



# WAY



# ШЛЯХ

Офіційний друкований орган Філадельфійської Архиепархії Української Католицької Церкви

VOL. 73 - No. 20

NOVEMBER 18, 2012

Українська Версія

## PYLYPIVKA (ADVENT) PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A.

TO OUR CLERGY,  
HIEROMONKS AND  
BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS  
SISTERS, SEMINARIANS  
AND BELOVED  
FAITHFUL.

Praise Be Jesus Christ!

When a child is to be born, family and friends throw a baby shower. The shower helps the new mother with baby clothes and other necessary items. I wonder if Mary's relatives were able to provide her with some of the necessary baby items as she and Joseph began their journey to Bethlehem.

Distinguished persons in the East were greeted with gifts. Three wise men travel to Bethlehem bearing gifts. They are highly respected men, educated, students of philosophy, nature, astrology. Some even call them kings. They had heard of Israel's expectation of a Messiah.



They studied the stars and the prophecies. The expectation was well known by surrounding neighbors: Persia, Chaldea, Mesopotamia and Arabia.

An unusual and bright star appears in the heavens. The three wise men travel west to Judea. No obstacles impede their journey. They hurry to Bethlehem, and lo, in a poor stable, they find the infant Jesus. "They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11). Gold for the King. Incense for God. Myrrh for the Man.

Our journey to Christmas — the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ — begins now with St. Phillip's Fast

*(This photo is from an icon at the Cathedral.)*

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# PYLYPIVKA (ADVENT) PASTORAL OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A.

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(Pylypivka) November 15th. This is a time of penitence and lasts until the Eve of Christmas. Voluntary abstinence (meatless meals) and acts of penance (prayer, fasting, charitable works) are encouraged. Abstinence from meat, and one full meal and a snack (milk products allowed according to local custom) is permitted on Christmas Eve.

And as we prepare to celebrate Christmas again, we think of gifts. But what gifts will we offer Jesus? Already the psalmist King David (Ps. 71 [72]:10) and the prophet Isaiah (6:16) had foretold the gifts of the wise men. The pagan world pays homage to the Lord. What about us? What will we give Jesus? Can we do no less? You know what gift God wants most? God wants you and me.

Believe it or not, we also can bring gold. Who? How? Gold is brought by those who offer for the glory of God and in the service of their neighbor their resources and goods. Helping the needy is gold. Do many people offer gold to the Lord?

Unfortunately more is squandered on worthless and fleeting things. Such is our attitude to the One who "became poor although He was rich, so that by His poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

And who offers the Lord frankincense? Frankincense is offered by those who use their talents and abilities to praise God and for the benefit of their neighbor. Talents and abilities are not bought. They are more precious than silver and gold. They are God-given gifts. Using them properly pleases the Lord like fragrant incense. All of us have received certain talents. Therefore we all have the responsibility to use these talents, to bring incense to the Lord.

The third gift which the wise men brought to Jesus in Bethlehem was myrrh, possibly the best gift. Who offers this gift today? Myrrh, like incense, is fragrant. But myrrh is also bitter. It may well represent our afflictions, our sorrows, our anxieties. Preoccupations that laden our day. It is clear who offers myrrh to the Lord.

The one who has had a bad day or suffers a tragedy, the one who is unjustly accused, the lonely and the sick, and who do not despair but place all their hope in the Lord, in His healing grace, Myrrh can be bitter, but it is sweetened by the Lord. Not all understand this. Blessed are they who understand and accept it for they offer a precious gift to Jesus. They offer Him fragrant myrrh.

We, your bishops, hope and pray that you may be able to renew yourself during this season of preparation for the birth of our Lord. Before we celebrate Christmas,

prepare yourself and become precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Lord.

+Stefan Soroka  
Metropolitan-Archbishop  
of Philadelphia

+Richard Seminack  
Eparch of St. Nicholas in  
Chicago

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM  
Eparch of Stamford

+John Bura (author)  
Apostolic Administrator  
of St. Josaphat in Parma

November 2012



*(Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka at the Cathedral.)*

**November 14**

## ***Feast of St. Phillip, Apostle***



St. Phillip, Apostle, one of the Twelve, was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was a compatriot of Andrew and Peter. He was instructed in the teachings of the Law, and devoted himself to the study of the prophetic books. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus called him to the dignity of apostleship, he immediately sought out and found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1.45).

Having preached Jesus the God-man throughout many parts of Asia Minor, and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he was finally crucified upside down in Hierapolis of Phrygia.

[www.iconograms.org](http://www.iconograms.org)

## ***The Theological Significance of Phillip's Fast***

Unlike the Great Fast before the Feast of the Resurrection (Pascha), the Phillipian fast is seldom known or practiced in the Byzantine Church. Often it is confused with the Roman Catholic practice of Advent.

Since the Nativity / Theophany events hold less importance than Pascha - the Feast of Feasts - (the Resurrection), a detailed structure never evolved for the Phillipian Fast. Yet the Phillipian Fast is an ancient practice in preparation for the Incarnation and Theophany of the Lord Jesus Christ. This 40 day fast is important and should be preserved and practiced. The Phillipian Fast can help us to better understand and appreciate all of God's saving plan.

Without the structure and public events to guide us, the practice of the Phillipian Fast has gradually fallen off. Theologically, the birth and the public ministry of Christ are inextricably linked. The Phillipian Fast was created to prepare us to receive Christ into the world and begin His public ministry. They are two sides of a single coin. The Phillipian fast prepares us to receive the public ministry of Christ announced at Theophany.

