly) that celibacy is the cause of many of the ills and scandals that plague our Church today.

Yet God has a way of rewarding us beyond our wildest expectations - but only if we accept it on God's terms. Yes, when one considers the priesthood, one is not necessarily going to be rich by the world's standards. But the spiritual rewards are priceless, especially since they are shared by all the faithful. When a priest holds the hands of a dying man, granting him the sacraments, and praying with his family, the priest is not only rewarded with grace and a sense of fulfillment, but the family and the dying person are rewarded with the comforting presence of a priest.

The examples are too numerous to mention but the point is clear. The priest is rewarded by God in a way that the material world can never match. And these rewards are shared by ALL people who pray for, support, and work with their priest.

Rev. Paul J. Makar

Perhaps you feel that God may be calling you to service in His Church?

If you would like to discuss God's call to a vocation in your life, do not hesitate to contact:

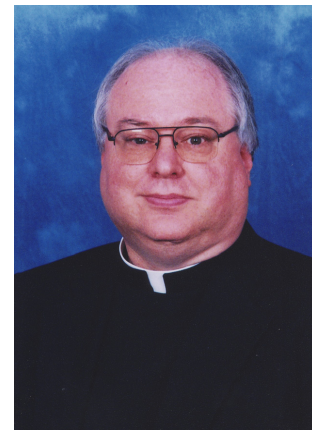
Rev. Paul J. Makar
Director of Vocations
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
827 North Franklin Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123-2097

Phone: 1-215-627-0143
Fax: 1-215-627-0377

E-mail: ukrvocations@catholic.org



Come and Get to Know Your Clergy And Religious Men and Women!



Msgr. Peter Waslo

Chancellor of the Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Philadelphia, USA
Philadelphia, PA

Peace Light of Bethlehem At Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Melrose Park, PA

Submitted by Alexa Watters



From left to right: Alanna Watters, Natalia Kondrat, Peter Kondrat, Alexa Watters, Irena Kondrat, Vera Penkalskyj, Marta Penkalskyj

“At the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, burns a flame at the site of Christ’s birth. This flame, kept lit for centuries, is the Bethlehem Peace Light, symbolizing peace, love, and goodness. Christian nations from around the world take turns donating the oil to ensure that this Peace Light is never extinguished. It is said that in the 12th century a crusader brought home a gift of the Peace Light for his family to share this great goodness.

Sharing of the Bethlehem Peace Light in modern times began in 1986, when a radio station in Linz, Austria, began a charitable relief mission for children in need. Since then, every year before Christmas, a chosen child lights a flame from the Bethlehem Peace Light. This flame is then flown to Vienna, from where scouts of every nationality have taken it upon themselves as their mission to distribute the Bethlehem Peace Light to as many communities as possible.

At first, the Bethlehem Peace Light was primarily distributed in Europe. By train, bus, car, and bicycle the Light is transported from city to city and shared especially with those, like the elderly and sick, who need some extra Christmas warmth. People also use the Bethlehem Peace Light to light their candles during Christmas dinner and in churches during Christmas services.

Plast, the Ukrainian scouts, have been involved in distributing the Bethlehem Peace Light in Ukraine for over 10 years. Hand to hand, city to city, they deliver the Light to churches, hospitals, orphanages, and communities in every province of Ukraine. The Bethlehem Peace Light has now become a part of the Ukrainian Christmas tradition.” <http://www.peacelightplastusa.org/>

On the eve of the most Holy Night, December 24th, Ukrainian Scouts ‘Plastuny’ greeted Reverend Ihor Royik and the Congregation of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Melrose Park, PA with the Peace Light of Bethlehem, where the flame remained lit through the Epiphany.



Everybody counts, even the unborn

By A. B. Hill

The results are in. Two recent reports reveal interesting statistics about Pennsylvania – the 2010 Census and the 2009 Abortion Statistics.

The 2010 Census figures show that 12,702,379 people currently call Pennsylvania home, a 3.4% increase since 2000. In 2009, 37,284 abortions were performed in Pennsylvania, a 3.9% decrease from 2008.

At first glance, these reports seem like good news. Pennsylvania is growing. We must have some economic vitality, even in these tough times. Abortions are down. Every life that is spared the tragedy of abortion is to be celebrated.

But let's put these reports in a larger perspective.

P e n n s y l v a n i a ' s population did grow in the last 10 years, but not enough to hold on to all of its Congressional seats. Pennsylvania will lose one district. Fewer votes in Congress mean less influence in federal affairs.

