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# ШЛЯХ

Official Publication of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

VOL. 73 - No. 22

DECEMBER 16, 2012

ENGLISH VERSION

## **PASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A. TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS, SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL**

### **CHRIST IS BORN!**

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus ordering a census of the whole world...And so Joseph too went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem...” (Luke 2:1,4)

What an astounding contrast presents itself to us in the first verses of the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke! The Imperial Emperor of the Roman Empire, Augustus, the most powerful man of his age, gives a command, and everyone, even the most insignificant and powerless individual, is compelled to obey. A census was deemed necessary in order to update the tax rolls, which would provide money to maintain the army and construct the magnificent roads, temples, palaces and stadiums that were



**This photo is taken of the iconostas at the Chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God Convent in Philadelphia, PA**

the glory of the Roman Empire and for which the Emperor was ultimately responsible.

How trivial, in comparison, is the life of the humble little family from Nazareth – the carpenter Joseph

and his wife Mary, who was with child – that, in obedience to the imperial command, set out to have themselves enrolled in the tax registry of Joseph’s hometown of Bethlehem. They are so insignificant that there is no palace at

their disposal when they arrive, not even a place in the local inn. They have to make do with a cold and damp stable for the mother to give birth.

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# PASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A. TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS, SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL

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What a contrast indeed! Because today we are celebrating, not the emperor Augustus enthroned in luxury in his palace, but the seemingly insignificant birth of the baby Jesus in the poor stable of Bethlehem. And this child, born in a shabby town in an obscure and distant province of the Roman Empire, shortly before he is crucified, will say to the representative of the Roman emperor, the governor Pontius Pilate, "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above." (*Jn. 19:11*)

It is not the emperor who is lord of the world, but

the child in the manger. The names of the emperors, like those of other great and powerful men and women of this world, have long since passed away and have been forgotten. Yet everywhere on earth, the birth of this child is still remembered and celebrated.

What the angel declared to the poor shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth resonates in our hearts even today: "I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For this day in David's city, a savior has been born to you who is

Messiah and Lord." (*Lk. 2:10-11*) The words 'this day' still hold true. The Savior, the Messiah and Lord is born 'this day' – every day in our world in the hearts of those who look to him.

Ever since this child was born, he has never ceased to demonstrate his rule, not with tanks and rockets and armies like those that encompass the Holy Land today, but with his message, which was sung by the angels and warmed the night of poverty and spiritual cold into which he was born: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (*Lk. 2:14*)

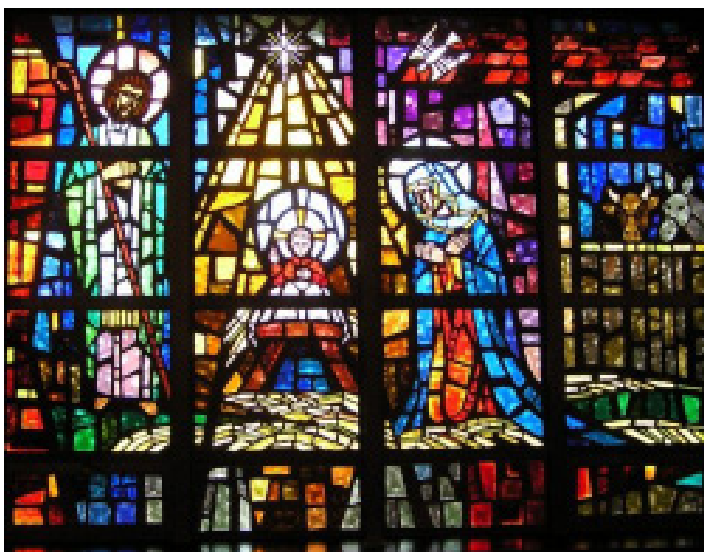
Against all appearances and expectations, the power of love is still greater than that of weapons, and the peacemakers are the ones to be praised, not those who perpetuate violence.

As we write this pastoral greeting a few short weeks before the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, the pounding of rockets and the threat of all-out war are once again threatening to drown out the sound of Christmas

carols in Nativity Square in Bethlehem and throughout the Holy Land as they have, unfortunately, many times in the past. Has the birth of the child who is God's Son and who is to reconcile humanity with God, somehow not brought the promised peace? This seems to be the sobering fact.

However, at the time of Jesus' birth, just as today, peace seemed like a distant dream as well. Yet, even then, there were those who found peace gazing into the face of this child: firstly, the shepherds who came with their flocks from nearby to adore him, then the Magi, who came from a great distance following a star in order to give him homage, then later, the elders in the Temple in Jerusalem who were astounded by the words of wisdom coming from the lips of this wondrous child, and his mother, who, observing this, "kept all these things in her heart." (*Lk. 2:51*) Indeed many are they who, down through the centuries until today, have found peace and solace

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**Stained Glass Window at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Melrose Park, PA.**

# PASTORAL MESSAGE OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY OF THE U.S.A. TO OUR CLERGY, HIEROMONKS AND BROTHERS, RELIGIOUS SISTERS, SEMINARIANS AND BELOVED FAITHFUL

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in an innocent child where the rich and powerful see only weakness and poverty.

Thus it has remained until this day. As Jesus tells us, only those who themselves 'become as children' can and will find peace beside the crib of the divine child, and then, themselves be able to give peace to others.

Our prayer for you on this Feast of the Nativity of Our

Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is that, kneeling at the foot of the crib where the Prince of Peace lays, we may all 'become as children' under his loving gaze. May the spiritual peace that enveloped the manger in Bethlehem, envelope our hearts as well. May we always be peacemakers within our family circle, in our parishes, in our schools and places of work, and everywhere in our society.

May God grant to you and to your loved ones, and to our brothers and sisters in our beloved Ukraine and scattered throughout the world, good health, peace, joy and contentment. A Blessed Christmas!