On arriving at Bethlehem and the Nativity on December 25th, we begin to prepare for the Theophany. We do not stop at the Nativity. In our joy at God's arrival, we press forward and see the Theophany. With Theophany we experience the beginning of Christ's revelation to us of the mysteries of God. Most importantly, this event points out the Mystery of the Trinity, a mystery long hinted in the Old Testament.

**—Steve Puluka**



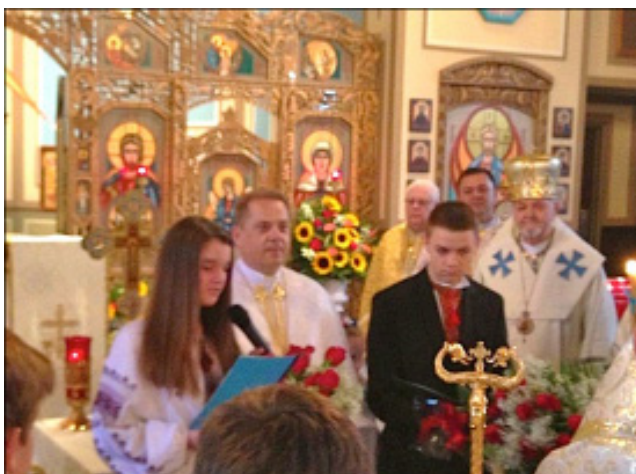
# ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, MELROSE PARK, PA CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

(Photo: J. Hill)

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Melrose Park, Pennsylvania, joyfully and with gratitude to God, celebrated its Golden Jubilee on Sunday, October 28, 2012. The church, beautifully decorated with flowers, was filled to capacity.

Led by the children of the parish and altar boys, His Grace Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Basil Losten of Stamford Eparchy and clergy, walked in a procession from the parish house to the church where Maria Kondrat and Peter Labiak greeted the Metropolitan with the traditional bread and salt. Two

younger parishioners, Marta Penkalskyj and Ostap Royik, jointly recited a poem and presented flowers to the Metropolitan and to Bishop Losten. Father Ihor Royik, Pastor, presented the Metropolitan with a cross with which he blessed the church and the congregation.



(Photo: J. Hill)

The celebration continued with His Grace Metropolitan Stefan as the main celebrant of the Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving. The concelebrants included Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Basil Losten, Rev. Ihor Royik, Rev. Monsignor James Melnic, Very Rev. Ivan Demkiy, Rev. Andriy Dudkevych, Rev. Volodymyr Kostyuk, and Very Rev. Archpriest Daniel Troyan. Rev. Paul Makar served as Master of Ceremonies. The parish choir under the direction of Alexandra Penkalskyj and Irena Pelech-Zwarych sang the responses.

In his inspirational homily, Metropolitan Stefan praised the pioneers for their vision in building the church of Annunciation of BVM and he encouraged the parishioners to be passionate and zealous in bringing Christ to the world.

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# ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, MELROSE PARK, PA

*(continued from previous page)*

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy, approximately 300 guests gathered for a celebratory gala banquet at Spring Mill Manor in Ivyland, Pennsylvania.

*(Photo: J. Hill)*

After a pleasant cocktail hour where all were entertained by bandurists Bohdanna Yaroshevych and Roma Dockhorn, everyone proceeded to the banquet room. When seated, parishioners and guests were welcomed by Myroslawa Mazurok Hill, Jubilee Chairperson, who then introduced Ihor Kuznir as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.



The program began with the Annunciation Church Choir leading the singing of the Lord's Prayer, which was followed by the Invocation offered by his His Grace, Metropolitan Stefan. A moment of silence was observed in tribute to the deceased members of the parish. The founding members of the parish were recognized along with the representatives of organizations. The dignitaries at the head table were introduced. They were Most Reverend Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Most Reverend Bishop-Emeritus Basil Losten, Rev. Ihor Royik, Rev. Monsignor James Melnic, Very Rev. Ivan Demkiv and Sister Thomas Hrynewich SSMI, who for many years was the catechetical director at Annunciation.

After an enjoyable dinner, the Men's Choir, "Dzvin", Nestor Kyzymyshyn, conductor, sang several selections to the delight of the audience.

The keynote address was given by Most Reverend Bishop- Emeritus Basil Losten who reminisced about the visit of His Eminence Patriarch Josef Slipyj to Annunciation. Bishop Losten also stressed that our faith is built on stone, not sand and for faith to be preserved, we must continue to build it on stone. This theme was echoed throughout the evening.

After a brief interlude, the program continued with the beautiful singing of soprano Marta Zaliznyak, accompanied by pianist Irena Pelech-Zwarych.

Once again, bandurists Bohdanna Yaroshevych and Roma Dockhorn performed and the audience responded warmly by spontaneously singing along with them.

Reverend Monsignor James Melnic, who was pastor of Annunciation for twenty-six years and who is now pastor of St. Michael's and St. Mary's in Pennsylvania, spoke next. He too remembered the past, the pioneers

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# ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, MELROSE PARK, PA

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*(Photo: T. Siwak)*

of the church and the people who are no longer with us, but urged to look toward the future with faith in Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother.