A decrease in abortions is always encouraging,

but 37,284 boys and girls died from abortion in 2009. We cannot overlook this sad truth. Abortion statistics have been reported in Pennsylvania since 1975, two years after Roe v. Wade legalized it. Adding the 2009 statistics brings the total of abortions in Pennsylvania since then to 1,538,544. That is about the population of Philadelphia.

The average size of Congressional districts in Pennsylvania is about 650,000 people. Imagine if all 1.5 million aborted people had been born and allowed to grow up in Pennsylvania. If all of them remained here, they would equal more than two Congressional districts.

Demographics measure a host of reasons why a state's population goes up and down. Of course it is not as simple as merely being born; but it does demonstrate that abortion is a concern for the entire community.

Venerable Pope John Paul II spoke of the "communion of sin;" when a soul lowers itself through sin, it drags down the whole world. He said, "There is no sin, not even

the most intimate and secret one, the most strictly individual one, that exclusively concerns the person committing it." (*Reconciliation and Penance*, Apostolic Exhortation, 1984)

The spiritual ramifications of abortion are indeed great; but as citizens we must also consider the political and economic effect. As a community we must do all that we can to uphold the dignity of life. We must renew our vigilance to educate people that every single human life is sacred. We must be generous with programs that help those facing an unplanned pregnancy with support and encouragement. No woman should feel like she "must" choose abortion.

In 2009, the state-funded Real Alternatives program served more women seeking services for unplanned pregnancy than at any time in the program's 14 year history, according to Kevin Bagatta, Real Alternatives CEO & President. A record setting 11,145 pregnant women received services that may have helped them decide against abortion. These

programs work. They are a worthwhile investment.

Political pundits will debate about the impact of one less Congressional seat. Demographic experts will try to analyze Pennsylvania's growth rate. We may never fully understand why and how our population rate changes, but one thing is certain; the strength of our state depends on the people who live here. Everybody counts – both born and the yet-to-be born who must be spared the horror of abortion.

If you or someone you know is facing an unexpected pregnancy call Real Alternatives at 1-888-LIFE AID for free, caring and completely confidential pregnancy and parenting support services.

Hill is Communications Director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.

JANUARY 2011

Northeastern Pennsylvania's MALANKA 2011 conducted Friday, January 14, 2011

The traditional Ukrainian New Year dinner dance - Malanka - at St. Vladimir Parish Center in Scranton began with Honorary Chairmen Very Rev. Nestor Kowal, pastor of St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Rev. Paul Wolensky, pastor of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church welcoming the 120 guests and offering invocation. Moderator for the evening was Paul Ewasko.

Paul Wanas of Accentuate Caterers of Distinctive Events catered the dinner which consisted of: chicken Kyiv, smoked kobasa with sautied cabbage, baked haddock Dnipro, apricot glazed pork loin with apple stuffing, vegetable medley ala Drohobych, cucumber rings in sour cream, European rolls, fresh fruits and petit pastries. Also served were: Ukrainian borshch specially prepared by Father Wolensky, his mother Anna Wolensky, Ceil Harrison and Lovey Pietryka; holubtsi by Father Kowal and parishioners of St. Michael Church; and, varenyky by the parishioners of St. Vladimir Church.

Silver and shades of blue themed decorations adorned the banquet

room. Music for dancing was provided by Oleksa Kereksha, Bohdan Mykaylyshyn and Ihor Shablovsky of the internationally known group "Fata Morgana". Ukrainian waltzes, polkas along with lively kolomeykas and the hopak were interspersed with modern and 50's music. Numerous door prizes were awarded followed by a midnight champagne toast.

Friends of the 7 th annual event included: Providence Association of Ukrainians in America, Edward Chomko Funeral Home, Gress Refrigerated Services, Dr. Kenneth and Mrs. Karen Lilik, Nicholas Chomko Funeral Home, Mrs. Joanne A. Monahan

and North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics.

The occasion was planned by members of the Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, St. Michael parish, St. Vladimir parish and the North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics.

Clergy attending:

Rev. Msgr. John Sekellick - Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, Jessup

Rev. Joseph Bertha - St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Pittston

Rev. John Cigan - Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church - Binghamton, NY

Rev. Teodor "Ted" Czabala - Sacred Heart Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Johnson City, NY accompanied by his wife, Panyi Natalya Czabala.