**CHRIST IS BORN!  
GLORIFY HIM!**

**+Stefan Soroka**  
Metropolitan-Archbishop  
of Philadelphia

**+Richard Seminack**  
Eparch of St. Nicholas in  
Chicago

**+Paul Chomnycky,**  
**OSBM** (author)  
Eparch of Stamford

**+John Bura**  
Apostolic Administrator  
of St. Josaphat in Parma

**Christmas, 2012**



***To Metropolitan Stefan and all our readership,***

***The entire staff of "The Way" greets all on this joyous  
Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ!***

***May the guiding light of the Bethlehem Star  
lead us to The Way of Christ - the path to salvation.***

***Therefore, let us all sing the Christmas carol,  
Boh Predvichny - God Eternal:***

***Christ is Born!***

*God Eternal is born today  
He came down from above  
To save us with His love  
Christ, the Son of God.*

***Glorify Him!***



## St. Nicholas visits Melrose Park, PA

St. Nicholas visited children of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Melrose Park, PA on Sunday, December 2, 2012. Pictured: Fr. Ihor Royik and children of the parish. (Photo: Russell Cooke).



## St. Nicholas visits Warrington, PA

Warrington, PA - St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church celebrated St. Nicholas Day on Sunday, December 9, 2012. The Religious Education Students presented their annual Christmas Pagaent by performing "The Dream". They presented an enthusiastic show that incorporated the original Christmas story set in modern times. The children enjoyed themselves and gave a wonderful performance. The audience was asked to join our Parish



Choir in singing traditional Ukrainian and English Christmas songs while Adrienna Michalko sang a beautiful solo rendition of "Hallelujah, Light Has Come" and Jay Melio performed his wonderful solo of "Oh Holy Night". After the performance everyone walked over to the Activity Center and anxiously awaited the arrival of St. Nicholas. He arrived with bells ringing and the children singing, "Och Toch Toch, Nikolaya Lubit". After St. Nicholas met individually with each student, giving them candy, everyone joined in a delicious Potluck Dinner as a Parish Family of over 100 attendees. A Good Time was had by All! Wishing everyone a Very Blessed Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year.



Submitted by Helene Michalko  
Parish Council Member





***ALL YOUNG ADULTS ARE INVITED  
TO CHRISTMAS GATHERING***

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER**

**22nd**

**7:00 PM**

**Event begins at  
6:00 pm—Young Adult Divine Liturgy  
(Speaker: Fr. Taras Svirchuk)  
7:00 pm —Reception and Program**

**In St. Nicholas Church Basement  
ALL YOUNG ADULTS, AGES 16 YEARS  
AND OLDER ARE INVITED**



**217 President St. Passaic, NJ 07055 - Phone: 973.471.9727**

[www.stnicholasucc.org](http://www.stnicholasucc.org)  
[stnicholasucc@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasucc@gmail.com)



# Candlelight Christmas pageant performed for the 9th year in Frackville, Pa. Church

BY JOHN E. USALIS (STAFF WRITER [JUSALIS@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM](mailto:JUSALIS@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM))

Published: December 10, 2012

**FRACKVILLE, PA -** For the ninth year in a row, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church hosted its Candlelight Christmas Pageant on Sunday afternoon, December 9 in a full church.

The pageant was a time to show the reason for the season as the Nativity story was told mostly by parish children and a few adults playing the parts of those who were part of the biblical story of the birth of Christ.

More than 200 people attended the program that had about 30 participants. The children played the main parts, telling the story from when Mary received the announcement from the Archangel Gabriel that she would bring into the world the Messiah, who would be named Jesus, to the visit by the three Magi or "Wise Men" bringing their gold, frankincense and myrrh as gifts to the newborn king.

The public was welcomed by the pastor, the Rev. Roman Pitula. The cast processed through the church and took positions before the iconostasis, or

icon wall, as a brass ensemble played "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

Narrators Stephen Mazur and Elizabeth Peleschak told the Christmas story as the children portrayed the scene. The first scene was Mary, portrayed by Emily Peleschak, being visited by the Archangel Gabriel, portrayed by Sofiya Pitula, and joined by Joseph, portrayed by Petro Pitula.

Between each narration, Christmas carols were sung by the cast and the audience, making the program an interactive one. There were also song performances, such as "Breath of Heaven" sung by Emily and Ashley Fannick, and students from Deb Kosick's Music Studio singing a Ukrainian carol called "Vo Vifleyemee Ninee Novina."

Following the singing of "Silent Night," Mazur said, "Although hundreds of years have passed, we still celebrate the birthday of that babe of Bethlehem and the wonderful happiness of the first Christmas still lives in our

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*Nancy Eichman, left, of Whitehall, and Kathy Sweeney of Barnesville, sing "Silent Night" during the candlelight portion of the Christmas pageant at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Frackville on Sunday. (JOHN E. USALIS/Staff Photo)*



*Rev. Roman Pitula, pastor of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Frackville, speaks at the end of the Candlelight Christmas Pageant in the church on Sunday afternoon. (JOHN E. USALIS/Staff Photo)*

# Candlelight Christmas pageant performed for the 9th year in Frackville, Pa. Church

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hearts. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulders and His name shall be called wonderful, counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

As everyone in the church sang “Boh Predvichny,” or Eternal God, in English and Ukrainian, candles held by everyone were lighted and the lights in the church were dimmed.

“I want to thank our parishioners, our parents and our children, who gave of their time and

efforts to prepare this special program for our church,” Roman Pitula said.

At the end of the pageant, people moved to the parish hall for a covered dish social. At the end of the meal, St. Nicholas arrived and took his place at the front of the room, where he visited with the children and distributed gifts.

<http://republicanherald.com>



*Deacon Paul Spotts assists St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, in distributing gifts to the church's altar boys on Sunday afternoon after the Candlelight Christmas Pageant at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Frackville. (JOHN E. USALIS/Staff Photo)*



*The three Magi sing “We Three Kings of Orient Are” during Sunday's Candlelight Christmas Pageant in St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Frackville. From left are Deacon Paul Spotts, Robert Meridionale and Jordan Boxer. (JOHN E. USALIS/Staff Photo)*



*Kneeling at the manger with Jesus are, from left, Emily Peleschak as Mary and Petro Pitula as Joseph. (JOHN E. USALIS/Staff Photo)*

## Schedule of services at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for Christmas 2012

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

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

Wednesday, December 26 -  
SYNAXIS OF THEOTOKOS.  
9.00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG).