The last speaker was the current pastor, Father Ihor Royik. In his remarks Father Royik said, "The real story of our parish is found in the hearts and souls of the hundreds of individuals who, throughout the years, have come to know Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and have found in Him the meaning of life and eternal salvation. Our parish has been blessed these 50 years with dedicated clergy, religious and faithful who have worked tirelessly to make the Kingdom of God present in the world in every generation. It is this spirit that we celebrate today. Indeed, it is this spirit that we desire with all our hearts to pass on to the generations that follow us." Father Ihor concluded his remarks with a Jubilee Prayer.



Both Father Ihor and Msgr. James were honored for their service to the parish by standing ovations.

Unfortunately, Most Reverend Bishop Robert Moskal, the only other living pastor of Annunciation, was too ill to attend but sent a congratulatory greeting.

The choir "Dzvin" and Mrs. Zaliznyak returned to sing the heart touching prayer "Lord of Heaven and Earth" (Vladyko Neba i Zemli) from the opera "Zaporozhets Za Dunayem".

The evening concluded with the Benediction by Very Rev. Ivan Demkiv, Dean of Philadelphia.

Each guest was presented with an Icon of the Blessed Mother, a commemorative book featuring photographs taken over the past 50 years, church history, greetings from the Church Hierarchs, the President of the United States, state and local officials as well as greetings from parishioners, organizations and friends.

This joyous and memorable day was made even more special by the return of some original parishioners who although in their 90's and not in the best of health, made the extra effort to return for the celebration. One of the older parishioners summed up the day by saying, "This is my church, my home and my heart."

**Submitted by: John Rittenhouse Hill**



# ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, MELROSE PARK, PA

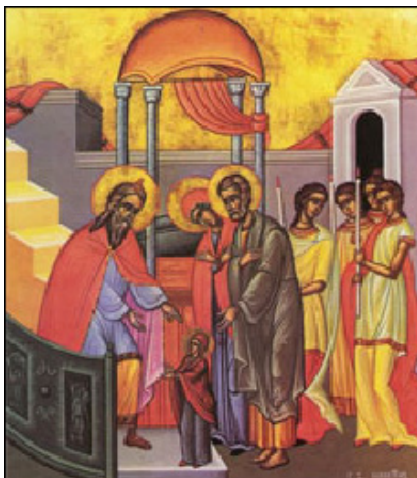


Watch videos and see more pictures from  
the Liturgy on our blog at [www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com](http://www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com)

*(Photos on this page by: T. Siwak)*



## The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple - November 21



*As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Luke 10, 38-42; 11, 27-28)*

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The Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on November 21 each year. The Feast commemorates when as a young child, the Virgin Mary entered the Temple in Jerusalem.

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna decided that the time had come to fulfill their promise and to offer her to the Lord. Joachim gathered the young girls of the neighborhood to form an escort, and he made them go in front of Mary, carrying torches. Captivated by the torches, the young child followed joyfully to the Temple, not once looking back at her parents nor weeping as she was parted from them.

The holy Virgin ran toward the Temple, overtaking her attendant maidens and threw herself into the arms of the High Priest Zacharias, who was waiting for her at the gate of the Temple with the elders. Zacharias blessed her saying, "It is in you that He has glorified your name in every generation. It is in you that He will reveal the Redemption that He has prepared for His people in the last days."

Then, Zacharias brought the child into the Holy of Holies—a place where only the High Priest was permitted to enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. He placed her on the steps of the altar, and the grace of the Lord descended upon her. She arose and expressed her joy in a dance as wonder seized all who saw this happen.

The Virgin Mary dwelt in the Temple for nine years until, reaching an age for marriage, she was taken from the Temple by the priests and elders and entrusted to Joseph as the guardian of her virginity.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity on December 25.

[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)



## Metropolitan Stefan's Schedule for November 2012

November 4	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert "Prometheus Choir", Philadelphia.
November 11	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Baltimore, MD.
November 12-15	Annual Fall meeting of United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.
November 12	Luncheon meeting of Aid to Catholic Churches in Central and Eastern Europe. Dinner meeting of National Advisory Council of St. John Vianney Center.
November 13	Dinner meeting of Catholic Home Missions Committee.
November 17	80 <sup>th</sup> Commemoration of "Holodomor"/Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33, St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City.
November 18	125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Jersey City, NJ.
November 19	Meeting of Priests' Beneficial Fund, Philadelphia, PA.
November 27	Clergy Conference, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.
November 28	Meeting of Presbyterial Council, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.
November 29	Mysteries of Initiation for Damian Myronyuk, son of Rev. & Mrs. Myron Myronyuk, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, Scranton, PA.

## OSBM Sisters Visit

Basilian Sisters from Holy Trinity Province in Ukraine will be visiting a number of parishes within our Archeparchy in the coming months to solicit financial support for their ministry in Yavoriv (in the Lviv region of western Ukraine). They are desperately in need of providing a suitable monastery for Sisters who are involved in catechetical ministry, youth work, educating orphans and children, visiting the sick, and providing retreats for faithful. Interestingly, Basilian Sisters who originally came to minister in the USA were from this monastery. Let us help them in their time of need so as to enable their valued and needed ministry. Their need is essential for their well-being and enabling their ministry to spread to neighboring cities and villages beyond the boundaries of Yavoriv.