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw - SS. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church - Olyphant

Rev. Donald Valasek - St. Nicholas Carpatho-Rusyn Orthodox Church, Scranton

Rev. John Wysochansky - retired priest of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and native son of SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Olyphant



Photo - Pictured left to right: Vera Kowal Krewsun, Stanley Krupinski, Helenmarie Olecki, Shirley Nidoh, Harry Krewsun, Melissa Izak, Mark Izak, Gerry Adamchak, David Pedley, Ann Beshada, Jean Stasyszyn Pedley, Paul Ewasko, Helen Izak Ewasko, Michael Trusz, Brian Rubenstein, Andy Jamula, Dorothy Jamula, Nikki Berta. (The Malanka Committee photo was taken by Jason Ridemiller for the weekly newspaper "Go Lackawanna".)

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Berwick, PA

Articles submitted by: Charity Trapane

"TreeFest"

On Monday evening November 22nd, 2010, parishioners of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church gathered to decorate a tree sponsored by the parish at TreeFest which is held annually at the Caldwell Consistory in Bloomsburg, PA. Trees are sponsored and decorated by various community groups, the decorated trees are displayed to be viewed by the public, then each tree and a donated basket of goodies are given to area needy families before Christmas. In left photo parishioners Linn Trapane, Joseph Roll, and Janina Everett work on decorating; at far right, the finished product! Parishioners Marjorie Matash, Barbara Nagy, and Charity Trapane also took part in decorating. Marjorie played a major role in organizing the decorations and sponsorship. In addition, the parish also held their always successful annual food drive to help stock the shelves of the community food cupboard.



Christmas Dinner

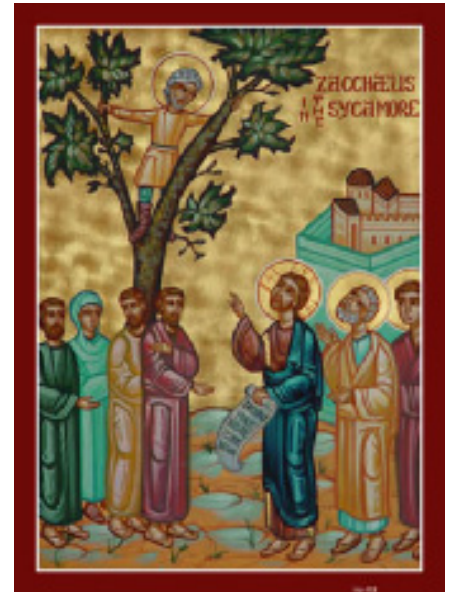
On Sunday, January 2, 2011, Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Berwick, PA held their annual Christmas Dinner for parishioners and friends of the parish. The dinner was prepared and served by members of the parish Sacred Heart Society. The dinner was largely organized, directed, and prepared by the group's president, Janina Everett.



Members that helped are shown in photo from left to right, Shirley Fowler, Charity Trapane, Rev. John Seniw, Linn Trapane, and Janina Everett, president. Member Marjorie Matash, not pictured, also provided much assistance.

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Lk. 19, 1-10)



This text tells the story of Jesus coming to Jericho. A large crowd has turned out to catch a glimpse of him. Among these is Zacchaeus. He tries to push through the crowd to get a better look, but is not allowed to move to the front row. So he has to run ahead and climb a sycamore tree in order to get a good view of the wandering rabbi who is talked about too much.

The fact that the crowd turns its back to Zacchaeus is revealing. He is the chief tax collector and the text underscores that he is a rich man. Hence he is an important figure in Jericho. Today such a man would claim a front seat - and would probably get it - for, regardless of how it was acquired, wealth is accepted and demands privilege. We see in the text that in Jericho the

ordinary people do not accept wealth as such. They see that Zacchaeus accumulated his wealth by collaborating with the enemy, the Roman Empire. He bought the privilege to collect taxes and his success depended on how ruthless he was in collecting them from his fellow human beings.

He is rich, but he is an outcast. The people of Jericho say: "He may be rich. He is cheating us. He is exploiting his power. But one thing is true. We may be poor, but we are Abraham's children. He is rich, but he is lost." When Jesus comes, he reveals the truth. The truth about human contempt and envy, about human hopes and hidden despair.

Jesus invites himself to the house of Zacchaeus. "I must stay at your house today". Why this urgency?

There were many others in Jericho who would have wanted Jesus to come to their house. The others around him find it very disturbing that he should prefer the hospitality of a well-known sinner! Does he not understand the kind of person Zacchaeus is?

This is a very peculiar "preferential option", not for the rich and the affluent. It is his preferential option for the one who is lost, regardless of his or her earthly possessions. It is unmerited grace that comes to the house of Zacchaeus. This grace does not worry about the potential of being misunderstood and reviled. Genuine grace has its own results.