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

Tuesday, January 1 –  
CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD.  
FEAST OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT.  
NEW YEAR'S DAY.  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (UKR/ENG)

Saturday, January 5 - EVE OF THEOPHANY  
4:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy. Blessing of Water (ENG).

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

Monday, January 7 -  
CHRISTMAS (Julian Calendar)  
10:00 a.m. Christmas' Divine Liturgy (UKR).

Sunday, January 13 –  
SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY  
3 p.m. FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS



### Festival of Ukrainian Christmas Carols

18 choirs participating!!!

Sunday, January 13, 2013

3:00 PM

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
830 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

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### Фестиваль Українських Різдвяних Колядок

Беруть участь 18 хорів!!!

Неділя, 13-го Січня 2013 року

о 3-й годині пополудні

Катедра Непорочного Зачаття  
Філадельфія, ПА





## St. Nicholas visits Northampton, PA



On December 2, St. Nicholas visited the Religious Education students of St. John's Parish in Northampton, PA. A wonderful breakfast was served to the children by parish volunteers and St. Nicholas had a sack of age-appropriate gifts for each child.



On December 10, the Students presented a program of Scripture Readings and Christmas Carols for their parents and relatives.

At this time of year thousands of people are falling over one another in various stores in the vain attempt of getting "the perfect gift" for their loved ones and they're willing to give almost anything to get it. Yet, so often that gift is not really appreciated because we so often give gifts to people who least need them. The tragedy is that this gift would be much more appreciated by the really poor in some other part of the world or probably by someone even not very far away.



**Let us remember that the really significant gifts cannot be bought.** We cannot purchase acts of virtue, such as faith, love and trust. Children cannot buy the love of their parents. True and lasting friendship cannot be bought, at least not with money or earthly goods. The elderly cannot buy tolerance and understanding if it is not forthcoming voluntarily. The lonely cannot buy compassion of someone who will listen sympathetically to what they have to say. Money cannot buy you a teacher who will really give of herself or himself in order to teach their class the best way possible.

Many of us give presents at Christmas. **This year let us consider giving that which our materialistic society needs most - acts of virtue and kindness that can be obtained in no other way except through voluntary giving and sacrifice of self.**

## Saint Nicholas visits Perth Amboy, NJ

Each year on December 6th, Assumption Catholic School in Perth Amboy, NJ receives a very special visitor. Saint Nicholas comes to spend a little time with the students, bringing a gift for each one. FSA also gives the children a chocolate lollipop and candy cane. To start the afternoon, Senior Drama presented a short play that helped the audience learn a little bit about the life of Saint Nicholas and how he became known as the patron saint of children and sailors. We were entertained by enthusiastic Drama Club members as they showed how, especially here at ACS, the devils are always fighting a losing battle. By the end of the presentation everyone was ready for Saint Nicholas. Each grade had time with him. Saint Nicholas could be heard asking the children about their behavior during the previous year. Some students made pictures for him. Saint Nicholas shared that he still has pictures that the seventh grade class had made for him when they were in second grade. He loves coming to ACS because the children are so enthusiastic. By the end of the afternoon all of the students were ready to go home to share their experiences with their parents.



December 16, 2012



## SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS - DECEMBER 16, 2012



*"A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' "Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'" (Lk. 14, 16-24)*

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of December, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

On this Sunday the Church commemorates the Holy Forefathers, i.e. the earthly ancestors of our Lord Jesus Christ, beginning with the first man, Adam, and on through Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, King David, and others. These ancient people, separated from us by millennia, nevertheless have a direct and close bearing upon us, contemporary Christians.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the

nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in

peace, a venerable elder full of days

What connection is there between them and us? In general, the Church brings them to our attention now, right before Christmas, largely because of their faith – their belief in the promise given by God to Adam during his expulsion from the garden of Eden, that in the end a Savior will come into the world and will redeem mankind from original sin. All the forefathers – who lived on earth long before the birth of Christ – lived and burned with this faith, never allowing it to be extinguished. They are a shining example to us, who are living on earth after the incarnation of our Lord. Just like those ancient people we, too, have never actually seen Christ: they only knew that He would come into the world, while we know that He did

come into the world. But they firmly believed in His coming and their faith was justified.

All the forefathers – who lived on earth long before the birth of Christ – lived and burned with this faith, never allowing it to be extinguished. They are a shining example to us, who are living on earth after the incarnation of our Lord. Just like those ancient people we, too, have never actually seen Christ: they only knew that He would come into the world, while we know that He did come into the world.

We are expected to have even greater faith. We must believe that the Lord was, and is, and will be; that He lived on earth as a man; that through His Church He remains with us constantly; and that He

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## SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS - DECEMBER 16

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will again return to earth to judge mankind. But for such a faith the Lord Himself promises us eternal bliss. When Jesus Christ appeared before the doubting Apostle Thomas, who could not believe in the Lord's resurrection unless he actually touched Christ's wounds, and upon touching them cried out: "My Lord and my God!", then the Lord said to the apostle: "Because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed; but blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

But apart from faith there is something else that binds us closely with the ancient forefathers – and that is their faithfulness to the awaited Messiah. They lived surrounded by a pagan world – a world which did not yet know Christ, but which had already rejected God. We too, dear brethren, live in a similar and even worse situation. For nineteen centuries after the birth of Christ the world lived with Christ and the Christian culture, but in the 20th century an abrupt change took place. We now live in a post-Christian era, in

a world that has once again become totally immersed in paganism.

We often hear mention of the arrival of a "new age." However, there is nothing new in this "new age" except for its more modern form. It is the same old rejection of God and even negation of God, and moreover – a complete rejection of Christ and profanation of Christ. Most Christians do not even see how they are perverting their Christian faith in trying to modernize it, and how they are betraying Christ in attempting to unite with

the religions of His persecutors and abusers.

And so, against the background of this horrifying world, let us remember not only the faith of the Holy Forefathers, but also their faithfulness to Christ the Savior; and as we prepare very soon to celebrate His Nativity, let us turn away from the paganism that surrounds us, and let us witness our total devotion and loyalty to the One Who said: "Lo, I am with you until the end of time."