**(l to r:) Sr. Dorothy Ann, Provincial (USA), Sr. Adriana (Ukraine), Metropolitan Stefan, Sr. Lucia (Ukraine), and Sr. Joann (USA).**

The Sisters will be visiting St. Nicholas Church in Passaic on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>; Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Melrose Park on November 11<sup>th</sup>; St. Michael the Archangel Church in Shenandoah on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>; National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington, DC on December 9<sup>th</sup>; and St. John the Baptist Church in Newark on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Presentations by the Sisters will be made generally following the Liturgies, and will include a short video. I ask all of our pastors to look kindly and generously on the needs of these Basilian Sisters and encourage the financial generosity of the parishioners. I encourage the parishes to consider giving a donation from the parish funds as a thoughtful observance of the upcoming St. Philip's Fast.

The Basilian Sisters have provided more information to the parishes via a separate mailing. Please inform your parishioners of their need and invite their generosity in charity. Thank you. God bless in ways only He can those who respond generously to needs of others. The heartfelt thanks and prayers are offered by Metropolitan Stefan for all who share from their abundance.

## Ukrainian Sisters of St. Basil Working to Revive Yavoriv Monastery

In 2011, the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great celebrated the centennial of their arrival in the United States of America. The first sisters who came to this country from Ukraine came from the Sviato-Pokrovskiy Monastery in Yavoriv. In the decades to come, other Sisters from Yavoriv also came to the United States, helping to build and nurture the Jesus, Lover of Humanity Province their predecessors had founded.

Ironically, as the American province grew and flourished, the Sisters in Ukraine faced numerous hardships imposed by Soviet rule. Persecuted by the authorities and forced underground, they now relied on the solidarity of the Sisters in America for material and spiritual assistance. During the first years of independence, when the Church was finally able to emerge from the catacombs, the American Basilian Sisters were among the first to return to Ukraine to help rebuild the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Ukrainian society.

Today, twenty-one years after independence, life in Ukraine continues to be turbulent and difficult. In this uncertain environment, the community of sisters in Yavoriv is striving to renew and restore the spiritual traditions of their ancient monastery. They are working in the local community and beyond—preparing children for first Confession and Holy Communion, running Sunday schools, and organizing youth groups, retreats for girls, and children’s summer camps. They visit the sick in hospitals and give food and shelter to those in need.

Unfortunately, the original monastery, now owned by the government, serves as a hospital and the Sisters are living in the monastery’s old laundry building, which is crumbling and nearly uninhabitable. They are hoping to build a new monastery building, but this endeavor is beyond their financial means. It is for this reason that Sister Lucia and Sister Adriana of Yavoriv have embarked on a fund-raising mission in the United States. During their stay, they will be visiting the following parishes in the Philadelphia and Stamford Eparchies:

- Nov. 4 St. Nicholas in Passaic
- Nov 11 Annunciation in Philadelphia
- Nov 11 St. Michaels in Shenandoah (4pm)
- Nov. 18 St. Nicholas in Chicago
- Nov. 25 Mississauga, Canada
- Dec. 2 St. George, New York City
- Dec. 9 Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, Washington, D.C.
- Dec. 16 St. Michael, Yonkers, New York
- Dec. 23 - St. John the Baptist, Newark, N.J.

Sisters Lucia and Adriana will also be visiting branches of the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, the Providence Association, and the St. Sophia Association. The Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, Jesus, Lover of Humanity Province encourage all Ukrainian American Catholics to help the Yavoriv community in its noble cause and give generously. Those unable to meet with Sisters Lucia and Adriana during their visits to individual parishes can contribute by sending donations in care of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, 710 Fox Chase Road, Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046. Please specify that your donation is for Yavoriv. All donations are tax deductible.

Photo caption: Sister Lucia Murashko, OSBM and Sister Adriana Kuryliuk, OSBM







**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2012**

**UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL  
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN PHILADELPHIA, PA  
INVITES ALL THE FAITHFUL TO CELEBRATE  
50-TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT  
OF THE BUILDING OF THE NEW CATHEDRAL  
AND THE PATRON FEAST DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**10:00 AM - HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY  
MAIN CELEBRANT: METROPOLITAN-ARCHBISHOP STEFAN SOROKA**

**RESPONSES BY MAIL CHOIR "DZVIN"**

**DINNER AND FESTIVE PROGRAM FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY**

Admissions for Dinner: Adult - \$15, children 4 - 12 years - \$7, up to 4 years - free

Our address:  
830 North Franklin Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123  
Phone: 215-922-2845

Pastor: Fr. Ivan Demkiv

Parking available

В Неділю, 18-го листопада 2012 року при Катедрі Непорочного Зачаття в Філадельфії, з 10-ї години ранку до 4-ї години пополудні відбудеться щорічний Різдв'яний Базар. Щиро запрошуємо всіх.

Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on Sunday, November 18, 2012 from 10a.m. to 4p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia. Everyone is welcome.

**November 18, 2012**

## **CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETS IN PHILADELPHIA**

By Metropolitan Stefan Soroka

Annually, our faithful participate in the Catholic Home Missions Collection taken in all Catholic churches in the United States. Approximately 8 million dollars are gathered for distribution to approximately ninety Catholic dioceses and eparchies in USA. Our own Archeparchy, just as most Eastern eparchies, received \$ 110,000 in 2012, and our share of that which was collected was in excess of \$ 9,000. The intent



of the collection is to assist poorer dioceses and eparchies in their various programs. The funds which we receive assist with the education of seminarians, and evangelization and catechetical programs offered within the Archeparchy.