That Jesus should go to Zacchaeus is a remarkable turn - indeed a scandalous "diversion" for the self-respecting

citizens of Jericho. But the story does not end there. His friendship for Zacchaeus provokes another drastic turn: a conversion that is good news indeed!

Zacchaeus announces that he will give half of his goods to the poor. He adds: "and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." This sounds spectacular and completely unrealistic to us, that a man would deprive himself of all his belongings!

Now, it must be understood that according to the laws of those times, a fourfold restoration was required. The explanation is that the interest that was demanded by tax collectors and money

(Continued on next page)

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

(continued from previous page)

lenders was often so excessive that it amounted to up to 100%, or more. This may sound exorbitant to us since we - many of us living in richer nations already complain about much lower rates in our own countries. However, if you look at the inflation of debts imposed on so many countries in the so-called Third World, the practice of the Roman tax collectors does not look extraordinary at all. One could easily give examples of debts that have risen so steeply because of inflated compound interests. A fourfold forgiveness of the original debt would not appear to be exaggerated at all. Again, the goal is to restore the full business capacities of the defrauded parties, not to give them alms. Justice is something radically

different from charity. Does the story of Zacchaeus, then, have a lesson for contemporary policies regarding debt relief?

The really new thing that Zacchaeus announces is his decision to give half of his goods to the poor. This was not in the laws or practices of his time, and it is not in the laws of today. We can see this as a practical example of the basic law of the Torah: love your neighbor as yourself. So you share with that neighbor half of what you have.

The story of Zacchaeus is remarkable because it talks about reparations - reparations as a consequence of God's grace, of sincere repentance and a complete change of heart.

Hence this is a story of costly grace.

As Jesus hears about the plans of his host he says: "salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost." After the announcement of the reparations scheme Jesus talks about salvation. Salvation encompasses the whole life, a wholehearted change of attitude and a new practice.

"You have done the right thing", Jesus says to Zacchaeus: "You are also a son of Abraham. Of course you are! You are part of the covenant. Who would dare deny you that?" So this story has a happy ending.

But some questions remain: what will the

people of Jericho say to this? Will they be glad to receive Zacchaeus back into their community? Will they be ready to receive his money and to change their attitudes? Or will they prefer to stay poor and hold on to their contempt?

For receiving such a generous gift, without the feeling of being humiliated even further, is also an act of grace. "Salvation has come to this house", says Jesus. Has salvation also come to Jericho? The story does not tell us anything about it. It is the open end of the Gospel. It is where we come in. What role will we pay? That of Zacchaeus? Or are we Jericho?



The Cathedral Choir caroled for Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka at his residence on January 9, 2011.



10th Anniversary

On February 27, 2011, we will celebrate ten years that His Grace Most Reverend Stefan Soroka was enthroned as Metropolitan-Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Metropolitan Stefan was enthroned on February 27, 2001.

If you or your parish or organization would like to send a congratulatory message to Metropolitan Stefan, we will be placing them in the February 27, 2011 issue of "The Way".

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*Ordained Priest
June 13, 1982*

*Ordained Bishop
June 13, 1996*

*Appointed Metropolitan-
Archbishop
November 29, 2000*

*Enthroned
Tuesday, February 27, 2001*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 30, 2011: Coal Cracker Dance, St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 2026 Bath Rd, Bristol, PA from 2:00-6:00PM. For information call Paul 215-943-1216.

February 12, 2011: Valentine Dance, Assumption Church, 380 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ. For information call 732-826-0767

March 13, 2011: Lenten Afternoon of Reflection. Presenter: Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan. For information call Sr. Marina, OSBM, 215-780-1227

March 26, 2011: Archeparchial Women's Day. For information call Sr. Dorothy Ann, OSBM 215-663-9153 or e-mail dabusowski@stbasils.com

April 9, 2011: Centennial Celebration Spring Symposium - Our Basilian Heritage - Basilian Spirituality Center

June 18, 2011: Centennial Open House - Basilian Motherhouse

October 2, 2011: Centennial Pilgrimage - Sisters of St. Basil the Great

November 6, 2011: Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great celebrate their Centennial with a Liturgy at the Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA.

Editorial and Business Office:

827 N. Franklin St.
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Tel.: (215) 627-0143

Online: www.ukrarcheparchy.us

E-MAIL: theway@ukrarcheparchy.us

Blog: www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com

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THE WAY Staff

Msgr. Peter Waslo, Teresa Siwak, Fr. Ihor Royik

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