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## Sunday of the Holy Fathers, the Ancestors of Christ - December 23, 2012

Usually people react to the Gospel reading today by asking: Why do we have to hear all those names every year? What are these fourteen generations of names times three? These fourteen generations of names times three end in Joseph, who is not even the biological father of the Saviour. People will say: What is the importance of this?

The importance has to do with the fact of the Promise. In the reading from the Epistle to the

Hebrews, we recall all these ancestors of Christ who had lived by faith, starting with Abraham. All these people lived in the hope of the fulfillment of the Promise of the Lord. The Promise of the Lord was a Saviour, a Redeemer, and Life. We have to say, also, that the Promise has to do with blessing. The whole Promise begins with Abraham, saying that his descendants are going to be a blessing on the earth. People are generally taking the matter of descendants as purely

physical descendants. However, we are counting not only physical ancestry, but also spiritual ancestry.

On the second Sunday before the Nativity, we pay attention to the spiritual ancestry of Christ, and today, the Sunday before the Nativity, the physical ancestry of Christ is emphasized. We are talking about this life in faith. We are talking about life in faith, hope, and trust in God's love, trust in His Promise of a Saviour, trust in His Promise of blessing. The people who are the

descendants of Abraham are truly people who have lived by faith. All those persons whose names we have heard today are ancestors of Christ, spiritually speaking, and people who lived with faith in the fulfillment of the Promise, and trust in the Lord. Many of these people suffered because of their confidence in the Lord, His love, and their hope in the fulfillment.

In the Scriptures, there two genealogies of Christ, one

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## Sunday of the Holy Fathers, the Ancestors of Christ - December 23, 2012

in the Gospel of Luke, the other in the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's genealogy begins with Abraham. The Lucan genealogy traces the lineage of Jesus back to Adam. The genealogies definitely demonstrate that the Saviour did not just appear out of nowhere (physically speaking). You hear in pagan mythologies that some people appear out of nowhere. The Saviour is a human being who comes from an ancestry that we know. We know where He was born. We know where He grew up. These are important details. These ancestors of Christ, these ancestors of Joseph (who was the foster-father of the Saviour) are people who prepared the way for Christ by their love, and by their faithfulness, they made the time of the Incarnation possible.

We are reminded that as human beings we are both physical and spiritual beings. Human beings consist of body and soul. This is the Christian condition. Our faith is all about the love of God concretely and physically manifested to us. It's all about God's life-giving and saving love. If there is true spirituality amongst us, it manifests itself in this

wholeness, this unity of spiritual, and physical. Actually, this was the characteristic Hebrew mentality and belief—that spirit and the body are inseparable. Together, they are one.

This physical presence of the Saviour, which is coming with the Incarnation that we are about to celebrate, is the most important occurrence that ever could have happened to us. This proves to us the love of the Lord. Human beings always demand tangible, concrete proof of everything, and this included our need for tangible evidences of the love of God for us, and His physical presence among us.

This is the reason for the Incarnation. This is why we Christian believers have to show to other people around us concrete evidence of our hope in Jesus Christ by how we behave and how we live. No matter how much people exasperate us, no matter how much they put us to the test, we have to show them concretely that we *do* love them.

The incarnational way the Lord continues to show His love to us is through the

Gospel, itself. The written word about the Saviour, the Lord's Promise (and its fulfillment), those words that are spoken from the Gospel, are words that are spoken as from the Saviour, Himself. So, when we respond in our hymns to what is proclaimed in the Gospel, we

are responding in words such as "today" this is happening or "today" is the fulfillment of the Lord's Promise. When the time of the Nativity will come, we will be saying: "*Today Christ is Born.*" When those words are proclaimed to us, it is Christ, Himself, coming to us, present with us. It is *the Word* giving us His words. Always identify the Gospel, the word of God with our Saviour, the Word Who became flesh, Who is in our midst. Because the Gospel is proclaimed in our midst during the Divine Liturgy, Christ is truly present in our midst.

The Word of God came down from heaven, took flesh, and is in our midst,



in the middle of us. We all have the responsibility to proclaim Christ, to present Christ, to represent Christ. In the same way as the Lord put flesh on His love, it is important that we, ourselves, live out this love in concrete, tangible ways. *Live on in my love, as I have loved you.*

## The Icon of the Nativity of Christ

Icons have a long history in the Byzantine tradition, especially in Ukraine. They can be paintings on wood plaques or on plaster walls, mosaics of stone or tiles, or enamel work on metal. Some might feel that icons do not compare in beauty to realistic paintings or other works of art, but that is exactly why icons are different and special in their own right.

The icon is meant to be a representation of a sacred subject—it is meant to reflect truths not of this world; because of this, icons could not be expected to look life-like. Whatever the subject of the icon, it is a symbol of something in the spiritual realm—it is not beautiful for the sake of beauty alone, as many life-like paintings are, but only in a way that aids in its depiction of spiritual beauty. Because the icon is made to help the viewer see Divine reality, because it is meant to be looked upon as a religious image, it does not emphasize the carnal or physical world. In fact, in its abstractness, its starkness, its singularity, and its somber use of color, the icon is purposely avoiding the representation of “real life”—and when one understands the purpose of the icon, one can better

appreciate the solemn spiritual truths which it is depicting.

As part of this tradition of iconography, the Nativity icon usually represents certain facts surrounding the Birth of Jesus Christ. Although different nativity icons will at a glance seem to vary, if one examines them as a whole, there are several of the same symbolic representations expressed on all of them.

Nativity icons are meant to show two things to the viewer: first, that the Birth of Christ was a real event—one that happened here on earth; and second, the effect that this miraculous event, that is the fact that Jesus, who is God and therefore Divine, also became man with His birth, had on the world and on all creation.

The Birth of Christ is a celebration of joy. The fact that God became man and entered into our human life is seen in the Icon of the Nativity. Wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger is the Christ Child. All the details of the Icon relate to His presence. This presence shines radically with the black opening of the cave in which He was born. This contrast is often seen in the Fathers’



Icon at the Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA

writings in terms of the spiritual light of Christ’s birth radiating through the shadow of death encompassing man. The black mouth of the cave, then symbolically, is precisely this fallen world in which the “Sun of Righteousness” has dawned, this wilderness which the “Light of Wisdom” has illumined.