The Catholic Home Missions Committee meets twice annually to allocate the funds in response to a rigorous review of applications for funding assistance. Often one of the meetings is held within a mission diocese so as to acquaint the bishop members of the ministry which is assisted with the funds. In October, 2012, the Committee of Bishops allocating the funds met in the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. The bishops, mostly of the Latin Church, desired to familiarize themselves with our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA. A full day was devoted to this purpose. Rev. Msgr. Peter Waslo, Chancellor, gave an informative presentation on Eastern Catholic Churches in the world and in the USA, pointing out the commonalities and the differences among them, and with the Latin Church. The presentation was followed by an instructive tour of our Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, with attention given to the distinctive liturgical characteristics of our Ukrainian Catholic Church. A tour of the 'Treasury of Faith' Museum and to the Bishop Ortynsky Evangelization Center followed. The visiting bishops and staff of Catholic Home Missions concluded their tour at the Byzantine Church Supply Store.

The bishops concelebrated the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God in our Cathedral, and daily Divine Liturgies in the Chapel in the Bishops' Residence. The opportunity to reside in the Bishops' Residence and in the Evangelization Center throughout the meetings allowed for mutual sharing in a manner typical of generous Ukrainian hospitality. They also visited with the staff of the Chancery and shared daily lunch with them. A full day of deliberations allocating the available funds concluded the meetings of the Catholic Home Missions to our Archeparchy.

We are thankful for the opportunity to vividly share the rich traditions of our Ukrainian Catholic Church with our brother bishops and staff of the Catholic Home Missions Committee of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. We are also very grateful to the staff of the Archeparchy who so generously shared in offering our guests an educational and spiritual enlightenment of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA, in an environment of genuine Ukrainian hospitality.



## Thanksgiving to Whom?

During November, the month when the bright scarlet and orange leaves fade to a lifeless sienna, when morning frosts give way to snow flurries and thoughts of winter, and the sun hides its bright warm rays giving us long dark nights, our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving Day and the traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings we will enjoy with family and friends.



Surveys show, Thanksgiving Day is the most traveled day of the year. Relatives traverse great distances to be with fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, aunts and uncles, grandsons and granddaughters. The inconveniences of driving or flying pale in comparison to the warmth and togetherness of being together with loved ones and maintaining this tradition. People do not travel hundreds of miles for a turkey dinner and pumpkin pie, they travel to share the love and togetherness of family and friends.

Thanksgiving Day, observed on the fourth Thursday in November is a time when our nation pauses to give thanks. But give thanks to whom? When you give thanks, you give them to someone. You express gratitude to another. On Thanksgiving Day we do give thanks, and what makes it special, is that we, as a nation give thanks to GOD. (We better not tell the ACLU, or someone may try to find a court to stop the celebration of Thanksgiving Day.)

A day of Thanksgiving to God is a tradition in this nation, going back to the first Thanksgiving observance in Virginia. Virginia? Yes Virginia. On December 4, 1619, the 38 English settlers who arrived on the banks of the James River placed in their charter that this day of arrival be observed yearly as a day of thanksgiving with prayer and feasting.

A year later, in 1620, the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth. The following fall, in 1621, Governor William Bradford arranged a three-day harvest festival to give thanks to God for delivering the colonists through the harsh winter.

In 1789, our first president, George Washington by proclamation declared November 26 a day of national Thanksgiving to God.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as "a day of thanksgiving to our beneficent Father" a tradition that continued until 1939, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt set the date as the fourth Thursday in November. In 1941 Congress made it a federal legal holiday, the custom we follow today.

Thanksgiving Day is special because as a nation we give thanks to God. It is special because it is our national holy day. It is special because, regardless of how an atheist may try to conceal the fact, it is a day when our nation formally acknowledges the existence of God. It is a day we thank Almighty God for His blessings upon this great nation, penned so aptly by the lyricist with these words, "*America, America, God shed His grace on thee. . . .*"

Take time this Thanksgiving Day to attend religious services, to pray a meaningful grace before the meal, and to reflect upon the many blessings God has bestowed upon us, our families and our great nation.

Happy Thanksgiving Day!

# Christmas Bazaar Базар Різдвяний DECEMBER 1-2, 2012

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





**HOLY TRINITY PARTICULAR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
OF SILVER SPRING

**16631 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE., SILVER SPRING, MD 20904**

**TASTE OF UKRAINE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**  
**DECEMBER 8, 2012 11:00AM TO 5:00PM**  
**DECEMBER 9, 2012 12:00PM TO 4:00PM**



## **Ukrainian Decorated Christmas Ornaments**



Tour of Church; which is modeled after the Hutzul design and the Ukrainian Gift Shop will be open to the public

## **Foods for sale**



Sausage from  
New York

Holubtsi(Stuffed  
Cabbage)



Tortes(Cakes)



Varenyky  
(Perogies)



Borshch



Cookies



Pastries



## A Legislative Session in Review

By Joelle Shea

As the 2011-2012 legislative session comes to a close this month, some are already looking to next session and hoping for legislative victories on issues of importance. But, as the saying goes, to get where you're going, you've got to know where you've been. So, before we turn the calendar to the new legislative session, let's look at how issues of concern to Catholics fared in the 2011-2012 legislative session.