The Virgin Mother is shown half-sitting, supported by a hammock-type bed used by the early Jews in their travels. Striking is the absence of the usual sufferings of childbirth which is iconographically seen to be an indication of the virgin-birth of Christ.

As in the Gospel, all mankind is called to this event. The Wise Men represent the learned and astute, and the shepherds

represent the humble of this world. A multitude of Angels give glory to God and announce this good news to mankind.

In the Icon, several episodes are grouped together and shown simultaneously. In the bottom left corner, Joseph sits in painful thought, while the Devil, under the guise of an old and bent shepherd, suggests new doubts and suspicions to him. In the opposite corner, two women are seen bathing the new-born Infant, to show the real humanity of Jesus.

All of creation takes part in the birth of the Savior. In the cave, the Infant lies guarded by an ox and a donkey. While the Gospels do not speak of them, all

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# The Icon of the Nativity of Christ

(continued from previous page)

icons of the Nativity portray them because of the manifest fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, "An ox knows its owner, and an ass its master's manger." (Is. 1: 3) The mountainside is a backdrop to the event. While it bears little correspondence to the terrain of Bethlehem in Judea, it parallels a line from the prayer of the Prophet Habakkuk: "God

comes from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Haran. Covered are the heavens with His glory, and with His praise the earth is filled." (Heb. 3: 3)

One final detail is the tree painted across from the image of Joseph, included not only in its own right as an offering to Christ, but also as a symbol of the Tree of Jesse. In the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "But

a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him." (Is. 11: 1-2)

The Icon of the Nativity calls us to praise and glorify the Birth of Christ. With the hymns of Vespers we too say: "What shall we bring to You, O Christ, Who, for our sake, was born on earth as man?"

Every creature brings thanks to you: Angels their songs; the heavens a star; Wise Men gifts; Shepherds amazement; the earth a cave; the wilderness a manger; but we - the Virgin Mother."

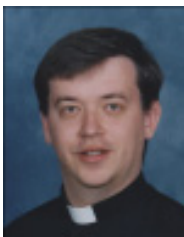


## Christ is Born! Христос Рождается!

### METROPOLITAN STEFAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS



Effective December 16, 2012, Rev. Mykola Ivanov is relieved as pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Reading, PA. Fr. Ivanov remains as Administrator of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Pottstown, PA and will fulfill additional duties at the Chancery.



Effective December 16, 2012, Rev. Andriy Rabyi is appointed as Pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Reading, PA. Fr. Rabyi will continue to serve as Vice-Chancellor of the Archeparchy but is relieved of responsibilities to assist the Archbishop as Personal Secretary.

**The Ukrainian Catholic Metropolia in USA**  
*under the spiritual guidance of*  
**Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka**  
**and the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of USA**

invite you to renew your spiritual and cultural roots in a Pilgrimage celebrating the "Year of Faith" and 1025 years of Christianity in Ukraine

**UKRAINIAN  
FAITH &  
HERITAGE  
TOURS**



**Tour A: August 13 - 29, 2013. 17 days \$3500 Twin (land tour)**

Kyiv, Poltava. Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky, Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Chernivtsi, Sanok, Peremyshl, Krakow. ***Special Highlights:*** Pilgrimage to Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv and Mother of God Sobor in Zarvanytsia near Ternopil; Sorochynsky Yarmarok; Ukraine's Independence Day Celebrations in Lviv

**Tour B: August 13 - 26, 2013. 14 days \$2850 Twin (land tour)**

Kyiv, Poltava. Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky, Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Chernivtsi ***Special Highlights:*** Pilgrimage Holy Resurrection Sobor in Kyiv and Mother of God Sobor in Zarvanytsia near Ternopil; Sorochynsky Yarmarok; Ukraine's Independence Day Celebrations in Lviv

**Tour C: August 14 - 22, 2013. 9 days \$2200 Twin (land tour)**

Kyiv and Lviv: Includes Celebrations of the 1025th Anniversary of Christianity in Kyiv

Registration and deposit deadline is March 01, 2013

Organizer: **Zenia's Travel Club LLC - 732-928-3792**

[ztc@earthlink.net](mailto:ztc@earthlink.net)

- In cooperation with

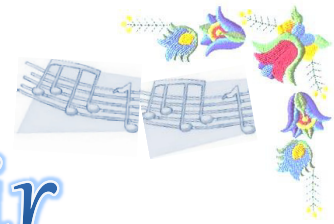
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Scope Travel Inc. - 973 378 8998 - [scope@scopetravel.com](mailto:scope@scopetravel.com)





# Archeparchial Children's Choir



## This is an invitation to:

**What:** Join a children's Choir for the Ukrainian  
Archebeparchy of Philadelphia

**Who:** Children ages 9 - 12

**Where:** Sisters of St. Basil the Great Motherhouse  
**710 Fox Chase Road**  
**Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046**

**Why:** To learn Ukrainian Liturgical and  
Ukrainian Folk Singing.

**When:** Every Saturday afternoon @ 3:00 p.m.

## Highlights

- Learn to sing responses to the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.
- Learn traditional Ukrainian Christmas Carols.
- Learn traditional Ukrainian folk Songs.
- Enjoy meeting new friends as you learn Ukrainian.
- Share your love of music with friends, family and your Church community.

## Register Below

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your location by landmark or area of town.

**Contact person: Sister Joackima Dvernytska, OSBM**  
**Telephone: 1-215-379-3998 Ext. 522**  
**e-mail: D.anna77hotmail.com**



**Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great**



## Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy Clergy Challenged with Rewarding Reflection

Rev. Gerard J. McGlone, S.J., Ph.D., Executive Director of the St. John Vianney Center, a treatment center for clergy and religious located in Doylestown, PA and operated by the Philadelphia Latin Archdiocese, energetically gave two presentations to the clergy of our archeparchy on Tuesday, November 27th. Fr. Gerard addressed the priests on the inner struggles in priestly life, and the choices one makes to enjoy a meaningful and contented priesthood. He emphasized the need for a positive orientation in ministry, and the need for nurturing close and supportive friendships with brother clergy for mutual support. Emphasis was placed on the initiatives every priest himself chooses to make as he ministers to the faithful. The presentations were very well received by the priests.