On the pro-life front, the legislature passed the Abortion Facilities Control Act, which holds abortion clinics to the same health and safety standards as other ambulatory surgical facilities. Prior to the passage of this legislation, it was clear that the law favored the abortion industry – not women's health, as is so often claimed. Legislation was passed that gave parents of stillborn children a certificate of birth. Previously, parents of stillborn children were given no official recognition of their child, and pro-abortion advocates balked at the request to recognize a child in the womb. The passage of this legislation is important for the parents

who experience this most painful and heartbreaking death. Further pro-life success can be found in the state budget, where line item to fund the state's alternatives to abortion program, Real Alternatives, contained a 5.2% increase. In a year where many programs were cut or level-funded, the PCC is pleased with this recognition of the value of life from conception.

In the coming session, pro-life advocates will again work for legislation that will remove abortion funding from the yet-to-be-created state health care exchange under the new federal health care law. Pro-life advocates also hope to revisit legislation that gives a pregnant woman the option to view her ultrasound when it is preformed to allow for a more fully informed decision. An ultrasound examination is already a standard practice in abortion clinics to determine gestational age or if the pregnancy is ectopic; it should be the mother's right to choose for herself whether to view the ultrasound or not.

In the area of education, the popular Educational Improvement Tax Credit

program was expanded from \$75 million to \$100 million and is now helping thousands more low and middle income families. Further, a new program, nicknamed EITC 2.0, will help thousands more by creating special scholarships particularly for income eligible students in the lowest performing 15% of public schools. This new legislation also allows individual school districts to set up their own local voucher program. For more information on this program and eligibility, visit [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org).

A piece of education-related legislation that was kick-started in this session and will be passed next session would protect religious educational ministries of young children from government interference. Under the current law, the state Department of Public Welfare (DPW) has blank-check authority to regulate all aspects of a church's pre-school teaching ministry, including curriculum. This is a classic church-state struggle, and after a positive vote in the Senate Education Committee and pledges from critical members of leadership in the Senate and the House, the PCC

expects this legislation to pass in the next session.

In the area of concern for the poor in our state, the legislature reopened the Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP). This program has helped thousands of Pennsylvanians over the years by providing loans to homeowners who were faced with foreclosure through no fault of their own. In the first drafts of the state budget, the Human Services Block Grant, which includes state dollars that go to counties to provide a wide range of human services, was slated for a 20% cut. Upon final passage of the budget, the grant was cut by 10%. While the PCC was pleased that the full 20% cut was not made, we continue to advocate for funding for these vital services. Further budget cuts saw the shuttering of General Assistance. This program, which allowed for a \$205 stipend to the truly needy who had no other place to turn, was not funded and there is no program to replace it. Advocates for the poor, including PCC, are extremely disappointed

*(continued on next page)*



## A Legislative Session in Review

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with the elimination of the General Assistance program and will work cooperatively with the governor and DPW to find alternatives to assist those impacted, as the state budget must reflect concern for the most poor and needy in Pennsylvania.

Several bills dealing with immigration were introduced this session, but only one of these, the

Public Works and Employment Verification Act, was passed and signed into law. This act requires contractors and sub-contractors on public works projects to verify new employee eligibility by using the federal E-Verify system. Other proposals ranging from denying public benefits to undocumented immigrants to revoking the professional licenses of

employers who knowingly employ illegal immigrants did not pass.

The 2013-2014 legislative session will bring even more activity on issues that are of importance to Catholics in Pennsylvania. And the legislature needs to hear from you – their constituents. Visit [www.pacatholic.org](http://www.pacatholic.org) to sign up for the Catholic Advocacy Network and

become an agent of change in Pennsylvania. Imagine the voices of PA's 3 million Catholics speaking together for the common good!

*Joelle Shea is the Director of Outreach for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference – the public affairs arm of Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops and the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania.*

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## New Website Connects Mother, Families with Adoption Agencies

By Joelle Shea

To mark National Adoption Month, the Catholic social service agencies across Pennsylvania launched [www.adoptionpa.org](http://www.adoptionpa.org), a website that connects mothers and families with a Catholic adoption agency in their area and also offers encouragement and support to those who experience unintended pregnancies.

Kelly Bolton, the Program Director for Adoption Services and Foster Care for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, said "A statewide website that features each Catholic diocesan adoption program allows birth parents to have a one-stop shop for assistance. We are here to assist birth mothers

considering adoption as a pro-life alternative to parenting. As always, we will coordinate services for any pregnant woman regardless of where she lives in the state— there is a Catholic agency nearby and ready to help."

By visiting [www.adoptionpa.org](http://www.adoptionpa.org) and clicking "Find Help Near You," the website user can enter his or her zip code and be directed to the nearest Catholic social service agency. A phone number, email, driving directions and website link are provided for each facility.

"Recent legislative changes have made open adoption a reality in Pennsylvania, and the website will help connect birth parents with

our comprehensive services. Catholics can share this website address with their parish, friends and family. We do not want to be a 'hidden treasure,' we want the community to know that we are here to help, and this website will assist us." Bolton said.

The website is intended to serve as an initial point of contact with pregnant women and their families and friends, says Fr. Sean Code, the moderator of the Social Concerns Department of the PA Catholic Conference. The department, made up of directors of Catholic Social Service agencies in Pennsylvania, oversaw the project.

"This new website acts as a portal to direct women and their families, especially those who may not be familiar with Catholic charities, to the help nearest to them. We hope this website enhances our other outreach efforts and invites more women to consider adoption through our agencies," said Fr. Code.