**Rev. Gerard J. McGlone, S.J., Ph.D.**

The afternoon session focused on planned new catechetical and evangelization initiatives to take place within our archeparchy. Reflection and proposals were presented by Rev. Stepan Bilyk, Director of the Catechetical Office and Rev. Archpriest John Fields of the Communications Office. Vocation initiatives within the archeparchy were also discussed following a presentation by the Vocations Director, Rev. Paul Makar. The new Director of Development, Ms. Linda Bond, was introduced and shared information as to her background and her hopes to assist with the challenges within our archeparchy. The priests were asked by Metropolitan Stefan Soroka to dedicate themselves in assisting in the implementation of the catechetical and evangelization initiatives which were discussed during the afternoon.

The program of the one day Clergy Conference was beneficial and informative for all the participants, involving all of the priests of our archeparchy with their archbishop.





## Vocation Article - Called by Name Series

# Sr. Mary Ann Botsko, SSMI - The Mystery of a Vocation from God

The first time that I thought of being a Sister was when I had made my First Holy Communion on April 19, 1964. The seed was planted by the good example of my parents, John and Mary Botsko, but even more so by my grandmother, Pauline Wolsnovich. My grandmother would pray the rosary every day, and her intention was for vocations. Little did my grandmother know that my twin brother Jerome George Botsko would be entering the Priesthood, and I, Mary Ann, would enter religious life. Yes, my parents, family, relatives, and friends were supportive of my decision of becoming a Sister.



I am the youngest in the family. Father Jerome George and I, Sister Mary Ann, were 13 minutes apart. I also have an older brother John Michael, and Thomas who passed away on June 12, 2004. All of us went to public schools through elementary, and high school. On Saturday mornings, I would have to attend class in our parish, St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church in Donora, PA, and this took place in the church basement. When I was in the sixth grade, we were asked to write an essay describing "What career we would choose in life?" At that time I felt the tiny whisper of God calling me to be a Sister. I remember sitting down and discussing with my parents that I wanted to join a community that honored the Blessed Mother.

I visited the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate for almost two weeks and remember talking to the Provincial Superior who at that was Sister Stephanie Sema, that I would like to keep in contact with the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. After much discernment I enter the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate on May 14, 1981.

God has blessed me in many ways, during the various ministries I had serving in parishes in Passaic, NJ, Spring Valley, NY, Auburn, NY, at St. Josaphat's Seminary in Washington, DC. I enjoyed serving the retreatants at St. Mary's Villa Spiritual and Educational Center, and serving the elderly residents at St. Joseph's Adult Care Home, where they taught me patience, and I learned from their words of wisdom.

It has truly been a life filled with many experiences that I could never have imagined. Why religious life - it is a mystery. Why God called both my twin brother and me, - this, too, is a mystery, but, I cannot imagine another kind of life and will always be grateful for my grandmother's prayers, my parents' good example and support and the whisper that I heard and recognized as a child.

<http://ssmi-us.org/>

## Damian Gerard Myronyuk Receives Mysteries of Initiation

On Thursday, November 29th, Damian Gerard Myronyuk, fifth child of Rev. Myron and Iryna Myronyuk, received the Mysteries of Initiation at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Scranton, PA. Fr. Myron is the pastor of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in Scranton and SS. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Simpson, PA. Parishioners from both parishes and from his former parish of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Philadelphia participated in the Divine Liturgy and in the conferring of the Mysteries of Initiation on Damian Gerard Myronyuk. Also participating were Rev. Ivan Demkiv, Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery, Rev. John Seniw, Dean of the North Anthracite Deanery, Rev. Msgr. Myron Grabowsky, Rev. Andriy Rabiw (Vice-Chancellor of the Archeparchy).



**Archbishop Stefan Soroka baptizing Damian Gerard Myronyuk.**

Congratulations to Fr. Myron and Mrs. Iryna Myronyuk, and to their children, Sofiya, Elizaveta, Antonina, and Matthew on the occasion of their newborn son, Damian Gerard receiving the Mysteries of Initiation. Please pray for the Myronyuk family as they pray for us with gratitude for the gift of new life, and celebrate the gift of life with all with whom they journey in their life. God bless the Myronyuk family richly in ways only He can for their openness to the gift of life.



**Pictured (from left to right) are Bohdan Kuchinsky (Godfather), Mrs. Jean Pedley (Godmother), Fr. Myron Myronyuk holding son Matthew, Mrs. Iryna Myronyuk holding newly initiated Damian Gerard, girls Antonina, Elizaveta, and Sofiya, Rev. Ivan Demkiv, Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Fr. John Seniw and Fr. Andriy Rabiw.**

## 9th Annual Malanka - Scranton, PA

Northeastern Pennsylvania's Ukrainian New Year 9th Annual Dinner Dance – MALANKA – is scheduled for Friday evening, January 11, 2013 at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton.

The festive evening will include a generous Ukrainian and American dinner buffet catered by Paul Wanas of Accentuate Caterers, cash bar, complimentary midnight bubbly toast and dancing to the internationally known Ukrainian orchestra "Fata Morgana". Attractive door prizes will also be awarded. Tickets are \$40.00 per person.

For reservations or additional information contact Michael Trusz at 570 489-1256



The Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption

# NEW YEAR'S EVE "ZABAVA"

380 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

**Monday, December 31, 2012  
8:00 PM. until ??**

**Delicious, Bountiful Buffet Dinner**  
served at 8:00 PM and available all evening.

**Champagne Toast and Dessert Table!**

**MUSIC BY:**  
**"ANNA-MARIA ENTERTAINMENT"**

More than 300 people in attendance every year!!!  
The best food and the biggest dancing hall in N.J.!!!

**Advanced Ticket Sales - \$75.00 per person**  
**After December 25 - \$85.00 per person**  
**For Tickets call 732-826-0767**  
**No refunds - No tickets at the door!**

On SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2013,

plan to attend

**WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER** to celebrate

*Church Alive!*

*An Invitation to Women to Evangelize!*

Come examine – challenge – your perceptions about  
how:

*You feel alive today;*

*You perceive God as being alive today;*

*God is here with us today.*

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
EIGHTH AND FRANKLIN STREETS, PHILADELPHIA,  
PENNSYLVANIA

Additional details will be forthcoming.

December 16, 2012

## "Annual Food Collection for the Needy"

Now through December 16th (Clifton Heights, PA)

Over the last seven years, several pickup truckloads of food were collected and provided to the community by the parish during the Christmas season. Due to the continued hard economic conditions, Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church (100 South Penn Street, Clifton Heights, PA) will hold its "Annual Food Collection" for the needy in the community from now through Sunday, December 16th. Anyone wishing to donate any canned or boxed, non-perishable food items should bring them to the Church on any Sunday before/or after the 11:00 am. English Divine Liturgy. Given the harsh economic conditions currently being experienced, we appreciate anyone's help in this worthwhile effort. It will be through your efforts that we aim for matching or exceeding our last Christmas season's collection. Please help us help, if you can!



## November - A Month of Remembrances in Passaic, NJ



At St. Nicholas Parish, Passaic, Sundays during the month of November were marked with memorial observances. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, a Divine Liturgy was celebrated followed by a Panachyda on the occasion of the 68th Anniversary of the death of the Servant of God

+Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. At the coffee social that followed, Sr. Andrijanna, SSMI, presented new information and answered questions about the progress of Beatification efforts for + Metropolitan Andrey. Attendees were enlightened to hear that another healing miracle has been attributed to +Metropolitan Andrey and that documentation of the evidence have been forwarded to Rome. Attendees also viewed a documentary film, presented in English and Ukrainian, about the life of +Metropolitan Andrey that was developed by the League of Ukrainian Catholics. Beautification Prayer cards and additional literature was also available.



Deceased Veterans of the American and Ukrainian Armed Forces were commemorated on Sunday, November 11. The parish took this occasion to remember the many brave men and women here and in Ukraine who lost their lives fighting for freedom – to live a life free from bondage and to worship freely. A remembrance wreath and vigil candles burned in everlasting memory for their sacrifice during the Divine Liturgy and Panachyda.



Victims of the 1932-33 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine (Holodomor) were remembered in a solemn memorial on Sunday, November 18. Seven million Ukrainians died of starvation in a peacetime catastrophe unprecedented in the history of Ukraine. In memory of their suffering, those who participated in the coffee social after the Divine Liturgy and Panachyda were served plain, coarse, black bread, with only water, black coffee or tea to drink.

On Sunday, November 25, once again a noble hierarchy of our Ukrainian Catholic



church was memorialized. Patriarch Jozef Cardinal Slipyj was remembered for his fidelity to our Ukrainian Catholic church in the face of torture and imprisonment. On this occasion, Sr. Andrijanna, SSMI, presented relevant information, handouts and prayer cards about his life and his work. Two boys from the parish were selected to recite a verse about Patriarch Slipyj. During the discussion that followed, several parishioners recalled the visit of Patriarch Slipyj to St. Nicholas Parish in 1976. This informative program was greeted with enthusiasm by the attendees at the post Divine Liturgy coffee social.

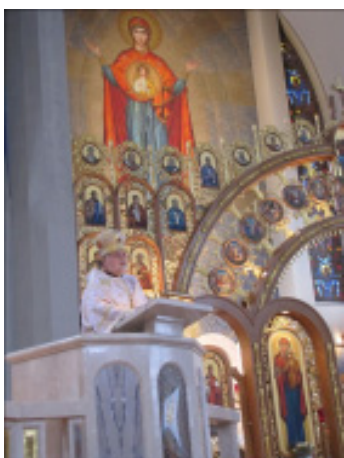
## Class Rings Distributed at Assumption Catholic School in Perth Amboy, NJ

On Friday, November 30, 2012 the Class of 2013 made their way to Divine Liturgy as they had done every Friday for as long as they could remember. This week it was a little different. The class looked like they were walking on air! This was going to be a special day for them.

After Liturgy was finished, Father Ivan blessed the rings that would soon be given to the class. Following the blessing Mr. S. called each student by name to come to Father Ivan to receive their ring. They were then officially The Class of 2013. Following the ceremony, the Class of 2013 posed for pictures, and went to the Church basement for a chance to celebrate the occasion with their families. This was a day that will not be forgotten by the Class of 2013.



## Feast Day Celebration of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia, PA, on December 9th.



Center Photo: Very Rev. Archpriest John Fields, Msgr. Peter Waslo, Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Rev. Ivan Demkiv, Rev. Andriy Rabi, Deacon Michael Waak.

Watch videos on our blog [www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com](http://www.thewayukrainian.blogspot.com)



Choir "Dzvin"





# Sr. Yosaphata Litvenczuk, M.S.M.G Celebrates 50 years of Religious Life

By **Andrij Wowk**

Hierarchs, clergy, students and members of the parish community gathered at the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Perth Amboy, NJ on Sunday, December 3 to celebrate a unique milestone: Sr. Yosaphata Litvenczuk, M.S.M.G's 50th anniversary of religious life and work as an educator and administrator.

A half-century's worth of memories and accomplishments by Sr. Yosaphata were remembered and shared during the event, which included a Divine Liturgy

celebrated by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, followed by a banquet in the school auditorium attended by some 300 guests.

In addition to Metropolitan Soroka other honored guests included the Most Rev. Stephen Sulyk, Metropolitan-Archbishop Emeritus and former pastor of the parish, former pastor Fr. Roman Dubitsky, and Sr. Yosaphata's nephew, Fr. Silvio Litvenczuk from Brazil.

Sr. Yosaphata arrived in the United States in 1952 as an orphan from her native Brazil and became a novitiate of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the

Mother of God, based in Stamford, CT. She attended Mother of God Academy and earned a

Bachelor of Arts degree from Charter Oak State College before beginning her spiritual ministry on January 1, 1963, when she took her final vows as a Missionary Sister of the Mother of God.

Later in 1963 she was assigned with Sister Josepha, M.S.M.G. to open Ukrainian Assumption Catholic School within the Ukrainian Assumption Church parish. In the 50 years since then, she has served only at this parish and has performed

multiple roles at the parish school, all the while overseeing the religious instruction of several generations of the school's graduates.