The homepage of the [www.adoptionpa.org](http://www.adoptionpa.org) website states "Deciding the best option for you and your unborn or newborn child is difficult. We're here to help you get the answers you need about adoption and the support to help you make the best decision."

Visit [www.adoptionpa.org](http://www.adoptionpa.org) for more information.



## Most Reverend Michael Hrynchyshyn, C.Ss.R., Apostolic Exarch for Ukrainian Catholics in France, Benelux and Switzerland Falls Asleep in the Lord

PARIS—On November 12, the Most Reverend Michael Hrynchyshyn, C.Ss.R., Apostolic Exarch for Ukrainians in France, Benelux and Switzerland, fell asleep in the Lord here at the age of 83.

Funeral services were scheduled to be held here on Saturday, November 17, and final funeral rites and Divine Liturgy will be held in Winnipeg on Friday, November 23 at 10:00 a.m. in St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church followed by burial in Holy Family

Cemetery.

Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn was born on February 18, 1929, in Buchanan, Saskatchewan, Canada and made his religious profession on July 28, 1946 with the Redemptorist Order in Yorkton.

The late Bishop Maxim Hermaniuk ordained him to the episcopacy on May 25, 1952 in Toronto. He ministered in New York,



Winnipeg and Saskatoon. In 1955 he defended his doctoral work at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. For a time he also taught in seminaries in Canada. Since 1970 he has been a postulator in the beatification process of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. From 1972 until 1981 he served as the proto-hegumen for the Redemptorist Fathers in Canada and the United

States. On November 27, 1982, he was appointed Apostolic Exarch for Ukrainians in France.

His successor as Apostolic Exarch, the Most Reverend Borys Gudziak was ordained Bishop August 26, 2012, and his formal installation was scheduled for December 2, 2012, when Bishop Hrynchyshyn would have formally retired.

*(Adapted from the article on <http://risu.org.ua>)*

## Ukrainian Catholics commemorate Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky

1 November 2012  
The head of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, died in Lviv on November 1, 1944.

During his 44-year tenure, he guided the church and Ukrainian society through two world wars and seven changes of regime: Austrian, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Soviet, Nazi and Soviet. He was born in Prylbychi, near Lviv, on July 22, 1865, to an ancient aristocratic Ukrainian family which in the nineteenth century had become polonized, Latin Catholic and French

speaking. Despite the strong opposition of his father, he returned to his roots to serve what was regarded as the peasant Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church as a monk of the Basilian Order.

Blessed with extraordinary spiritual charisms, at the age of thirty-six Sheptytsky became head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. He worked tirelessly for reconciliation between ethnic groups and left a rich legacy of writings on social issues and spirituality. He developed modern methods of ministry, founded the Studite and

Ukrainian Redemptorist orders, other religious communities, a hospital, the national Museum, the Theological Academy and sponsored various religious, cultural and educational institutions.

Sheptytsky was a patron of artists, students, including many Orthodox Christians, and a pioneer of ecumenism. He learned Hebrew so that he could speak with Jews. During pastoral visits to towns he was met by Jewish communities with the Torah. He harbored hundreds of Jews in his residence and in Greek Catholic monasteries

during the Nazi occupation. He issued the pastoral letter, "Thou Shalt Not Kill," a bold outcry against Nazi atrocities. He died on November 1, 1944, and the process for his beatification lasts for decades.

[www.risu.org.ua](http://www.risu.org.ua)



## His Beatitude Sviatoslav: "We live in a society in which the gap between the wealthy and the poor widens daily"

06.11.12

UGCC Primate, His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) addressed this in his sermon dealing with the parable about the rich man and Lazarus at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ on November 4<sup>th</sup> in Kyiv.

Joining Patriarch Sviatoslav in co-celebrating the Divine Liturgy were: Roman Catholic Bishop Anton Kosha of the Kyshyniv Eparchy of the Republic of Moldova, responsible for all Catholics in there, particularly for Ukrainian Greek-Catholics, Bishop Ken (Nowakowski), Bishop of UGCC New Westminster Eparchy (in the far western part of Canada), as well as Bishop Bohdan (Dziurakh), Secretary of UGCC Synod.

In his homily His Beatitude Sviatoslav reminded the assembled that there comes a moment in everyone's life — be they rich or poor, happy or unhappy — which unites them all — death. Thereafter, they again disperse into two opposite sites: one ends up in the place of eternal bliss, and another — into the place of unending punishment,

a place of cries and suffering. This is what happened to the rich man and Lazarus in the evangelical parable. The Evangelist Luke describes that the rich man at the bottom of hell raises his eyes and sees a poor person, whom he knew in his life but whom he wanted to ignore. .. And he says, "Brother Abraham, send that poor man to me, so that with at least one finger he can wet my tongue because I am suffering greatly in this heat. And it is only then that the earthly mission of Lazarus manifests itself, because the word "lazar" means "God helps." The rich man in hell is begging for at least the touch of one finger of God's hand to help him out; however, when during his earthly life, God extended to him a whole hand of assistance and care, he refused it, believing that he was self-sufficient. However, that abyss which he constructed during his earthly life becomes the abyss between heaven and hell in eternity.

"Yet in this life, polarized, wherein human dignity is not respected, Christ's Church continues to proclaim the Good News — the blessings of Christ's



Gospel. Christ's Church continues to strengthen those, whom the rich man beckoned in hell," stated the pastor to the faithful.