Known affectionately to many of her students as "Little Sister", Sr. Yosaphata's achievements have included being a grade teacher, teaching Ukrainian and religion at all grade levels, preparing children for Holy Communion, moderating the Junior Sodality, and training altar boys. She currently serves as the Vice Principal and Financial Administrator of Assumption Catholic School.

Highlights from Sr. Yosaphata's lifetime of dedication to her Order, the Ukrainian Assumption Church parish and the parish school were warmly remembered by speakers throughout the event.

The day's celebration began with a Divine Liturgy celebrated by



*(continued on next page)*



# Sr. Yosaphata Litvenczuk, M.S.M.G

*(continued from previous page)*

Metropolitan Soroka and co-celebrated by Metropolitan-Archbishop Emeritus Sulyk, Fr. Dubitsky, current parish pastor Fr. Ivan Turyk, Fr. Silvio Litvenczuk, Deacon Michael Waak, Deacon Paul Maker, and other clergy.

During his homily, Metropolitan Soroka noted that Sr. Yosaphata has been blessed with gifts of "charisma" and the ability to influence children in a very personal manner, and that hundreds of graduates from the parish school have benefitted from her guidance. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Sr. Yosaphata renewed her spiritual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience before

Metropolitan Soroka. Following the Liturgy the parish community filled to capacity the auditorium of Assumption Catholic School, to further celebrate and recognize Sr. Yosaphata's milestone achievements. The banquet was opened by a prayer from Metropolitan-Archbishop Emeritus Sulyk, and was emceed by Mr. Andrij Wowk (UAS '80).

Guests were entertained by current The Glee Club, Junior Drama Club, and Chimmetteers of Assumption Catholic School, who performed five musical numbers under the direction of Mrs. Melanie Lawrence. Also appearing was the parish Choir "Boyan" under the direction of Mra. Alla Korotsil, which performed the works "Molit'sia liudy" (Pray, of People), "C'aryc'e n e b e s n a" (Heavenly Mother), and "V nas vira jedynd" (We Have One Faith).

In her remarks on behalf of the choir, Mrs. Collette Baginsky (UAS '75) noted



that Sr. Yosaphata's deep love for music as a teacher led many graduates of the parish school to later join "Boyan", as well as to continue to be involved in Ukrainian cultural activities as adults.

Other speakers during the banquet included Sr. Evhenia Prusnay, the Mother Superior of the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God, who shared childhood memories of Sr. Yosephata while they were both growing up in Brazil, and Mr. Michael Szpyhlsky, the current Principal of Assumption Catholic School, who expressed his admiration and gratitude to Sr. Yosaphata for her history and continued work as an educator within the school.

They were followed by the event's keynote speaker, former pastor Fr. Roman

Dubitsky, who served as the parish pastor for 30 of Sr. Yosaphata's 50 years of service. Fr. Dubitsky recounted St. Yosephata's numerous contributions to the school and parish community but also her many talents, which include cooking, baking altar breads, sewing Ukrainian embroidery and making pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) and Ukrainian ceramics. Fr. Dubitsky also noted Sr. Yosaphata's help with various tasks that were required during the founding of the church's "sister parish", St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toms River, NJ.

Greetings and blessings to Sr. Yospahata were also read from Bishop Paul Patrick Chomnycky, O.S.B.M.. of the Stamford, CT diocese.

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# Sr. Yosaphata Litvenczuk, M.S.M.G

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Following the presentation of gifts to Sr. Yosaphata by representatives of the parish organizations, Sr. Yosaphata herself addressed the assembled guests. She thanked them for their generosity and for recognizing this milestone in her spiritual career, and noted that she considered her years of service to the Church not so much her own personal achievement, but rather God's achievement in calling her to a spiritual vocation and in supporting her throughout it.

Fr. Ivan Turyk closed the day's festivities with a solemn benediction, in which he prayed that Sr. Yosaphata "have the joy and satisfaction here on Earth that her example, her sacrifice, her work over the course of 50 years inspired others to "reach for the unreachable stars" and become "all things to all people" just as she did. On this day of jubilee, we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving that God grant Sr. Yosaphata many more years of good health and vitality..."



December 16, 2012



## Ceremony of Enthronement of Bishop Borys Gudziak Held in Paris

2 December 2012

The ceremony of enthronement of Bishop Borys Gudziak as Apostolic Exarch for Ukrainian Greek Catholics in France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Switzerland was held on December 2 at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The Liturgy was led by the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk in concelebration with bishops and dozens of priests of the UGCC from various countries, representatives of Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Archbishop of Paris Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois participated in the ceremony.

The events began with a procession from the UGCC St. Volodymyr's Cathedral to the Notre Dame Cathedral. The cathedral was packed with people.



During his address, Patriarch Sviatoslav stressed the historic importance of the moment for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. The Primate stated that the Exarchate is faced with considerable challenges and tasks: "We are to share the treasure of the faith of our martyr church with modern people living in the secularized world. We must show the world the young face of our church with a history of more than a thousand years. This exarchate forms a special space of communication between God and man in which our church is called to serve. It is important that this space should become a European intellectual center of our church where we are to share the faith and hope with all the people of good will."

<http://risu.org.ua>



## January 2013 - Січень 2013

### Happy Birthday! З Днем народження!

January 6: Rev. Andriy Manko, C.S.s.R.  
January 9: Very Rev. Archpr. Daniel Gurovich  
January 12: Rev. Vasyl Sivynskyi  
January 19: V. Rev. Archimandrite Joseph Lee  
January 21: Rev. Taras Lonchyna  
January 28: Rev. Mr. Theodore Spotts

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

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



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

January 5: Rev. Volodymyr Popyk  
(16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
January 8: Rev. Oleksandr Dumenko  
(12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
January 9: Rev. Orest Kunderevych  
(15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
January 17: Rev. Paul Wolensky  
(19<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!**

## "The Way" Holiday Schedule

The first 2013 issue of "The Way" will  
be the **January 20, 2013 Issue.**

Visit our website, blog, or Facebook  
page for any news or updates.  
**www.ukrarcheparchy.us**



December 16, 2012

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### THE WAY Staff

Very Rev. Archbishop John Fields, Director of  
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Teresa Siwak, Editor;  
Fr. Ihor Royik, Assistant Editor

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.