As proof of his words during the Divine Liturgy, His Beatitude Sviatoslav ordained deacon Andriy Khim'yak and elevated six sub-deacons to deacons.

"Today we place our hands on the next priest whose goal is to preach God's Word, the blessing of God's people through the Holy Sacraments — the highest of which is the sacredness of the Body and Blood of Christ — the Holy Eucharist," emphasized UGCC Head.

"We rejoice with you, Fr. Andriy," states the Primate. And, today truly so many clergy have gathered to thank Almighty God for the gift of your vocation, to

express their gratitude to everyone who led you to this day — your family, parents, the Lviv Spiritual Seminary which educated you. Nevertheless, a special appreciation to Bishop Bohdan (Dziurakh), who truly guides you not only as a supervisor but as a spiritual father."

The newly-ordained priest, Fr. Andriy, received "with joy" his responsibility to proclaim God's Word and pledged to "fulfill his priestly duties to the best of his abilities."

<http://www.ugcc.org.ua>

2012 ARCHEPARCHY OF PHILADELPHIA STATISTICS  
(Figures ending 30 September, 2012)

**Clergy**

Archbishop 1  
Retired Archbishop 1  
Archeparchial Priests 41  
Retired Priests 9  
Total 50  
Religious Priests 4  
Total Priests 58  
External Priests 6  
Permanent Deacons 7  
Sisters 49

**Parishes**

Parishes 67  
Resident Archeparchial Clergy 40  
Resident Religious Clergy 1  
Without Resident Pastor 26  
Mission 1  
Sisters 45  
Lay Ministers 2

**Social**

Homes for the Aged 2  
Number assisted 279

**Education**

Seminary 1  
Students from Archeparchy 2  
Students from other Eparchies 3  
Student in other seminary 1  
Total Seminarians 3  
College 1  
Students 982  
High School, Private 1  
Students 312  
Elementary Schools 3  
Students 426  
Religious Education Programs  
High School Students 38  
Elementary Students 486  
Teachers (Full Time)  
Priest 1  
Sisters 15  
Lay Teachers 91

**Mysteries**

Infant Baptisms 230  
Minor Baptisms 4  
Adult Baptisms 7  
Received into Full Communion 7  
Confirmations 233  
Communions 240  
Marriages 68  
Catholic 58  
Interfaith 10  
Deaths 461  
Households 7,999  
Total Population 15,689

This information does not include the following parishes: Palmerton, Ramsey, Sayre, Simpson, Whippany (Partial Passaic)

## Nativity of BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church, Reading, PA



Our CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be on Sat., Dec. 1. We will be selling pyrohy, rolls, bread, halushki, holupchi, pastries and cakes, crafts, Ukrainian items, etc. The kitchen will sell and serve hot lunches and soups. We will also have raffles and Treasure Hunt. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church is located at 630 Laurel Street, Reading, PA 19602.



## December 2012 - Грудня 2012

**Happy Birthday!**  
**З Днем народження!**

December 7: Rev. Stepan Bilyk  
December 17: Rev. Mykola Ivanov  
December 21: Rev. Deacon Michael Waak  
December 21: Rev. Orest Kunderevych  
December 27: Rev. Msgr. Stephen Hrynuck

**May the Good Lord Continue to  
Guide You and Shower You with His  
Great Blessings. Многая Літа!**

**Нехай Добрий  
Господь Тримає  
Вас у Своїй Опіці  
та Щедро  
Благословить Вас.  
Многая Літа!**



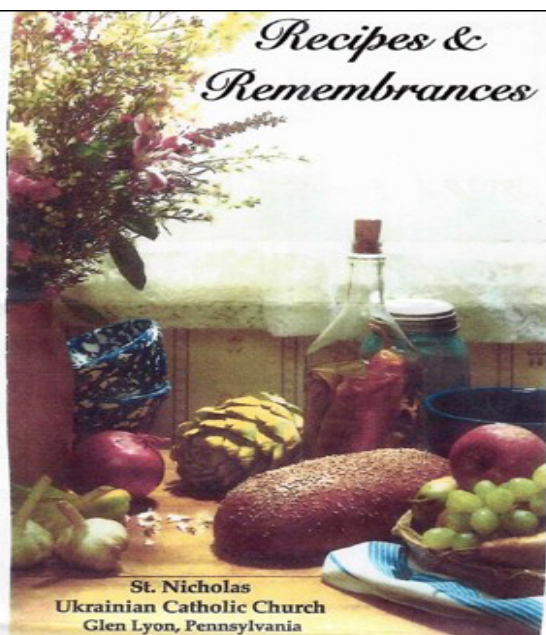
**Congratulations on your  
Anniversary of Priesthood!**  
**Вітаємо з Річницею Священства!**

December 6: Rev. Volodymyr Kostyuk  
(14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
December 10: Rev. D. George Worschak  
(34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
December 11: Rev. Ihor Royik  
(20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
December 19: Rev. Andriy Rabiw  
(11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
December 20: Rev. Ihor Bloshchynskyy  
(9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
December 21: Rev. Leonard Sinatra  
(45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

**May God Grant You Many Happy and  
Blessed Years of Service in the Vineyard  
of Our Lord!**

**Нехай Бог Обдарує Багатьма  
Благословенними Роками Служіння в  
Господньому Винограднику!**

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827 N. Franklin St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19123  
Tel.: (215) 627-0143  
Established 1939

**THE WAY**  
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BI-WEEKLY

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